

Board Members

President..... Kal Klass klasstwin@gmail.com
Vice President Doug Hammond
Treasurer Bill Rawlins
Secretary Ruth Danielson
Corresponding Secretary Louise Lindgren
Advisor David Cameron camlind@richpoor.net



Hello MCPA Members!

We had a wonderful Winter Social on the first of this month. As mentioned at that event, our board this year will be: President; Kal Klass, Vice President; Doug Hammond, Secretary; Ruth Danielson, Treasurer; Bill Rawlins, Corresponding Secretary; Louise Lindgren, and Advisor; David Cameron. Thank you to David Cameron who took the helm for the last three years as President to lead the organization. Thanks in large part to David, we have kept a strong relationship with the Forest Service to keep us updated and very well informed as the Hazmat cleanup progresses.

We have the website up and running again, thanks so much to our webmaster, Mike Kahler. Mike has repaired and updated our broken website and saved us a lot of trouble and expense in doing so. It was down for a long time. Thank you Mike. And thank you again to the board members who worked extremely hard last year both during and outside work parties. We welcome anyone else interested in helping out with the board. So please email me if you can assist us with anything, at klasstwin@gmail.com. Our website can be accessed at either address www.mcpa.us or www.mc-pa.org

We hope everyone had a great winter. Our winter social in February was well attended as usual. We had an excellent potluck dinner followed by a presentation on the Hazmat cleanup. The Forest Service is still working to complete the new access road for their equipment. David Cameron has provided an update pertaining to this in this newsletter (see next page). We had a good chance at this social to have several contractors update us on their progress. Thank you especially to: Joe Gibbens; On-site coordinator for the cleanup, Peter Forbes; Darrington District Ranger, Tim Otis; Senior Engineer for Cascade Earth Sciences, Jason Shira; Washington State Dept. of Ecology and Dave Iverson; Archeologist for Cascade Earth Sciences. Their presentations were detailed and answered many questions for us. CES has been hired by the Forest Service to do most of the work.

Dues this year will remain unchanged (from 1983) at \$24.00. **The gate key will remain the same so don't throw it away. You still need a new decal**, however, which will be mailed to you when you renew your membership. Remember, your donations toward our work at Monte Cristo are welcome and tax deductible. Please send in dues now. You will see on our membership form there are still C.D.s and t-shirts for sale. The t-shirts however, are almost gone. I think we have 4 or 5 left and they are either large or medium sizes.

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting and potluck which will be at noon on Saturday June 7 at the Verlot Public Service Center.

Cheers everyone! ☺

Sincerely,
Kal Klass, MCPA President

The following is an article written by David Cameron for our website: www.mcpa.us



2014 HAZMAT CLEANUP AND ACCESS INFORMATION

February 5, 2014

Public access to Monte Cristo very early this season will be possible until access road work shuts it down for safety reasons. At our Winter Social February 1 the Forest Service explained that finishing their new route from the Mowich crossing below Barlow Pass on the Darrington side to its junction with the existing county road near the base of Hap's Hill (m.p. 2 on the county road) remains to be done. That primarily consists of laying permanent decking on the first of its three long stringer bridges, then construction of the remaining two.

No timetable was given, as their starting date will depend upon snow and soil conditions, along with contractor agreements and arrival of the log stringers.

Until the bridges are done, hikers and bikers will be able to utilize the existing county road. When access ends, there is a possibility that the public will be able to go as far as Twin Bridges and the Gothic Basin trailhead, but that has yet to be decided. We will post the information as soon as it becomes available.

There are other undecided issues. One is how Glacier Creek will be crossed temporarily for equipment to reach the United Companies' concentrator and other nearby contaminated sites. A second includes final determination of the size and boundaries of the hazardous materials repository. This will be located at the railway switchback below town next to the start of private property and was tested for suitability in 2013.

A new point is the possibility that the removal may be extended into 2015. One option being discussed is to focus on the townsite locations this summer, then the mines in the Jackson Wilderness next year. This would result in a larger capacity two-cell repository rather than one, as each must be permanently sealed at the end of a working season.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Cascade Earth Sciences of Spokane Valley is the prime contractor for the cleanup. They expect the Palm Construction Co. of Winthrop to return as the road and removal subcontractor. Their workers' camp recreational vehicles will be located near the end of the county road below the Monte Cristo campground and may also utilize neighboring private land. Cultural resources subcontractor is ASM Affiliates of Stanwood, which will have on-site observation and monitoring to reduce damage to physical remains and artifacts. They already have been working to protect the old Sauk River wagon road.

