

## Board Members

President/Webmaster .....Mike Kahler  
Vice President .....Craig O'Brien  
Treasurer .....David Hartze  
Newsletter Editor .....Ruth Danielson  
Advisor .....Doug Hammond  
Advisor .....Kal Klass



Greetings MCPA Members and Friends,

The MCPA's 2020 work party dates are set and will commence on June 20. Volunteer work parties are always the 3rd Saturday of the month starting in June and going into fall as weather permits (typically October). This will include (at a minimum) June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19 and October 17. We will always meet at the Barlow Pass gate (adjacent to trailhead parking for Monte Cristo, Gothic Basin and Barlow Point trails) with intent to depart at 9:00, so plan to arrive by 8:45 to be safe. Barlow Pass is 30 miles east of Granite Falls on the Mountain Loop highway; plan on a 40 minute drive from Granite.

Once everyone has gathered at Barlow we will disperse to locations deemed relevant for the day's planned work. This may include work on the old county road/trail from Barlow, work on the old railway route heading west from Barlow, or driving into the town to perform work in the townsite and adjacent trails. We will always have room for ride sharing into the townsite; a capable all-wheel drive vehicle is necessary.

This year we are considering the idea of having some 2-day work parties with a Saturday to Sunday overnight stay. This would significantly increase the time available for work in the townsite as driving both to Barlow and into the townsite can easily consume 4 hours round trip, so getting two days' work out of that trip would be a huge benefit. We'll provide more details on these plans as they materialize. Certainly this will not be the plan for the June 20 work party, but could occur as early as July.

Plans for this year's work parties include completing the re-roofing project on Forest Service Cabin #4, preparing the grounds and installing our interpretative signage on the MCPA townsite lots, further assessment and preparations for the planned interpretative structure/facade, and the ever present need to do brushing work within the townsite and adjoining trails. We are fortunate to have been able to keep these public areas well maintained and within check. Without our constant upkeep on these areas, the historical townsite, especially the former rail yard (where the Forest Service cabins are) would be completely overgrown, versus the beautiful grass meadow it is today.

Please bring weather appropriate gear and sufficient nourishment for your attendance. A typical work party will last until early afternoon, with an expected departure from the townsite by 3:00. Due to restrictions on the CERCLA road gate key and the slow travel speed, it is prohibitive to arrange for more than one entry and exit from the townsite (exception: when we do plan an overnight stay, volunteers who can only attend one day will be accommodated).

MCPA can always provide ground and brushing tools, but feel free to bring your own (clippers, trimmers, hand saws, chain saws, etc) so that there is ample to go around. MCPA will always supply any tools or supplies needed for construction work.

Feel free to email us as listed on the MCPA website "Contact" page if you have questions on work party plans. Also let us know if you do plan to attend a work party so we can know who to expect at Barlow. We don't want to leave anyone behind!

Lastly, we currently have an opening on the MCPA board for a Corresponding Secretary; our prior secretary Kathy Pierson has move into retirement and is currently traveling the country (thanks for all your hard work, Kathy!). This position's role mainly consists of authoring and mailing member correspondence in relation to renewals and donations. Time commitment for those activities is fairly minimal, the letter content is pre-existing. Attendance at our monthly board meetings is expected; it appears we will be meeting virtually in 2020 so time commitment is again minimal. Let us know if you are interested.

Mike Kahler  
MCPA President

## HISTORICAL ESSAY

In our last newsletter we left Jerry and Eileen Rosman with their children and son-in-law Jim Kyes trapped in Monte Cristo in January 1982, threatened by avalanches, and radioing for rescue before disaster hit. Jerry later described the events over several issues of the weekly *Snohomish Tribune*. In keeping with his sense of humor in stretching out the story, I will do the same by going back to his arrival as concessionaire at Monte Cristo Resort Corporation in the summer of 1977 to give you some background on who they were and what they were trying to do there.



Photograph by David Cameron

Monte Cristo Lodge in 1978.

The *Everett Herald* for August 11 of that year announced their plans to “brush out existing picnic and tent sites and to stake out major streets and buildings in the old ghost town.” “There is a small camper’s general store, museum and information center in the lodge building. The snack bar will not reopen this season.” [It was located at the back of the first floor of the lodge, with the museum section and information counter at the front, while the family lived upstairs.] “The Rosmans will open the lodge daily until snowfall this winter and note the premises will be occupied and patrolled throughout the winter to discourage vandalism, which has seriously damaged the buildings in the past.

Elof Norman, *Everett* author of *The Coffee Chased Us Up*, will visit Sunday afternoons to autograph copies of his book and answer visitors’ questions. The book deals with his boyhood in Monte Cristo.

An admission fee of 50 cents per person (\$2 maximum per party) will be charged. Monte Cristo is privately owned by individuals concerned with preserving this significant landmark, and receives neither government support nor grants.”

On November 12, 1977 Jerry made the front page of the *Herald/Western Sun*’s weekend pictorial magazine “Panorama” in a color portrait with the caption “Jerod Rosman: Wintering at Monte Cristo, page 10.”

Inside there was a two page spread, half text and half two large photos of Jerry, one with a cap, poncho, and

rifle and the other taken in front of the lodge showing him petting a pooch in front of the lodge and surrounded with large artifacts of old wagon wheels and iron, all now long gone. Captions are “Rosman will guard the resort, work on facilities, and do some writing – all alone, except for his four dogs,” and “I have a lot of respect for the elements and the country.”

The story was written by Allan May, the photos taken by Dale Blindheim. Alan was a World War II marine who had served his country at Saipan and looked the part. He covered the eastern county-back country beat, later edited the paper’s *Western Sun* edition, and became one of our team which produced the definitive *Illustrated History of Snohomish County*. He died in 2005, two days after the books arrived from the printer.

Here he wrote “Jerod Rosman plans to challenge the furious winter of the Cascade Mountains.

With little more than his courage and his muscle, he plans to live alone in a cabin in the Monte Cristo ghost town, 12 miles from where the county road plows stop. If the winter is an ordinary one, the temperature will fall far below zero and the snow will be deep enough to more than bury his little cabin. He will be alone, except for the possibility that his friend Dan Finney may get through a few times with his dog sled or an occasional snow shoe or back country skier.” (To be continued)

David Cameron

## MCPA Membership Form

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ (membership runs Jan → Dec)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Interest / Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please select only 1 box below...**

☐ **\$25.00 - I want an Annual Membership Only** (Mail this Form & \$25 to MCPA)

---- or ----

☐ **\$50.00 - I want an Annual Membership AND a Barlow Pass Gate Key \***  
(current gate key #: E292)

**\* Follow the below instructions to obtain a gate key...**

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at [www.mcpc.us](http://www.mcpc.us) (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign/Notarize "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA

## MCPA Donation Form (Non-Profit 501(c)(3) EIN: 911230143)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**MCPA Donation** - I wish to donate the following amount:

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$200    ☐ \$500    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MCPA Interpretive Center Donation** - I wish to donate the following amount:

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$200    ☐ \$500    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Monte Cristo Historic Pictures Order Form

Pictures of Monte Cristo up to 100+ years ago. Pictures will be emailed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **\$20.00 – Electronic Pictures of Historic Monte Cristo**

Mail Form To: **MCPA**  
**P.O. Box 471**  
**Everett, WA 98206**

email questions to:  
[hartze4@gmail.com](mailto:hartze4@gmail.com)

02/14/20



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

**1<sup>st</sup> Work Party**  
**Sat Jun 20, 9am Meet**  
**at Barlow Pass Gate**

«FirstName» «LastName»

«Address1»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»