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Then and Now - "Wilderness on the Metro"

By Ralph Owen

The recent announcement of the expanded Metro Trailhead Direct service in 2019 brings to mind past notions on the accessibility of our nearby "wilderness" via metro bus service.

Harvey Manning, who was to become the Founding President of the IATC, invented the name Issaquah Alps in 1976 to highlight his campaign to get people out of their cars and onto the trail. In 1977 Harvey and his little band of pre-IATC volunteer dreamers invented the slogan "**Wilderness on the Metro 210**" in order to convince hikers to use public transportation to get to the trailheads. (At that time Metro 210 was the bus line from Seattle to the trailheads of Issaquah and on to North Bend and its trails.)

Today the Metro 210 has disappeared but the number of bus lines to the Issaquah Alps has increased. Today's slogan might read "**Wilderness on the Metro 214, the Metro 217, the Metro 208, the Sound Transit 554 and the Sound Transit 556**".

An even more appropriate slogan would honor Metro Transit's Trailhead Direct bus. This service, which kicked off in 2017 and which connected the Issaquah Transit Center to several trailheads in the Alps, was reported to have carried about 900 hikers in its short August-September season. In 2018 the service was expanded to begin at several places in Seattle before stopping for more hikers in Eastgate and Issaquah and then continuing on to trailheads in the Alps, Mt. Si and Teneriffe. In the 2018 full season, extending from April through October, over 10,000 hikers used the Trailhead Direct Service. Metro Transit recently announced its expanded 2019 service which will pickup hikers at more locations and which will stop at more Issaquah Alps and Mountains to Sound Greenway trailheads. So the new slogan is:

"Wilderness on the Metro Trailhead Direct"

I am sure that Harvey would approve.

The 40th Anniversary of the First Meeting of the IATC - A Day that will Live in Auspiciousness By Tom Anderson

On May 19, 1979, the first formal meeting of the IATC was held in the Issaquah Sportsmen's Clubhouse. The name "Issaquah Alps Trails Club" was voted-in by those in attendance. After a few months of semi-organization, a board was selected and Harvey Manning, the rabble-rousing-ring-leader, was elected as president.

Sadly, there are no known photos of that first meeting, but here is a recent photo of the Sportsmen's Clubhouse, along with two of the IATC's charter members out front, David Kappler and Tom Mechler, reminiscing about that first meeting:



It was Tom Mechler who arranged for the use of the Sportsmen's Clubhouse for that first meeting, as he was a member of the Sportsmen's Club (and continues to be to this day). The clubhouse has since been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The meeting was pre-announced in the Issaquah Press, but apparently the date was shifted from May 23 to May 19.

Pokémon at Tiger Mountain!

On a wet Saturday in April, the IATC co-lead a family hike to Tiger Mountain in partnership with the Sammamish Community YMCA, a local family, and the Sammamish Teen Outdoor Club. But there was something special about this hike. While wandering the trails on Tiger Mountain the families were also in search of Pokémon!

You may have heard of the popular game Pokémon GO, where players catch virtual Pokémon in specific locations in the real world. While initially it may not seem like hiking and video games go together, this game requires players to travel around outdoors to find the Pokémon. The families hiking on Tiger Mountain enjoyed the area as they hunted through the woods and the rain in search of these creatures. They even got some time to turn off the screens and take in the forest as they played "trail bingo" and searched for banana slugs!

These collaborations are a fun way to get more people outside and instill the club's ethic of protecting and advocating for wild places. To learn more about our friends and partners please visit <https://www.issaquahalps.org/contacts/friends> for more information.

To find out more about our partners mentioned in this article, please visit <https://www.seattleyymca.org/locations/sammamish-community-ymca> and <http://blog.sammamishymca.org/outside/outsideteens/>

History Corner - That Cabin on Squak

By Bill Longwell

(Ed. Note: This article was originally published in the spring 2001 Alpiner.)

Ed. Note: This article is re-published here for historical purposes and entertainment, and should not be taken as an endorsement of the building of cabins on public land. The club fully endorses the principles of:

"Leave No Trace"

Tucked away from sight and hidden beside a musical stream in a grove of Squak Mountain's tallest evergreen trees, a cabin has stood now for 24 years. During the 10 years it warmed, fed and slept its builders and their various visitors, this eight-by-12-foot cabin provided a secret and peaceful shelter from the noisy school day and a place to spend a darkening afternoon before the climb to the summit and the walk home.

This cabin, built over a period of four years, was a culmination of much dreaming and planning. In the late 1960s and during the 1970s, few walked on Squak Mountain. It wasn't until late 1971 that anyone found an entrance into the Phil's Creek Valley, where this cabin stands. It was late November 1971 that Thrush Gap saw its first visitors and for years they walked alone in this quiet and seldom-visited corner of Squak. They walked here for two years before someone discovered the cabin site.

In the first years of its existence, cabin visitors looked from its wide front windows downslope to see the lights of small-town Issaquah. They heard outside its protective walls large animals rummaging in the nearby forest and the howls of coyotes baying just outside the door. They shared space with wall-climbing mice, with deer curious about the noises inside, the walls, and with dogs occasionally sniffing their way along the nearby hidden patch.

This cabin stood about 100 concealed yards above a decaying stringer bridge that once carried ancient logging trucks to May Valley. From that bridge, if one looked from just the correct angle, one could see buried in that dense stand of trees the cabin's large windows.

