

MCPA Newsletter - June 2013

www.mc-pa.org

Editor: David Cameron

Production & Circulation: Ruth Danielson

Board Members

President..... David Cameron camlind@richpoor.net
Vice Pres. Kal Klass klasstwin@gmail.com
Treasurer Bill Rawlins
Secretary Ruth Danielson
Corresponding Secretary Louise Lindgren
Advisor Doug Hammond



No Current Public Access Route to Monte Cristo

The major safety issue regarding crossing the river on the large hemlock log has been resolved. After losing its bark in the October 2012 high water, climbing onto it and walking across became very dangerous, especially when the log was wet. After considered discussion internally and with MCPA, the Forest Service removed it to prevent possible accidents or drowning. On the positive side, this resolves liability concerns for both. On the negative, we have a few options but at this point nothing definite.

Fording the river usually is possible after spring runoff ends, typically in later July. On the unknown is when the hazmat contractor building the new access road the three miles from Mowich below Barlow Pass on the Darrington side will reach the top of Hap's Hill. At that point the Forest Service will close the area so that work can proceed safely on repairing two miles of the existing county route into town. The last we have heard is a possible date of "early summer." It depends upon speed of snow melt, soil conditions, and signing of the contract with the construction company.



Assuming fording with the Land Rover will be possible for a brief period, we are applying with state fisheries and wildlife for our usual hydraulics permit. In past summers we have been allowed three crossings to minimize endangered bull trout needs. If this is approved, we will have work parties (perhaps several in a short time) to do what is possible at Monte to prepare for the winters and summer of exclusion.

Possible Late Season "Window"

At our annual meeting on June 1 Darrington District Ranger Peter Forbes said he was open to the idea of allowing MCPA workers and property owners a limited access period following completion of the road and before winter snow. This might be possible while construction concerns turn to analysis of the hazardous waste repository. This is located on Forest Service land just below town where the E&MC Railway switchback grade still exists. Approval for the idea is up to On Site Coordinator Joe Gibbens, head of the cleanup project. Having motor vehicle access to remove heavy and bulky objects, along with items to remove for safekeeping, makes this a priority.

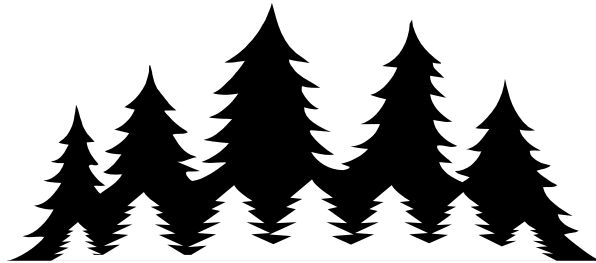


Information Sharing

With these unknowns, the situation could change rapidly. Mike Kahler will post news as we learn it on our new website, and we will include it in our regular monthly newsletters. At the annual meeting we decided to pursue acquiring our old domain name, but for now check us out at www.mc-pa.org. We also are glad to respond to e-mails and telephone calls: camlind@richpoor.net and (360) 793-1534 will get you to president David Cameron.

Work Party June 15

We have early condition reports of many trees down over the road, especially above Twin Bridges. On Saturday June 15 we will work on clearing the county road to Twin Bridges, as that is the start of the Gothic Basin trail. We also will repair the short route needed for the Land Rover crossing. Meet inside the gate at our usual parking area by the picnic table and 2008 avalanche, the site of the old railway snowshed. Bring safety gear, drinking water, clothing suitable for the weather, and whatever tools you feel comfortable in using. Brushing, raking, and trail work also might be done, depending on turnout. Lunch will be served around 1 p.m., made better if you would like to bring fruit, chips, or dessert items to share. The date of the next party will be determined by the crossing situation, but tentatively on July 20, our usual third Saturday of the month.



More on the cleanup

Basic information may be found in the Forest Service Removal Action Memorandum ("RAM"), which we wrote about in the December 2012 newsletter. It is available on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest website, www.fs.usda.gov/mbs. Other Monte documents are there as well. However, Peter Forbes noted that the plan for closing access to all the major mines Monte Cristo has been dropped. Joe Gibbens has determined that they are isolated enough so that danger to the public is not a serious concern.

A Forest Service bulletin board will be set up shortly at Barlow Pass to inform the public of the log removal and cleanup issues. This will replace the one destroyed by the 2008 snow and might also have room for MCPA information. If so, we will not need to erect our traditional one at the clayslide.