Access to the Rainy mine, which is on the right bank of Glacier Creek upstream from the concentrator, will require construction of a temporary road to its portal and tailings pile. This is across the creek from the Pride/Mystery terminal and bunkers on the townsite side, also slated for cleanup.

STATE CLEANUP CONTINUES

Overseeing the federal cleanup to ensure it meets state laws, the Washington State Department of Ecology also is conducting its own studies and monitoring plan. For the past several years its teams have been conducting field research to evaluate the project's effect on terrestrial and aquatic life forms, including plants and insects, this past summer. Aquatic work is just beginning. Its area extends downstream below Monte Cristo Lake almost to Elliott Creek. Background and site sampling have been going on to establish base lines for comparison as materials are exposed, removed, and replaced with covering and new plantings. Monitoring by both agencies is expected to last for decades. Meanwhile, their first lab results are expected in late spring.

Historical Essay

As we await the coming of this summer's construction season for the completion of the new access road to Hap's Hill and repairs from there to Monte Cristo, it's interesting to look back over seventy years to the completion of the Mountain Loop Highway to Barlow Pass. Young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps linked the Sauk "truck trail" up the South Fork from Bedal to the pass on the Darrington side and the former E&MC railway grade on the South Fork Stillaguamish side from Big Four Inn. They were members of Company 6439, organized at Fort Ogelthorpe, Georgia on July 16, 1940. Tennessee provided 198 enrollees, Alabama 1, and Georgia 3. They worked on physical conditioning until July 22, then boarded a troop train: Destination Darrington, Washington.

Single and aged between 18 and 25, they served a six-month hitch and then could re-enlist for another, with a maximum of two years. (Other camps were established for tribal members on Indian reservations and veterans.) Leadership was provided by the War Department, primarily from army and army reserve officers. Men were quartered in camps, which they often built. Darrington was numbered F-15, the "F" signifying that the U.S. Forest Service was the co-operating agency. Due to the distance involved, a subsidiary base camp was set up at Perry Creek, just up the road from the inn. Some 60 men lived there, extending the road up toward the pass largely on the existing grade.

Since their establishment by Congress at the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in March 1933 as part of his New Deal conservation and jobs program, C.C.C. companies had been formed, transferred, and disbanded as work projects were funded and accomplished. Earlier ones also had been based at Darrington for a variety of tasks, but now 6439's was to focus on completing the highway.

An undated (but probably summer 1941) Everett *Herald* news clipping described one inspection tour by county leaders and officials, who found the brushing crew already clearing the pass and bulldozers within half a mile. Ken Knudson (whom I remember from my high school years) took a photo of a grader and a tractor pulling a scarifier. The bulldozer operator's role was teaching the fellows to operate machinery as well as moving earth. While most of the visitors walked over Barlow and then down the Sauk side to catch a bus for Darrington and Arlington, county commissioners Frank Ashe and Jack Ballew, along with county engineer Clarence Hickey, hiked in to Weden Creek "to inspect a proposed mine to market road route." Due to the impending war, that would become the present county road toward Monte, along with the branch up to the Mackinaw mine across the river.

Promoting the highway was a priority of both valley residents and the very active road and tourism minded Everett Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of Perry Black. With the railroad badly damaged by flooding in 1932 and then abandoned, access to the area was difficult and tenuous. Thus the agreement between railroad, county, and federal government which led to the existing scenic highway.

Final grading and crushed rock surfacing was not completed until December 1941. On October 18, 1942 the Mountain Loop Highway was dedicated at a ceremony near Mowich, coincidentally where the new hazmat access road to Monte Cristo begins. Over 60 cars officially made the trip, joined by almost as many more from campers and hunters. More on that next time. Meanwhile the C.C.C. program had ended that July. Young men changed to fighting uniforms, and conservation was put on hold to meet wartime production demands.

David A. Cameron



One of two known photos of the October 18, 1942 Mt. Loop Highway dedication. (Forrest Johanson collection)

MCPA MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2014- May 2015

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Area(s) of Interest/Occupation _____

Please check: Mail key and Permit Will Pick up Key and Permit

\$24.00 - Membership

Mail To: MCPA

\$0.00 - Key for Renewing Members (Use Old Key)

PO Box 471

\$18.00 - Key for New members only

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!

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

These T-Shirts are colored gray with the MCPA Logo printed in green on the front.

(Price Includes Shipping within US Only.)

Please specify size: _____ Medium Short Sleeve (\$15.00)

 _____ Medium or Large Long Sleeve (\$20.00)

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

**Mark Your Calendars:
The Annual Meeting & Potluck will be at noon,
June 7, 2014 at the Verlot Public Service Center**

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