This cabin warmed its visitors during the coolest nights of winter, during several foot-deep snowfalls, and cooled them during an evening so warm its sleepers lay outside their sleeping bags. The cabin builders kept the nights in mind when they planned its construction. And, it is the memory of the nights in the Squak cabin that lingers in the musings of those who were fortunate enough to sleep there. The builders assembled this cabin piece by piece. Every nail, every part of the frame, every piece of its plywood shell came two and a half miles up the Phil's Creek Trail on the backs of Phil Hall and myself. It took four years and 56 five-mile roundtrips to carry up enough materials to complete this cabin. Most of the building came up on my back. I often carried heavy loads up that trail. I parked at Phil's house, loaded my pack frame with building materials stored in his garage, climbed the steep road to the trail, and trudged along Phil's Creek and Thrush Gap to the hidden cabin site. Only once did I drive to the summit with a supply of materials. I took the chance that no one would find my driving the road or

see me unloading. I drove back to Phil's and raced up the trail to retrieve my load and cart it downhill to the cabin site. That drive saved me four or five pack trips.

I carried 80-pound loads of plywood, dunnage my dad had saved for me from his work. I found it easy to carry that much weight 25 years ago. My only difficulty was crossing the two-foot-wide string logs on the old bridge below the rising cabin. I always picked my way carefully across that old bridge when carrying such heavy loads. But on one occasion on my passage across that 20-foot log, I tripped on a protruding knot and fell headfirst from the bridge into the creek, about six feet below. I dove into that creek, expecting the worst, but somehow my heavy load slipped over my head and broke my fall. I was pinned upside down until unbuckled my pack frame. I didn't know it at the time, but I broke my collarbone in that fall. I never told anyone, never went to the doctor, but was sore for some time. Today my collarbone sports a good-sized knot, a souvenir from that fall.

In July 1975, Phil and I finished the exterior of the cabin, then built two double bunks, plus a portable bunk that could be installed when needed. Phil taught shop at McKnight Middle School and there built a stove from a 35-gallon oil drum. We carried it to the cabin along with the chimney pipes. Phil also made several candle lanterns, which we nailed to various locations around the cabin walls. We brought some metal containers and carried in a supply of food we might use when camping there. During Christmas vacation 1976, we prepared the cabin for its first overnight visitors.

On the first weekend of January 1977, Phil and I hiked up to the cabin to spend our first night, a night four years in the planning. We ate a warm dinner next to the warm stove; we had carried up several presto logs to burn in that stove.

The next weekend I brought my daughters Ann and Gretchen to sleep there. They had watched its building for four years. After a steak dinner and several cups of hot tea, both girls picked out their bunks and quickly fell asleep. I stayed up. I had brought several sets of school papers, which I read and graded in that snug cabin, papers carried by backpack and graded by candlelight. That night, long after I had snuffed out the candles, the girls and I awakened to hear the howls of coyotes, seemingly just outside the door.

Later, I carried up a 55-gallon drum, buried it in a hole, and added a seat to provide a toilet for the cabin visitors. We had everything we needed. Over the years we slept 19 times in that cabin. My daughters often invited their friends. Once we slept ten there and another time seven, crowded but warm. Various people came up to sleep in that cabin: my two daughters, my brother, two nephews, and numerous young people. But mostly Phil and I camped there. Even after Phil retired from teaching and moved to Sequim, he came back to spend several nights in the cabin we had built together. One early afternoon four of us backpacked to the cabin and a young dog followed us, ready for an adventure. We fed it from our food; it had never had such a fine time. The dog tried to sleep in the confines of that cabin, but woke me up several times during the night to let it out. And I got up just as many times again to let the dog back in. The next morning we delivered the dog back to its house and apologized to its owner for its absence.

Often I would hike to the cabin after school, build a fire, drink a cup of cocoa, and watch darkness fall. Then I'd snuff out the candles and walk over the summit and on to my car down in May Valley. We entertained famous people in that cabin. Phil and I once invited Harvey Manning and Bob Woods, fellow Mountaineers and longtime authors, to spend a night with us up on Squak. Harvey had long been curious about the cabin. We cooked steaks over an outside charcoal fire and ran through a catalog of hiking memories. Between the four of us, at least 150 years of collective hiking provided the basis for that discussion.

We didn't know it, but that night in May 1985 was the last night we would ever sleep in that cabin. Late in November 1987, I hiked up to the cabin to prepare it for another night visit and found it trashed. Inside lay 63 beer cans. The bunks were ripped out and burned in the stove; the cabin was a wreck. I never went back to camp there. After that, only occasionally did I return and then only to show others hiking with me where I had spent so many wonderful afternoons and evenings.

One day in the mid-1990s, I received an ominous telephone call from Steve Williams of King County Parks. He wanted to discuss the cabin. I was hesitant to call him back. He told me he had heard via the grapevine that I "was associated" with that cabin in some way. Was it all right for to burn the cabin down; it had become an eyesore. I reluctantly told him yes.

But I think it's still standing there among the tall trees and beside that musical stream, waiting patiently for its familiar sleepers.

(Ed. Note (2001): Until a few years ago the cabin was still visible from the trail accessing the summit off Thrush Gap, but rumor said it has been trashed even more. Is it still there? Note the meticulous detail that Longwell recorded; his numbers were surely accurate; he was noted for his accurate detailed record-keeping.)

IATC History - Chapter 22 - (2002) - TMT and More Growth

By Doug Simpson

January – March: Election News and Early TMT Experiences:

New officers elected at the January annual meeting were President Ken Konigsmark, Vice-President David Langrock, and Secretary Beth Moursund. Board positions were unchanged except for Barbara Johnson retiring after 13 years.

After an elaborate renegade trail was discovered on Grand Ridge, Konigsmark stated: "IATC will engage only in trail efforts that have been approved by a responsible land management agency." He pointed out that "Illegal trails can cause severe environmental damage, fragment important areas of habitat, lead to trail use conflicts, and cause other problems."