Notes

1. Please be flexible this summer, as we may have to react and work on short notice.
2. Thanks to all who have recently renewed your membership and for your donations! Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31 to coincide with the opening of summer access.
3. To see photos of the annual meeting, check out our website, which is being reconstructed with new information and photos.

Historical Essay

Over the years I have shared with you information about Monte Cristo from a wide variety of sources -- letters and newspapers to census data and company documents. This past winter Pat Nagel of California has added to our resources by sending a box of her late father John Moriarty's files. They include photos (especially by Bill Szymanski), clippings, reprints -- items collected over the years of his continuing interest in our area. Thank you, Pat!

One of the reprints was that of volume III number 5 of *The Coast* magazine, published in June 1902. It was produced in Seattle by Honor L. Wilhelm, describing itself as "An Illustrated Magazine of the West."

Of especial interest is an article he wrote entitled "From Ocean Shore to Mountain Crest and Back Again in a Day," which begins on page 142 (pages numbers start with the January issue). It is especially valuable since it describes the area from Granite Falls to Monte Cristo after the initial boom and bust of the 1890s when most of the development occurred and newspapers actively reported on what was happening. I will include the Monte portion, pp. 149-152, but you might enjoy reading the whole thing. The issue was reprinted in the 1970s, while I think the Everett Public Library has a copy of the original upstairs in the Northwest Room. That June also is the month in which young Elof Norman and his family arrived.

Monte Cristo

Leaving Silverton the train passes through a great area of forest which in places has been visited by severe storms. Here and there we can see great monarchs of the forest torn up by their roots or twisted and torn asunder half way up from the ground. At Barlow Pass we leave the Stillaguamish and cross the divide. After going across the switchback in Cascade Park we arrive at Monte Cristo.

Monte Cristo! Here the railroad can go no farther. Huge mountains rear their exalted summits high into the heaven's ethereal blue. The place is surrounded by snowy crests and jagged peaks. On all sides one sees the great high walls of rock and trees which rise to an altitude of over 7,000 feet.

Here the rivulets of snow water trickle from their icy home to form the brook, the creek, the river, the ocean down below. The air is exhilarating and bracing. The glories, the grandeur, the immensity, the sublimity of the great works of nature cover our spirits with the emotions of awe and worship. Lips declaim the thrilling impulses of the heart and the whole being is exalted with pleasure that we can enjoy by beholding and admiring, this vast handiwork of the Creator.

Here we are in the midst of a virgin forest. The place is called Cascade Park. Five hundred feet directly above the camp is Silver Lake, which lays on a ledge of the mountain. Several miles away is Goat lake. Countless cascades and waterfalls are in all directions. The pure and sparkling waters of countless streams abound with trout of all kinds. Wild game in large numbers roam the forests and live along the streams. The place might well be named "The Park Beautiful." (to be continued)

David A. Cameron, Ph.D.



Excursion train to right with open cars on the back and second train at the switchback below Monte Cristo, dated 1902. From *The Coast* magazine, photo by George W. Kirk. The train on the right probably is backing down to the point of the switchback, both trains westbound.

MCPA MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2013- May 2014

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Area(s) of Interest/Occupation _____

Please check: ☐ Mail key and Permit ☐ Will Pick up Key and Permit

\$24.00 - Membership

Mail To: MCPA

\$0.00 - Key for Renewing Members (Use Old Key) **PO Box 471**

\$18.00 - Key for New members only

Everett, WA 98206

MCPA CHARITABLE DONATION FORM

I wish to donate to the MCPA. The amount I wish to donate is:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other

MCPA INTERPRETIVE CENTER DONATION FORM

I wish to donate to the MCPA Interpretive Center. The amount I wish to donate is:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ Other

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: MCPA

PO Box 471

Everett, WA 98206

THANK-YOU!

C.D. ORDER FORM

This is a C.D. with pictures from Monte Cristo, up to 100 years ago.

Cost: \$20.00 -Includes Shipping

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: MCPA

c/o Kal Klass

3815 E Garfield St.

Seattle, WA 98112

Thank you for your order!

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

These T-Shirts are colored gray with the MCPA Logo printed in green on the front.

(Price Includes Shipping within US Only.)

Please specify size: _____ Medium Short Sleeve (\$15.00)
_____ Medium or Large Long Sleeve (\$20.00)

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail To: MCPA

c/o Kal Klass

3815 E Garfield St.

Seattle, WA 98112

Thank you for your order!



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.
PO Box 471
Everett, WA 98206-0471

New Membership Year!
1st Work Party: June 15th

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»