

## 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 Hartzel  
Webmaster..... Mike Kahler



Hello MCPA Members !

We hope everyone had a nice Spring. We are excited to begin our new year with the **Annual Meeting, coming up on June 2nd** at the Verlot Service Center. As usual, we will have a nice potluck lunch at noon behind the service center, prior to beginning our annual meeting. So please feel free to bring some kind of excellent side dish to contribute. We have lots to discuss with members at this meeting, so we hope everyone can attend. Please remember, we are now on a calendar year with our membership, January to December. Please bring your membership dues to this meeting. We will discuss plans for our first work party of the year at the Annual Meeting and many other things as well.

As with previous years, all our **work parties** will be on the third Saturday of each month, beginning in June. **Those dates are: June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, and October 20.**

**Please check our website, [mcpa.us](http://mcpa.us)** for updates or last minute changes for these work parties in case of severe weather or road closures. We will now always meet at the new gate before the new CERCLA road, with the exception of our first work party on June 16. For that one we will meet at our old location by the Barlow gate. Our plan for this first work party is to work on clearing any large debris on the road into Monte after installing our bulletin board by the clay slide. If we have enough volunteers, we also plan to gather fire wood for both the Forest Service cabin #2 and the camp ground close by. There will also be some final work on a site plan for the interpretive site.

This year, we will continue work on our new interpretive site. Our plan is to finish a final site plan to delineate all the plant growth, artifacts, etc, then stake out where the cement pads will be poured for supporting the replica of train trestles. We do not anticipate constructing the trestles until the following year. We can answer all your questions pertaining to this at the Annual meeting. For all the work parties, the MCPA will be purchasing a second brush cutter with protective gear. This should make it easier to be brushing at opposite ends of the road, which has sometimes been difficult in the past with any shortage of equipment.



This year we would like to re-start the Town Site Host Program. We will have a sign-up sheet at the Annual meeting with a brief orientation at this meeting for those interested. The MCPA is going to be maintaining the vault toilet for tourists this summer on a trial basis. During the times of not having a host, we will designate at least one member to act as Town site host at least during the times of all work parties. And for those Town site hosts who volunteer more than one day and want to have a roof over their heads, the Forest Service has been very generous in once again giving permission for the use of their cabin. There will be a strict policy for cleanup and use of the cabin which will be reviewed at the Annual meeting.

For anyone interested in helping to paint the Forest Service cabins this summer, please let us know at the Annual meeting. One of our members will be in charge of this and we will also discuss this at the meeting.

This will be my last newsletter as President. A new board will be elected after the Annual meeting. The Annual meeting will also provide time for any interested members who want to join the new board to submit their names. So please give this some thought and if you are interested, please email me. We like to keep as diverse a group on the board as possible; that means we all do very different things for work and hobbies. But regardless of your interests or vocation, we welcome all interested members.

*(continued on next page)*

The MPCA is finalizing a newly edited brochure which will be printed this summer. As usual, these will be restocked at the MPCA bulletin board by the clay slide and at the Town site.

Well, that should wrap things up for now everyone. Hope to see you all on June 2 !  
There will be lots of good food and lots of important things to discuss.

Sincerely,

Kal Klass, MCPA President  
klasstwin@gmail.com

PS. If you haven't already renewed please remember to bring your membership dues to the social as it is now the 2018 Membership Year. You can find the 2018 form in this newsletter. Thank you for your membership! ☺



Transportation to Monte Cristo used in the 1980s.

## HISTORICAL ESSAY

On our way home after last September's work party several of us stopped by the Granite Falls Historical Society's museum to meet an author in person and have her sign a book. Monika Teuscher-Schramm from Switzerland had just written a long-awaited account of the life of her ancestor: *On the Trail of Richard Roesiger: A Pioneer's Life in the Pacific Northwest*.

Most of us know of Lake Roesiger, the large body of water south of Granite Falls. It was named for her great uncle, a German immigrant who had homesteaded there in the 1890s and later developed the popular resort which has become a county park. He left a collection of journals which make fascinating reading, including of weeks spent in Monte Cristo from August 31 to October 4, 1895 trying to earn some much needed income as a miner.

It turned into a miserable experience, even though he was skilled as a blacksmith and had worked in the coal mines at Newcastle in King County before those workers lost a bitter strike and Richard moved full time to his claim at the lake in 1889.

Martin Comins, his neighbor at the lake, already was at Monte and had filed a claim. The two teamed up as contractors to pack supplies, improve water drainages, and extend adits through drilling and blasting. Martin set up most of the charges, while Richard sharpened their long drill bits and shared the hard labor of holding and rotating the shafts while his partner swung the sledge hammer to drive them into the rock in their predetermined pattern.

The alpine scenery was steeply spectacular, especially as they found themselves high on Wilmans Peak at the Summit, Ariel, and Sentinel lodes and then across Glacier Creek equally far up on Cadet Peak. At those elevations in early September winter already was arriving with constant rain and snow storms. The men however had only a tent for sleeping, wore leather soled boots unsuitable for mountain ice and rock, and had to scrounge for damp bits of wood and bark to build fires for warmth, cooking, and heating the forge. Bread was baked in a frying pan. Unfortunately, Comins also was known for his drinking habit and apparently tried to share it with his friend.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of October Richard finally had enough and began the long return walk home without receiving his promised pay and with no ability to settle his bills in town. Comins did give him something at a future date, but paymaster C.H. Packard, Snohomish newspaper publisher and O&B mine owner, never did come through with the rest. A good Samaritan found Richard sleeping in the daylight along the road near Granite Falls and shared his dinner with the exhausted man whose young son didn't recognize his threadbare and disheveled father when he reached home.

You also can read about happier but more complex times for Richard and his family, including visits to the 1909 Alaska Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle and 1917 anti-German challenges to his loyalty by super patriotic fellow citizens. The book may be ordered through Amazon. The lakeside home he built and his later resort boathouse were right along the shore of the park, where kids now wade and picnickers enjoy the land he cleared.



Edna Breazeale

unknown, Martin Comins, John Breazeale, and two unknown men at Monte Cristo,



**MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2018**

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.mcpc.us](http://www.mcpc.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!**

**HISTORIC MONTE CRISTO PICTURES ORDER FORM**

Pictures from Monte Cristo, up to 100 years ago. Cost: \$20.00. Pictures will be emailed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: **MCPA**

**PO Box 471**

**Everett, WA 98206**

**Thank you for your order!**



Monte Cristo Preservation Assoc.  
PO Box 471  
Everett, WA 98206-0471  
[www.mcpa.us](http://www.mcpa.us)

**Annual Meeting and Potluck at Verlot  
Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Noon**

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