Bill Longwell wrote three articles for the issue about early hikers on the yet uncompleted Tiger Mountain Trail. An abbreviated 10-mile TMT had opened in October of 1979. Using a Harvey Manning article in his first "Footsore" book, a group of Mountaineers went exploring one day, to his surprise. In 1990, when the TMT expanded to its ultimate 16 miles by adding trails on its north and south

extremities, while working on a bridge, Longwell noted over time three solo hikers, including IATC's Karen Van Pelt, who were curious enough to set out to explore it. And he proudly detailed an outing by his daughter Ann and friends who chose a lengthy backpack on the TMT rather than her senior class graduation party—with him as guide.

President Konigsmark discussed a survey with a goal of reforming Washington State's NOVA grant program, which utilizes 1% of the state's gas taxes to fund grants for recreational projects. The problem? Eighty percent of those funds were required by law to go towards motorized off-road vehicle (ORV) projects. It was felt that the funds should be better distributed for non-motorized activities, such as hiking trails.

April – June: Ambrose and a Greenway Trek:

Konigsmark reported that two local conservation groups—Cascade Land Conservancy and Evergreen Forest Trust—were purchasing 104,000 acres of forestland to be managed as working forestland, free from future development. These swaths were north of Snoqualmie and North Bend and east of Fall City, Carnation and Duvall.

Bill Longwell wrote a feature story about the noted and ubiquitous hiker George Ambrose, who had scaled all the peaks (at least 50 of them) on both sides of I-90 between Issaquah and Snoqualmie Pass. A mysterious figure—banned from Mountaineer hikes—he was known for materializing out of the blue at some point of scheduled Mountaineer hikes. “He was our mountain guide,” Longwell said. Ambrose died of a heart attack in 1973.

A three-day Mountains to Sound Greenway trek was announced for July 19th to 21st. It would start at Hyak on a Friday, through the 2.3 mile Snoqualmie Pass tunnel, and down the John Wayne Trail to the Tinkham campground (10 miles). The next day it continued 11 miles to Rattlesnake Lake, and then on Sunday across Rattlesnake Mountain to Snoqualmie Point (11.3 miles) with activities planned for the end of each day's outing.

Hikes coordinator Fred Zeitler reported that 170 hikes and work parties were scheduled by the club in 2001. The 1191 hikers averaged 7.5 per hike. Most popular were 6-10 mile hikes with varying elevation gains. The club used 34 different hike leaders.

Konigsmark wrote about the club's trailwork efforts in 2001. There were at least 260 trips into the mountains (about 500 worker days and 3000 worker hours, by 77 workers). Leading participants were Debbie Anschell (36 days and 186 hours), Ken Hopping (42 days, 205 hours), Avron Malletsky (49 days, 484 hours) and board member Scott Semans (a remarkable 80 days and 631 hours.)

July – September:

Production problems led to an issue that held little besides the hiking schedule.

October – December: Trailwork, New Leaders Sought

On the heels of the April-June issue article about IATC's busy trailwork efforts, the National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) announced in its budget \$5000 in funding to support IATC's trail maintenance

program. Chief Ranger Bill Longwell had submitted the request to fund replacement of worn out equipment and ongoing supplies.

In his President's Report, Konigsmark appealed to members and non-members to step up and become more active. He commented that the club has no paid staff and very limited funds and survives only through the dedicated efforts of a handful of its members. "IATC has a long history of success and accomplishments, but I worry if this can continue without others stepping up to sustain the club and its operations."

Charles McCrone wrote of his experiences hiking with his 4-year old son Ian. He effused about their experiences and his son's curiosity. "I can't think of a better way to introduce a kid to a wide and unexpected diversity of experiences and discoveries than hiking."

Kitty Gross, Women Walks coordinator, reported that six hike leaders conduct new and experienced hikers on Issaquah Alps trails. "Like most women," she wrote, "once we get the boots walking, we all start chatting and laughing, then end up sharing lunch together along with our experiences," she noted. New hike leaders in 2002 were *Emily Doe*, *Pete Girard*, *Ken Konigsmark* and *Doug Straight*.

King County's new carbon credits program protects local forests

King County's new Forest Carbon Program confronts climate change by offering local companies the opportunity to offset their carbon emissions by keeping forests intact here in the region, making it possible for their employees and their families to explore and enjoy the protected outdoor spaces.

Learn more at

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2019/May/09-forest-carbon-program.aspx>

Save our Parks, Trails, and Open Space!

On April 17, 2019 King County Council approved legislation to place the 2020-2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Replacement Levy on the August 6, 2019 ballot. Please see the voter ballot measure [fact sheet](#) or visit the [King County Parks Website](#) for detailed information about proposed county-wide investments in parks, trails, recreation, and open space protection.

The current Parks Levy, which was approved by voters in 2013, will expire at the end of 2019. Under this measure, an estimated \$810 million would be generated over six years for the county's 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 28,000 acres of open space. The property tax would cost 18.32 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or about \$7.60 per month for the owner of a home valued at \$500,000.

The revenue generated during the six-year levy funds operations and maintenance of our parks and trails and helps King County Parks keep pace with our growing region by funding repair and renovation of our aging facilities including play areas and ballfields, make new regional trail connections and increase access to parks and trails. This measure includes close to \$110 million in new and expanded grant funding to improve access to parks and recreation for all King County residents, no matter where they live, and continue to protect and conserve our valuable natural lands and greenspaces.

Some highlights of the new grant programs are:

- \$9 million to work with partners to design, build or program new and enhanced public recreation facilities;
- \$10 million to increase access to and use of recreation facilities in communities that are currently underserved or for people with disabilities; ❖
- \$22 million to protect, restore, and provide recreation opportunities in river corridors and green spaces;
- \$25 million to cities for parks capital improvements and acquisitions;
- \$44 million for public pool capital improvements. This measure would also distribute \$60 million to King County cities to support their local parks and recreation programs. It would provide Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle with funding to expand its environmental education and conservation programs and capital funding to Seattle Aquarium to help create its Ocean Pavilion.

