

Board Members

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Hello MCPA Members !

We hope everyone had a nice Fourth of July and a good start to your summer. At our last work party we started clearing the 3 MCPA lots for a new interpretive site. We plan to construct several life size rail trestles to mimic closely what was once in the town site to transport ore on the E and MC Railway. Interpretive signs will be placed amount these trestles. At our next work party we plan to move some large timbers up close to the construction site and we certainly will need as much help as we can get. **So please mark your calendars for this important date, Saturday, July 15.** We will first meet at Barlow Pass at 9 a.m. and then caravan in. After 9:15 am, the gate will remain locked until we leave after the work party in the afternoon.



As part of this work party, we will be instituting our own Town site host program by having volunteers stationed in the Town site to help direct tourists and answer their questions about site seeing in the area. We will also continue to do maintenance with brush cutting. Our Town site hosting will occur at each work party. But if you have time to help out in this endeavor at other times during the week, please email me. This is a much needed task to help keep down the vandalism which has become rampant in the area.

The vault toilet by the camp ground will remain closed by the Forest Service until further notice. The MCPA has volunteered to fix any leaks and maintain this building for the year but the Forest Service has not yet decided if this is in their best interest before they finish their NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review. And that will not be complete until the end of this year or next year. We have asked them to make an exception to this and they are presently considering our proposal for maintaining this toilet.

If any members would like to bring friends to help out with this next work party, we need all the help we can get so we hope as many of you can join in as possible. Please remember to bring enough food and water, work gloves and good sturdy work shoes, rain gear, etc. Even in the summer it can be rainy and cool. Hope to see you all at the next work party so you can participate in creating our new interpretive site. Let's make history together! 😊

Kal Klass, MCPA President.

HISTORICAL ESSAY

A lot of water has flowed under Twin Bridges since we began MCPA in the spring of 1983. We began communicating with members through our newsletters and annual reports to update everyone on our restoring access and improving services. Later I began these essays as a way of increasing our knowledge of Monte's history, adding sources and information to the books and photos which are available from libraries and stores.

As part of my cultural and minerals work for the U.S. Forest Service on the old Monte Cristo Ranger District in the early 1970s I was assigned to create an inventory of historical and archaeological sites, giving some background on each. This information was a factor in all future agency work, from timber sales to campground planning. This and my role in creating a self-guided automobile tour of the Mountain Loop Highway from Verlot to Monte Cristo, featuring publications, interpretive signage and uncovering visible remains, led to more research on Monte, Silverton, and the mining years. Later I researched the history of the Forest Service and its pioneering Silverton tree nursery, creating a small similar operation at Verlot. That coincided with Pete Selvig's recruiting the Civilian Conservation Corps alumni chapter to restore an office room to house Louise Lindgren's Silverton Nursery exhibit for the state centennial.

Forty years ago Enid and Ed Nordlund asked if I would like to buy their little cabin at the foot of Dumas Street in Monte Cristo. Then came the county's decision not to repair the road following the massive December 1980 flood destruction, the burning of the lodge in March 1983, and the determination by many of us not to let Monte be left to vandals. They had broken into every remaining cabin, smashed windows, and stolen what they found after newspapers had reported the town site abandoned following the fire. A month later MCPA was born.

Each of us has a story on how we came to be involved with Monte Cristo – all drawn to a place which has become only more special as the old-timers have passed on. Since we no longer can walk the streets with them and ask questions, we need to rely more on our written sources and imaginations to appreciate what happened here.

To help share that I will go back to columns of the original Everett *Herald* weekly newspaper and reprint what people were reading in the 1890s when Monte and Everett were tied together and booming, then caught in a crushing national financial crisis only a few months later. The *Herald* was one of several papers printing news of the gold rush, and it is exceptionally useful for carrying regular coverage taken from the Monte Cristo newspaper as well as that gathered by its own staff. You may read it in microfilm at the Everett Public Library, but when I was researching I carefully leafed through the brittle yellowing originals and made copious notes on 3x5 cards. There is only one surviving issue of *The Monte Cristo Mountaineer*, and *The Everett Herald* went bankrupt at the beginning of 1897. Four years later the name was reborn with *The Everett Daily Herald*, now just *The Herald*, and also struggling. In 2005 appeared our authoritative new *Snohomish County: An Illustrated History*, co-sponsored by MCPA through its membership in the League of Snohomish County Heritage Organizations. We hope this too will give you more background on Monte, having become a standard popular reference.

David Cameron



Photo courtesy of Forrest Johanson

Young and old timers gather to witness the gift of half the Rattler mining claim by the American Legion Earl Faulkner Post #6 of Everett to U.S. Forest Supervisor H. Phil Brandner. The purpose: a public campground at Monte Cristo, August 19, 1951.

MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2017

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Area(s) of Interest/Occupation _____

IF YOU WISH AN OPTIONAL BARLOW PASS GATE KEY:

For new members:

Please download the required "MCPA Waiver/Release" at www.mcpa.us, have it notarized, then mail it to us with your check for \$42 to begin the process.

For renewing members:

For renewing members the present key is still valid, but if you need a new key: check here ☐ and include the additional \$18 cost of a key to your membership dues.

\$24.00 - Annual Membership

Mail To: **MCPA**

\$42.00 - Annual Membership + Key

PO Box 471

THANK-YOU!

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!



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

**Work Party - Sat. July 15, 9am
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate**

«FirstName» «LastName»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»