

Board Members

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Advisor.....Doug Hammond
Advisor.....Kal Klass
Corresponding Secretary.....Cary Thielen
Advisor.....Daryl Jacobson



Greetings MCPA members and friends and welcome to the end of the spring thaw 2021. We received word the Mountain Loop highway has been opened from Deer Creek to Barlow pass as of May 21, and the entire loop should be open in time for the memorial weekend (you can always verify by googling for "Snohomish county road closures").

We have reports from Hikers that the trail is open and passable into the Monte Cristo Townsite; there is still pockets of snow along the route and some remaining snow in the townsite. MCPA members have already spent many hours clearing the old county road and trail of downed trees; thank you for all that hard work.

Due to COVID restrictions and limited spaces available for reservations, we have decided to host our annual meeting as a Zoom call this year, to be held on June 5th at 11:00AM PDT. All members and interested persons are welcome to join. You may call in by phone only or join via the zoom application if preferred; if you do plan to use the Zoom application, please confirm your computer setup and connectivity prior to the start of the call. Meeting details are below and on the MCPA website.

We will begin our monthly Volunteer Work Parties starting on June 19, and every 3rd Saturday throughout the summer. Plan as always to meet at the Barlow Pass gate by 9:00am. For June 19, we will continue cleanup on the county roadway and upriver on the trail working to clear windfalls and tackle some brushing before the heavy growth begins. We hope to obtain permission to continue the roofing project on USFS cabin #4 in the townsite, but that work will certainly not commence on June 19.

Member Daryl Jacobson has notified us the book "The Everett and Monte Cristo Railway" (which he co-authored) has been digitized and made available for online viewing through the efforts of Fred Cruger and the Granite Falls Historical Museum. Start at www.gfhistory.org and choose the "Archive in a Box" link, where you'll find this book and hundreds of other digitized photos, books and articles. The aforementioned book is also available for purchase in the Museum online store.

Lastly, if you have not already done so, please remember to renew your annual membership. Our membership year now coincides with the calendar year, so membership is due at the start of each year. To make this task a little easier, we recently added an online payment option for membership and donations on the MCPA website mcpa.us. Payments are processed through PayPal, a well-known online payment service. If you do pay using this option, know your payment details (i.e., account or card number) are known only to PayPal and not shared with the MCPA.

Hope to see everyone June 5 (virtually) and June 19 (Barlow Pass)
Mike Kahler – MCPA President

Zoom meeting details:

Time: Jun 5, 2021 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Meeting ID: 160 055 7720

Passcode: 411311

Call in Number: +1 669 254 5252

Join online: <https://www.zoomgov.com/join>

HISTORICAL ESSAY

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet,” wrote William Shakespeare.

True enough, but we do need accepted names to identify people, objects, and places. In so far as the Monte Cristo area is concerned our naming of places is relatively recent, so we know some of their origins. “Monte Cristo” itself comes from the novel by best selling 19th century French author Alexandre Dumas, and thus when the townsite was platted by the Monte Cristo Mining Company in 1893 you find the street directly across from our MCPA lots on Dumas named for the count’s fiancée Mercedes. I won’t spoil the plot if you haven’t read the book, but if not, you should. The earliest financier and developer John MacDonald Wilmans is credited with that suggestion.

Entering Monte and visible when the clouds are right, the striking rock fronting Wilmans Peak was named for the portly then president of the country, Grover Cleveland, but as memories fade it becomes the “Old Man of the Mountain”, taken from a New England formation. The shape of the rock on the horizon of Toad Mountain ahead to your right is self-explanatory.

Railway surveying engineer John Q. Barlow is credited for discovering the pass four miles downstream and thus changing the planned ore shipping route to Puget Sound. Originally the line was intended to follow the South Fork and then main stem Sauk River to its junction with the Skagit at Skagit City. Then it would hang a left downstream to the lowlands or load directly onto steamboats during high water months.

That was the route Joseph Pearsall and Frank Peabody took when they first walked out in 1890. Had they asked folks who knew the country well they would have saved a lot of effort. However, there was a basic communication problem. Those tribal members had lived along the rivers for millennia and called that pass “Squal-guas or “Squall-quass,” meaning “a gap” in their dialect of the Lushootseed language. These were the Sauk-Suiattle, their name coming from their home drainages. The only common way to understand each other though was by using the Northwestern trade language which had developed along the Columbia and included words from both. For example, English speakers had to learn that “chuck” in jargon meant “water” and “pil” meant “red”, thus Pilchuck means red water. However, the Lushootseed speaker had to learn what “white” means in English to identify the Whitechuck River (Duwh-kull-ub, “dirty water”), which is influenced by silty runoff from Glacier Peak (“Takobia”, not to be confused with what the Americans called their large city down the “salt chuck” south of Seattle. Seattlites referred to that hunk of volcanic rock as Mt. Rainier. Life is complex, but communication is “hyas kloshe,” a great good. The opposite would be “cultus,” which explains the name of the useless little lake near Poodle Dog Pass. (I’ve heard two explanations for that one.)

David Cameron

MCPA Membership Form

Membership Year: _____ (membership runs Jan to Dec)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Area(s) of Interest / Skills: _____

Please select only 1 box below:

\$25.00 - Annual Membership (Mail this Form and \$25 to MCPA)

---- or ----

\$50.00 - Annual Membership + A New Barlow Pass Gate Key *
(* keys from 2010 to now are still valid)

- Download "MCPA Waiver/Release" form at www.mcpa.us (MEMBERSHIP)
- Sign and Notarize the "MCPA Waiver/Release" form
- Mail the Notarized Form, this Form, and \$50 to MCPA
- A new gate key will be mailed to the above address

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 (~24 MB in size).

Name: _____ Email: _____

\$20.00 – Electronic Pictures of Historic Monte Cristo

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

email questions to:
hartz4@gmail.com



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

Annual Meeting
June 5th at 11am PDT via Zoom
Details inside

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