The IATC and partner organizations fully support this crucial ballot measure, which will ensure our parks, trails, and open spaces be maintained and preserved for citizens in our county, visitors, and future generations.

Reminiscing at the Depot

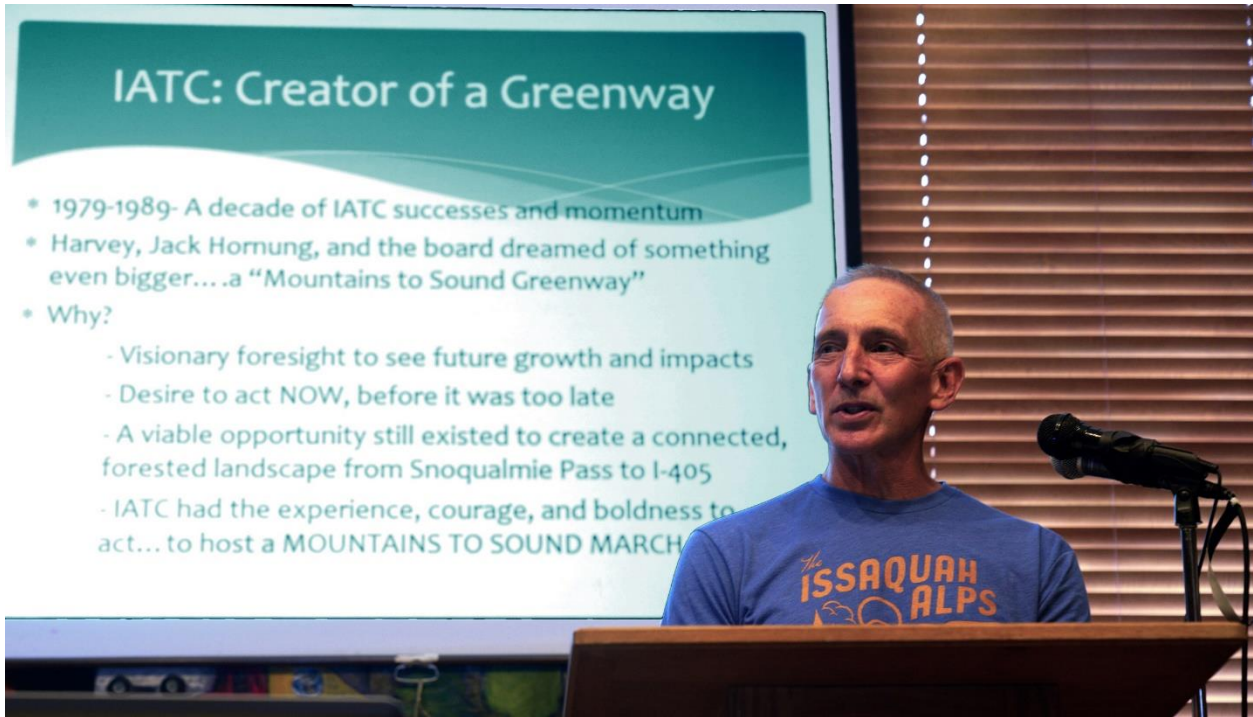
There was much reminiscing at the Depot last Saturday as we looked back on 40 years of club history. Here are a few photos capturing the event. Thanks to Stan Matsui for the great photos.



















IATC History- Chapter 23 (2002) - Twenty Years for Cougar Park

By Doug Simpson

January – March: CLUB REACTS TO CRISIS

The IATC board informed membership that the club, having no paid staff, needed more involvement from members to stay alive. Thus far no one had volunteered to serve as president or treasurer, and even the board was lacking members, and no one had stepped up to edit the *Alpiner*. Even hike leaders were in short supply. The following steps were taken as a result: 1) rather than require dues, a non-pay membership was established; 2) the number and frequency of hikes might be reduced; 3) the hotline was abolished; 4) an online version of the *Alpiner* was being considered; and 5) the number of board meetings was changed from monthly meetings to quarterly ones.

Bill Longwell discoursed on the Snoqualmie Ridge Loop Trail, including directions, access and changes in the Snoqualmie area in general. Various options ranged from five miles to 13 miles, with an elevation gain not exceeding 1400 feet.

April – June: CELEBRATING THE COUGAR PARK

Steve Drew took over the reins as club president and David Langrock became vice-president for advocacy. New board members elected at the January annual meeting were Harry Morgan and Doug Simpson. Fred Zeitler continued as hikes coordinator.

IATC began celebrating the 20th anniversary of the official establishment of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. A lengthy article by Doug Simpson sought the opinions of Harvey Manning, Barbara Johnson, Dave Kappler, Ralph Owen, Charles McCrone and Steve Williams about the park, present and future.

McCrone stated: “To have the magic of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park available to us in such close proximity to our busy Puget Sound gives us an immeasurable boon. . . a priceless treasure.” The park did not come easily before June 5, 1983 when Randy Regvelle and the King County Council voted the Newcastle Ordinance into law. IATC President Steve Drew exclaimed: “Every club member should consider the great chain of events Harvey Manning set into motion and nudged along, beginning with his vision for the park.”

Kappler commented: “It’s sheer size makes it a unit with long-term opportunities for wildlife and wildland to prevail.”

All those interviewed cited the role of Manning. Johnson said: “He was the glue, the catalyst.” Owen explained: “I started hiking in 1980 and met this fellow Manning. He drew lines on maps of several of the Alps and said, ‘These are going to be parks.’ He had such great force of personality and such great contacts.”

