

## Board Members

President..... Kal Klass [klasstwin@gmail.com](mailto:klasstwin@gmail.com)  
Vice President ..... David Cameron [cameronlindgren2@gmail.com](mailto:cameronlindgren2@gmail.com)  
Treasurer ..... Bill Rawlins  
Secretary ..... Ruth Danielson  
Corresponding Secretary .... Louise Lindgren  
Advisor ..... Doug Hammond  
Advisor ..... David Hartze  
Webmaster ..... Mike Kahler



Hello MCPA Members!

We hope everyone has had a nice summer so far. At our last work party, we continued on work for a new interpretive site. Some of the timbers to be used for that were moved up the road from the concentrator and stored for later use: plans are for constructing several duplicate railroad trestles on the MCPA owned town site lots, where once the Monte Cristo Hotel stood. This is just uphill from the present day Kyes Cabin property.



The board has been working hard this year to get a good start on the new interpretive site. Interpretive signs will be placed around the trestles after construction is complete. This is a large project, both physically and logistically so we expect to spend the next couple summers doing a good job before completion. Thank you to the board and many other volunteers who have, so far, helped in our endeavor!

Some of you may have noticed the new professional look to our work parties. We have been using volunteer work vests, with our logo, to show the public who we are and that has raised public awareness and appreciation toward our activities for preserving and interpreting the history around Monte Cristo. We now also have professional looking sandwich board signs to place around our work parties. Thank you to David Hartze for spending the time to design and order these helpful additions!



**Our next work party will be on August 19.**

We will meet at the Barlow pass gate at 9 am and caravan down to the new gate for driving into the town site. Our plans are to finish transporting the timbers for our new interpretive site to where they are being stored uphill from the MCPA town site lots. We also need a couple volunteers for brushing and we need someone to be a dedicated town site host during the work party—this worked out well at our last work party.

As usual, please always be prepared for rainy, cool weather, even in summer, and bring food and plenty of water for your work day ! And one word of caution: all tools which cause a spark must now be shut down by 1 pm due to the fire hazard for this time of year.

Another word of caution everyone: please be careful when driving back up to Barlow Pass after a long day. There are now cars being parked on both sides of the gravel road at Barlow Pass and it is now becoming difficult to even squeeze through, as many tourists are no longer being courteous with their parking. We have asked the Forest Service about signing one side of the gravel road where this is occurring, similar to the no parking signs by Lake 22 for the same reason.

Hope to see everyone at our next work party on August 19. If you are interested in attending one of our board meetings, the next one will be August 31. Just email me if you would like to attend; we value everyone's input!

Cheers,  
Kal Klass, MCPA President

## HISTORICAL NOTE

As mentioned in the last note, *The Everett Herald*, a valuable historical source due to its inclusion of regular news items from *The Monte Cristo Mountaineer*, began weekly publishing in December 1891 and operated until the start of 1897, when it finally fell victim to the depression which began in 1893 and affected everything associated with Monte Cristo. By the winter of 1891 the Colby, Hoyt & Co. syndicate of New York City had been formed to work with ambitious lumberman and mill owner Henry Hewitt of Tacoma to form Everett, a major industrial city on Port Gardner Bay at the mouth of the Snohomish River. That site appeared to them as the logical terminus of the Great Northern Railway, which was building its transcontinental line westward to Puget Sound from St. Paul, Minnesota. It was expected by the end of the following year. Much of the financial backing for the Everett project came from John D. Rockefeller, the richest man in North America due to his control over the oil industry. James J. Hill was the owner of the Great Northern, also one of the wealthiest and shrewdest business men of that generation. Their decisions were not to be taken lightly.

At Monte Cristo the main properties were in the hands of a smaller group which needed money to develop their mines. This was formed by John MacDonald Wilmans, his brother Steve, and financiers from Seattle. These included Leigh S.J. Hunt, publisher of the Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* (and for whom Hunt's Point was named), Judge Hiram Bond, and miner Edward Blewett (for whom Blewett Pass was named). After examination by Alton Dickerman and C.F. Rand the New Yorkers agreed to the Wilmans group proposal to take up a share of the Monte Cristo mines in exchange for an agreement to build the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway, required for transport of the ore tonnage to a smelter which also would be built in Everett.

Blewett's partner H.G. Henry of Seattle would hold the main railroad construction contract, while the New Yorkers created a series of separate corporations to carry out the mining operations. Each of these was controlled by boards made up of syndicate men, their relatives, or their loyal employees and able to issue separate bonds. It was all very complex and run by a small group of insiders. Thus there were the railroad, the smelter, the concentrator (with duplicate sets of machinery for the Rockefeller and Wilmans mines), along with the Monte Cristo, Rainy, and Pride of the Mountains mining companies, plus another eight operating down in Everett and dealing with its affairs. Interestingly, in their confidential report of October 1891 Dickerman and Rand predicted that although the place currently had but two log cabins, by January 1, 1893 Monte Cristo's population would reach 5,000! That would make it equal to the new city of Everett and tied for the largest in Snohomish County. To outsiders and the men of the *Herald* it all spelled boom!

In hindsight, they could not have forecast the declining ore values, the effects of floods, or that massive crash, which nearly bankrupted the country.

David Cameron



*Courtesy Sam Strom, via Joe Cook and Forrest Johanson*

The first building in Monte Cristo, 1892

**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](http://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](http://www.mcpa.us)

**Work Party - Sat. Aug. 19, 9am  
Meet at the Barlow Pass Gate**

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