

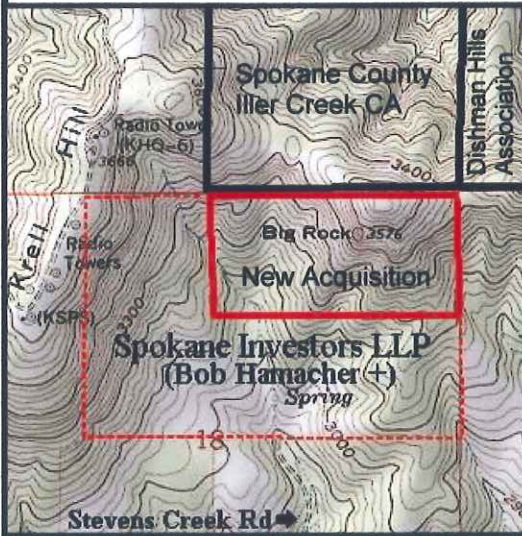
LIGHTS and SHADOWS

from the Dishman Hills



BIG DEAL AT BIG ROCK

The Dishman Hills Association is moving forward with obtaining the Big Rock property on top of Tower Mountain. We have been



working on saving this land since the mid-1990s and lately we've had a break through in negotiations. Big Rock is adjacent to the south side of the County's Iller Creek Conservation Area and it's addition will protect and assure public access to a very important geographic feature and a recreational climbing area.

Big Rock is the largest of the number of monoliths that protrude from a ridge that runs east from Tower Mountain. This collection of scenic boulders got their name in the old days (before TV) when Spokanites ventured out of town for weekend picnics. The Sharon store, just south of Tower Mountain, was a stop on the electric railroad that ran from Spokane to Pullman, thus the name Rocks of Sharon. Adventurers would ride to that stop and hike up into the rocks for a day of sun and fresh air. While the store and the railroad are gone the rocks and the name "Sharon" remain.

Their composition includes a Cretaceous (80 million-year-old) granite that had intruded into a much older (1,700 million-year-old) gneiss. Granite weathers slowly thus these occurrences have been left in high relief by erosion. The granite rose through the Earth's crust on what appears to be fault the trends from southeast to northwest following the weak fracture planes of the fault. The granite was injected along the layers that make up the metamorphic gneiss in what geologist calls "sills". Weathering of this combination of rock types has resulted in a variety of shapes and sizes they give the rock real character.

Spokane County has tried several times without success to obtain this land but the Dishman Hills Association approach the owner this time with a land swap proposal and we're about to sign an exchange agreement with the deal closing sometime in June. The agreement is centered on a 80 acre for 80 acre exchange. Association land offered is the lower part of our 270 acre parcel on Tower Mountain just southwest of Hallett Road. Also part of the deal is public access to the Big Rock from Stevens Creek Road and the retention of a 200 foot-wide ecological corridor along the creek on the land we are swapping.

Funds are needed to pay off the remaining amount of the contract on our land before we could make the exchange. The Spokane Mountaineers are stepping forward to help us do that and helping with the "nuts and bolts" of making this deal happen. We've set up a separate Big Rock fund to accept donations for this special acquisition. The opportunity to save Big Rock is too important to miss. Several of the association's members have also offered to help with funds needed. See the following article. Stay tuned.

WAY TO GO, JOY

Joy Peterson has decided to do something very bold to support our bid to save Big Rock and the natural lands of the area. She will ride her bike from Prudhoe Bay Alaska on the shores of the Beauford Sea to Tierra del Fuego on the tip of South America. This is real! She has planned this as a fund raiser for the Association that will challenge all of us to pledge a small amount per mile. Pledges for those who want to support Joy in this adventure can use the following form, pledging pennies per mile completed but remember she plans to cover 16,000 miles in 10 months (do the math). The trip will start in mid-June. Updates on her progress we put in the newsletter. Pledges will be due after completion of the adventure. She will never make it without your support. Joy is 81. Send form to address in lower corner.

Circle one

I would like to sponsor Joy at \$.01 \$.005 \$.0025 per mile
Other _____ 100% to DHNAA

Address:

Your signature

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We meet next month on the third Tuesday, June 20th, at 7pm. This is our last meeting before the summer break and we will meet at camp Caro on the north side of the Natural Area.

The following are our April donors that have consented to be listed: Robin Bishop, Frances Davis, Elizabeth DeNiro, Charles Gillingham, Leo Middendorf, Jennie McCandless, Ambrose Priestley, Steve Reynolds, Jeanne Wilson, and one anonymous donor Thank you one and all.

Nature is beneficent. I praise her and all her works. She is silent and wise. She is cunning, but for good ends.

She has brought me here and will also lead me away.

She may scold, but she will not hate her work. I trust her.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe— German poet (1749-1832)

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS** or **DUES**

All contributions are tax deductible.

Send contributions to: DHNAA

3415 S. Lincoln Dr.

Spokane, WA 99203

Your Name: _____
Please put your account no. on your check (see on address)

\$ _____ Memorial for: _____

\$ _____ Land Purchase Fund

\$ _____ Annual dues, due by June 30 (\$10)

\$ _____ TOTAL

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