All cited the importance of, as Manning exclaimed, “ETERNAL VIGILANCE.” Owen: “We need to make sure it doesn’t get eroded or sold off.” Williams pointed out, “This is a tremendous heritage and

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treasure. We need a new generation to pick up the torch and keep the vision.” McCrone wrote: “Such a place is unique—for lost and destroyed, we have, for all our skills and power, no tools to create it.”

(Note: It would seem that now 16 years later the club and other devotees have maintained their “eternal vigilance.”)

Chief Ranger Bill Longwell stated that various trail maintenance groups made 349 trips for 3368 hours of work in 2002. As a result, IATC and the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club were awarded a \$5000 state grant for trail maintenance and equipment. And the club approved a 2003 operating budget of over \$27,000 for trail maintenance, tools and publications.

Zeitler announced that in 2002, the club had 140 hikes (of 152 scheduled), with 1225 hikers (an average of 8.7 hikers). New hikers, he pointed out, increased from 300 in 1999 to 539 in 2002.

Charles McCrone shifted his trailwork emphasis from Cougar Mountain to Taylor Mountain and, as was his manner, explored Taylor thoroughly. “I set out last summer with my 4-year old to do our reconnaissance—i.e. to find every possible road and trail intersection before I even broke out the boots.” He concluded, “We are very lucky to have Taylor Mountain State Forest. While lack of county funds has complicated the process of planning and trail development for the forest, fortunately there is already a vital informal trail system in place. . . I hope that if more of us check out and come to love Taylor, we can be better involved in the total open space planning for the mountain.

July – September: **SPEAKERS GALORE ON COUGAR**

On June 7, the 20th anniversary celebration of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park was held. A large crowd gathered atop the Anti-Aircraft Peak. Speakers included King County Executive Ron Sims, former Exec Randy Revelle, King County councilmen Larry Phillips, Rob McKenna, Bill Reams, Gary Grant, and Parks Director Bob Burns. IATC club members had three hikes after the festivities, and a barbecue lunch was provided for all.

Revelle’s “direct personal commitment” to creating the Cougar Mountain Park was often acknowledged, as was “the persistence and drive” of IATC founder Harvey Manning over the years.

At this time, besides Longwell and McCrone, IATC had a third timeless trail worker in Scott Semans. Working solely with volunteers, Semans had three goals: “First is member safety. Second is to get people outdoors, both to appreciate it and to show what goes into making trails. And the third, of course, is to get some work done.” He added, “Anyone who works on trails can feel pride in what they’ve done.”

The issue included details on trailwork projects by organized groups in the I-90 Greenway corridor. Most notably, the new Rattlesnake Ledges Trail was opened June 7, for the 50,000 estimated hikers per year who use the trail. It is less steep at 2 miles than its 1.3 mile predecessor. Work was also being done in the Ollalie area, Bandera Mountain Trail, the Middle Fork Trail, the Pratt River Trail, the Mailbox Peak Trail, and the Mount SI trails.

October – December: **Burning Calories**

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In his “Hiker’s Corner” column, Fred Zeitler discussed the caloric effect of hiking. For example, “Calories burned by a 170-pound hiker without pack or hiking poles use 524 calories per hour at a pace of 2 to 2.5 miles per hour.” But a 200-pound hiker adds 20% to the calories burned per hour. Carrying a backpack and/or using hiking poles helps burn more calories. Still, one must burn thousands of calories to lose even a pound of weight.

Charles McCrone wrote a pair of articles discussing the effects of development on the Cougar park. He noted that, with the developers’ cooperation, access to several trails became easier, most notably from Talus to the Bear ridge Trail.

New hike leaders for 2002 were *Melinda Livingstone, Harry Morgan, Bert Orvi, Scott Prueter, Doug Simpson* and *Aaron Shaw*.

History Corner- Transports on the Trail

(Note: This article appeared in an issue of the 2003 Alpiner. Are the vehicles still there?)

By Doug Simpson

A hiker is often surprised by the unusual or unexpected of his wilderness forays. New viewpoints or vistas are always pleasant, as are sighting of wildlife and coming across remnants of logging or mining operations from years past.

However, a totally different kind of unique experience is to discover a long-abandoned vehicle in the wilderness. Yet each of the major Issaquah Alps has its own vehicle—and perhaps a special story to tell. One of the trails on Tiger Mountain is called the Bus Trail—and for good reason. As you perambulate this pleasant family trail, there it is. . . an abandoned Greyhound scenicruiser lying on its side, slowly rusting and rotting away. Since its location is not in a very steep place, it could have gotten there pretty easily, but why was it abandoned? Even Bill Longwell, who has written the ultimate guidebook to Tiger Mountain, was unable to provide an explanation of its origins.

The upper reaches of Squak Mountain were once owned by the Bullitt family, which had a small lodge near the top of Central Peak. Today, all that remains are part of the fireplace and a cement floor. (I’m assuming the picnic table was brought in later.) In any case, the Bullitt aerie was reached by a narrow old road up Squak’s north side, connecting to the Mountain Park neighborhood of Issaquah. About a mile down the old road (now but a narrow trail) and steeply down into the trees and brush rests a car. Once it got off the road, it would have been nearly impossible to pull back up, so apparently it was just left abandoned there. Stimson Bullitt knows nothing of it. But wouldn’t you like to know how and when it met its end?

Cougar Mountain was more developed earlier in the 20th century, with mining camps and numerous roads crisscrossing its upper reaches. It, too, has an abandoned car. This is the most mysterious of the three. It is off the Shangri La Trail (another one-time road) just below the route’s main turn north to the AA trailhead atop Cougar. The car was abandoned off the road/trail, but this time on the uphill side. How? Why?

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I am very curious about these automotive mysteries, as are, I'm sure, countless other hikers. So my imagination has run amok, and these are my theories as to the origin of these ancient (well, at least 50-60 years ago) transports.

As for the bus, it is not much of a stretch to envision it as a base adjunct to some mining, logging or power company at work. It is close to the power lines. It may have been an office, a chuckwagon or rest station. When the operation ended, it was simply left behind. Whether it was tipped over by the departing workers or just malicious hikers is anyone's guess.

The Squak/Bullitt car went off the road, I surmise, either due to snowy, slippery conditions, or perhaps due to drunken or careless driving by someone descending the mountaintop getaway.

Let's have some fun with the Cougar car (no Mercury model here). I like to think that the car met its untimely and unlikely end as some renegade moonshiner or desperado of some sort was racing recklessly to get away from the pursuing law. Well, it could have happened that way!

What are your theories of these transports of the trails? And what other mysteries have hikers uncovered on their excursions into the wilderness?

My Memories of Harvey Manning

by Barbara Johnson

(This piece was originally read at the 2019 IATC History program by David Kappler on behalf of Barbara Johnson)

I first met Harvey when our family moved to the Issaquah area. As I looked up and saw large forested areas on the hills, I assumed there must be trails up there. But how to find out?

About that time, there was an article in the local paper by Harvey proposing his plan to preserve the area. Now I knew Harvey by reputation. After all he wrote the Bible for hikers: "One Hundred Hikes in Western Washington".

I called the paper and asked for a copy of the plan. "We don't have the plan. You need to contact Harvey Manning." What?! Speak to the Guru? Oh no, I don't want to pester a celebrity!

The paper gave me his phone number (no email in the 70s) and I girded my loins and made the call. Forty-five minutes later, we finished our little chat. I think that was the shortest conversation we ever had!

When Harvey put out the call for a meeting to organize a club, I had a conflict so could not attend. Foolishly I said I would be willing to serve on the Board. Silly me. Since no one else volunteered, I was named as Vice-president. Never again did I volunteer in absentia.

After going on a few hikes led by Harvey, Dave Kappler, Tim O'Brien and others, Harvey "suggested" that I lead a hike. Now suggestions from Harvey were impossible to refuse. He thought a hike from Preston

to Issaquah would be a good one. “Just read the description in my book,” he said. OK. I looked it up and it looked easy. We made it a family hike with our two young kids.

Well, the book description was out of date. The trail ended at the I-90 fence about halfway along the route.

After a bit of reconnoitering we just followed the road to High Point where the railroad grade began. We made it to Issaquah Creek. Oops, no way to cross it without wading. We found a spot to ford the creek and returned to our car. (We had taken the Metro to Preston.)

When we returned home, I called the Guru and a bit testily explained the conundrum. He did go out the next week and discovered the guidebook’s error. We managed to re-route the hike. Later on, a bridge was built to walk across the Creek.

Many of us early folk had to find routes and build trails. A lot of physical work but very important to get “Boots on the Trails”.

As Vice-president and a part-time worker, I had a lot of time to drive Harvey to meetings to lobby County officials. I drove as Harvey claimed he didn’t like to drive in the Big City although he had lived there and attended the UW. Really? The guy who wrote all those guide books couldn’t navigate the streets of Seattle? Oh, the irony.

After the Newcastle Plan was presented to the King County Council, there were the inevitable hearings. Three members of the Council whose districts overlapped the Newcastle area were the hearing sub-committee. Harvey and I as well as several other people with interests in the plan were present for most of the hearings. There was a lot of just sitting and listening.

At some point Harvey asked me to edit one of his letters to an official. I gasped! Edit his writing? He explained that every writer needed an editor. I nervously agreed to do so. Of course, Harvey’s letters were typewritten (no Microsoft Office then) on reused paper. His writings were famous for typing errors, arrows re-arranging phrases, all sorts of cross outs and additions in a scribbling hand, and so on. I learned that every writing needed a second pair of eyes. It was very helpful in my future jobs when writing brochures, lesson plans and texts for interpretive signs when I was a Park Ranger and for lesson plans as a science teacher for Pacific Science Center. And, of course, for IATC publicity and for a short time as Alpiner editor.

Most of us Founders wore several hats. I led hikes, did publicity, helped organize Return to Newcastle and Salmon Days activities, helped assemble the Alpiner together, edited Harvey’s letters to officials, etc. I was not alone. All of us did all of it together. The Alpiner was a “cut and paste” by hand affair. Each article was typed using different fonts types and sizes. No computer software to make it look professional. We’d all sit around the someone’s kitchen table and address and stamp the newsletter.

For major events, each of us took on many parts. Dave Kappler stored the Salmon Days booth at his home. Ralph and Peggy Owen put together the photos for Return to Newcastle. Dave also edited

Harvey's diatribes. Dave was the political person and he often had to rein in Harvey's actions. Not an easy task.

I had to leave the Board for a while as I had a job with the City of Bellevue as a full-time Ranger and was not allowed to serve on the Board of a lobbying organization.

Once I was no longer working for the City, I returned to the Board as President.

I am the only woman to serve as IATC President; a fact that puzzles me. Why has no other woman stepped forward to serve as President? My hope is that day will come soon.

In 2005, my husband and I retired and moved to Sedro Woolley as we love the Skagit Valley. Both of us "flunked" retirement and found part-time jobs.

In a way of completing the circle, I became a Park Ranger at the North Cascades National Park. When the Superintendent found I was well-acquainted with Harvey, my credibility soared. He asked if I knew Harvey was very important in the Park formation. My first thought was "Are you kidding?" But tactfully I did not say that!

I have since retired from rangership. I still manage a hike or two in the North Cascades and the Magic Skagit. I thank Harvey for recruiting me and teaching me so much about being a political lobbyist and a naturalist.

Viva la Trails Day at Tiger Mountain

By Tom Anderson

Thanks to everyone who came out for our first ever "Viva la Trails" event at Tiger Mountain. If you missed it, don't panic. The next one will be at Squak Mountain (Margaret's Way Trailhead) on July 13. The keynote for the occasion was a brief speaking event in which we celebrated 40 years of trail building, advocacy and conservation on Tiger Mountain. The speakers were:

- Tom Anderson, IATC - Welcome
- David Kappler, IATC - The story of 40 years of advocacy for Tiger Mountain
- Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor of Issaquah - The City's role in the Tiger Mountain conservation story
- Katie Woolsey, WA DNR - Natural Areas Manager and State Lands Steward - The DNR role in the Tiger Mountain conservation story
- Ed Vervoort, IATC - A personal reflection on the trails of Tiger Mountain

Here are a few pics (with thanks to photographer Kirt Lenard):









The picture of the full dumpster speaks to the success of the event!



Viva la Trails Day at Squak Mountain

By Tom Anderson

Thanks to everyone who came out for our "Viva la Trails" event at Squak Mountain (Margaret's Way Trail head).

The keynote for the occasion was a brief speaking event in which we celebrated 40 years of trail building, advocacy and conservation on Squak Mountain. The speakers were:

- Tom Anderson, IATC - Welcome
- David Kappler, IATC - The story of 40 years of advocacy for Squak Mountain
- Ryan Dotson, King County Parks Program Manager, The KC Parks role in the Squak Mountain conservation story.

Here are a few pics (with thanks to photographer Kirt Lenard):



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Honoring the Women of the IATC: Barbara Johnson

Written by Cameron McCrea

The following is the first in what will be a series of articles honoring some of the women who have been involved in the IATC. This article comes from an interview with Barbara Johnson, conducted by Hannah Wheeler, on July 2nd, 2019.

Barbara Johnson grew up on Vashon Island and has lived in King County nearly her whole life. She is now 76 and lives in Skagit County because “Harvey made her.” Harvey took her there to see the snow geese in the wintertime and she loved it. They still fly over every year. Although her parents were not the outdoor type, she has always loved being outside, and went on to become vice president of IATC. She originally got into hiking through her friends in Ski Patrol. They would all go skiing together in the wintertime. She told her friends she would love to go into the mountains year-round, and her friends replied that they needed to take her hiking. She was hooked from her first hike. So hooked in fact, she became a park ranger. A week prior to being offered the job, she ended up knee deep in mud and rain while hiking near Tibbitts creek working on a crossing, despite this she still wanted to become a ranger. Her first hike with the IATC was a partnership with Issaquah Parks led by Harvey and included about 70 people. They left from the Cougar Park and Ride area on a hot sunny day. Although she wound up towards the back of the group, and “never heard much of what Harvey was saying” she was inspired to lead hikes of her own.

As a hike leader, Barbara absorbed all kinds of knowledge about nature from other hike leaders. They all had their own area of expertise such as plants, trees, and history. She took an interest in botany; she

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enjoyed knowing what was “safe to snack on” along the trail. Additionally she discovered she especially loved leading hikes with families and children. Through this she found her inner teacher. After each hike she lead, the participants would thank her and ask her where she taught. She would respond with “Oh, I’m not a teacher” and they would reply “Yes you are!” She enjoys sharing information on the natural world because she wants others to enjoy nature also. She says she is “a professor in a certain kind of way.”

Barbara's first impression of the IATC was that the club was a great idea. She loved Havery's idea of “voting with your feet”, in reference to going hiking in the Alps as a form of advocacy for those lands. In those early days there was so much to do, and they all “rolled up their sleeves and did the work.” They took turns leading hikes, and eventually became more comfortable lobbying and speaking in front of leadership. Once when speaking in front of King County Council, Harvey showed up in his classic attire, while Barb showed up in a three-piece suit. Harvey commented that “she looked so normal”, which is perhaps why she was the one who ended up on the evening news that night, because she didn't look like she “just walked out of the woods.”

One of the biggest things she advocated for in those days was the Newcastle Community Plan. Harvey and Dave both knew how to work the system and taught her lobbying. One of the biggest things she learned from the club was how to advocate for something she believed in before a politically elected group. For instance, there was once a water park across the street from Lake Sammamish State Park, where they had cut down a large tree snag that didn't need to be removed. She went in front of the city council and testified on behalf of the Red-Tailed Hawk that had perched in that snag, surprising everyone. The council realized they had to talk to the locals about these issues, as they were the only ones who would know about something such as the local hawk. Over time, it became a pattern for them to come to IATC meetings before even proposing something new. This, of course, took close to ten years, but eventually it became clear that the IATC was not just a hiking club, it was also a lobbying club. Barbara was one of many women involved in the club in its early years. She continues to stress the importance of representation in the club. In Skagit County, where she now lives, the Latino population is 13-15% of the entire population. She wants to get everyone, including more people of color, outside in the parks. She cites that many studies have confirmed that “we all need to get out there and get some fresh air.” The more diverse groups of people that get out on the trails, the more people we have caring about the future of these spaces.

As for the future of the club, Barbara believes in continuing our mission without resting on our laurels. In the same way they brought people out to the trails and drew their attention to the risk of development, she says we should be drawing attention to new challenges such as climate change. “We need to keep talking about the environment when leading hikes, look at what we see today, and think this could be gone with wildfires approaching Issaquah.” Climate change is no longer far away with low snowpack and droughts. She stresses the importance to keep talking to politicians, writing letters. She also thinks that Cougar Mountain Wildlife Park should be renamed Harvey Manning Wildlife Park. But that idea never came to fruition. “Harvey was so important in rounding up the troops, I would like to see him more honored.”

Our mission is to promote long term sustainability, and Barbara believes we should continue to do that through programs like Trailhead Direct. The first hike she lead used Wilderness on the Metro, a precursor to Trailhead Direct. Looking back on all we've done in forty years, she says it turns out there's "always work to do, and we should keep on doing it."



IATC Supports the King County Parks Levy in a Letter to the Editor of the Issaquah Reporter

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club fully supports the upcoming 2020-2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Spaces Levy. The IATC is sending a letter to the editor of the Issaquah Reporter to demonstrate our support, seen below.



July 18, 2019

Dear Editor:

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) urges all King County residents, particularly those living around the Issaquah Alps, to strongly support and vote YES on the upcoming 2020-2025 King County Parks, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Replacement Levy that will be on the August 6, 2019 ballot.

Under the Levy, about \$810 million would be generated over six years for the county's 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 28,000 acres of open space. The property tax would cost about 18¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value or about \$7.60 per month for the owner of a home valued at \$500,000.

About 39% of the Levy will fund operation and maintenance of our parks and trails. This will help King County Parks keep pace with our growing population by funding repair and renovation of our aging facilities including play areas and ballfields. Additional Levy funds would help make parks more accessible to all King County residents, expand regional trails, and fund open space acquisition.

For 40 years the IATC has advocated for, and witnessed, the benefits to conserving open spaces and providing parks and trails that the Levy will fund. The Levy funds are essential to preserving and maintaining the many incredible parks, trails, and open space we all love. Please vote YES on August 6th!

Sincerely,

John Sherwin, President
president@issquahalps.org

David Dunphy, President Elect
david.dunphy@issquahalps.org

IATC Named "Best Hiking Club in the Country" by Backpacker Magazine

Backpacker Magazine, A national publication, named the Issaquah Alps Trails Club one of the "Best Hiking Clubs in the Country" in their 2019 May/June issue! The section they wrote on the IATC can be viewed below in the bottom right corner, or if you subscribe to Backpacker magazine you can see it there yourself on page 19.



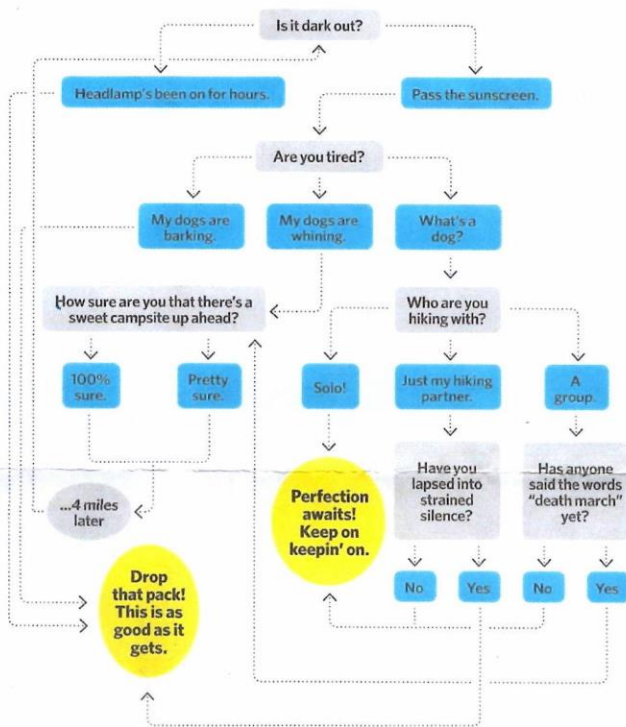
WINNEMUCCA WILDFLOWER TRAIL MOKELUMNE WILDERNESS, CA

Whoever named this trail appreciated simple logic—the path to Winnemucca Lake waltzes through a corridor of lupines, paintbrushes, larkspurs, and penstemons. Peak bloom here is about as hit-or-miss as Tahoe's winter snowpack, but after a record year, rangers are anticipating a summertime show beginning in late June. Plan accordingly, then take off from Carson Pass on a 5-mile out-and-back. Follow the Pacific Crest Trail about 1.3 miles south past Frog Lake, then split southwest onto the Winnemucca Wildflower Trail. Purple, red, and white blooms decorate the path down to the alpine lake, which nestles below 10,381-foot Round Top in its own flora-packed basin. If time allows, tack on a 1-mile spur to Round Top Lake. Peak bloom June to July Contact www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado

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SHOULD I STOP AT THIS CAMPSITE?

So, you've stumbled across a just-OK campsite. It's flat, there's water close by, but it isn't perfect. Should you hold out for something better? Here's how to answer the age-old query.



5

...IN WHICH WE HONOR THE BEST HIKING CLUBS IN THE COUNTRY.

The first time anyone uttered the words "Issaquah Alps," it was, well, a joke. The rolling green hills outside Seattle aren't quite the snowcapped summits you think of when you imagine the Cascades. But the Issaquah Alps Trails Club is the head of local lands advocacy and its members take their work seriously. Their efforts have expanded protected areas, created new state parks and forests, and, most recently, cleaned up the trails on Tiger Mountain. But it's not all work and no play. With four or five hikes each week, the IATC's 350 members like to get out of the suburbs and hit the trail. This year, the club celebrates its 40th anniversary with a series of classic hikes in its namesake foothills. Visit issaquahalps.org to learn more.

Think your club deserves a shout out? Tell us why at intheclub@backpacker.com.

IN THE CLUB