

Board Members

President.....Kal Klass klasstwin@gmail.com
Vice President.....David Cameron camlind@richpoor.net
TreasurerBill Rawlins
SecretaryRuth Danielson
Corresponding SecretaryLouise Lindgren
Advisor.....Doug Hammond
Advisor.....David Hartze
WebmasterMike Kahler



Greetings everyone!

We welcome you all to a new year, the first year of active work on the cleanup at Monte Cristo, during which the area will be closed to everyone. The new road was completed last year to intersect with the old County road below Haps Hill. There are also plans for a crossing with culverts to be placed this year to access over Glacier Creek. The culverts will be removed during the Fall.

We have two new board members this year: welcome both Mike Kahler, our webmaster and David Hartze, our new advisor to the board.



Our Annual meeting will be at its usual location, behind the Verlot Service Center, June 6, at noon. Please bring a side dish or a dessert for a potluck lunch, to be shared with everyone at noon, prior to the meeting. The MCPA will provide hot dogs and drinks. Both the potluck and the meeting will take place upstairs in the Forest Service building. If the weather cooperates, everything can be outside. (The main room where we usually have our potluck is off limits this year, but the kitchen should still be accessible.)

Please see our website www.mcpc.us to familiarize yourselves with the new changes to the cleanup. This will be discussed at our meeting. Also, if any property owners have received any letters from the DOE, we recommend not responding. This will also be discussed at the meeting.

Our work parties this year will be the third Saturday of each month; June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17. We ask all members to include their own lunch for work parties since we will not be providing the usual BBQ as we did in the past. We may have some work parties off site at other camp grounds but this will be discussed at the Annual meeting.

At our first work party, we plan to move any leftover wood from the construction of the bridges on the new access road onto a trailer so it may be stored off site.

Anyone may attend our board meetings. The next one is June 23. Please email Kal Klass if interested in attending. They usually last about an hour, from 6-7 in the evenings at 3rd Place Books in Lake Forest Park.

Please remember your membership everyone. A form is both on our website and in this newsletter. We appreciate everyone's support. For donations, we still have some CDs left with older photos of Monte Cristo from circa the early 1900s. A form for that is also with this newsletter.

Looking forward to another nice year everyone, and we hope to see you all at the Annual meeting!

Kal Klass, MCPA President

Historical Essay

Starting With Gold

There is a simple memory device often taught to students that the discovery of the Americas was driven by “God, gold, and glory.” In the case of our little portion, eastern Snohomish County, it definitely was gold, and forget the other two. God was for the Roman Catholic mission at Tulalip for the tribal peoples, while glory was pretty much limited to having one's name affixed to a geographic spot which most people never have visited or would have trouble finding on a map.

The first two white Americans to enter the Cascades near the general vicinity of what became Monte Cristo were not interested in developing the country. Instead they were doing their best to get somewhere else: the gold fields in what soon would become British Columbia. To that end, Edson Cady and a fellow named Palmer agreed to check out an idea of Emory C. Ferguson's that if one followed the Skykomish River upstream to its headwaters then one should find a pass down to the Wenatchee River. It in turn would flow into the Columbia, and then the traveler could hang a left and go north up the Columbia toward the Fraser River country and its reportedly valuable gold fields. That was in 1859.

The previous spring Ferguson and close to 30,000 other Americans, many frustrated at the winding down of easy placer gold in California, had taken part in a rush to the Fraser's gravel bars starting below the mouth of its awe inspiring canyon. So many men and a handful of women arrived that they overwhelmed the British authorities and raised valid fears of an American annexation. In response, creation of the new Canadian province of British Columbia would result.

For most of the miners, the boom was a bust. Early diggings were inundated by spring runoff, the best deposits quickly were taken up, and travel farther up the canyon was an ordeal. Many drifted back south, including Ferguson. He settled briefly in Steilacoom. Then with several others in the know he decided to travel north to the Snohomish river valley and take up land claims at a strategic spot where a projected new military road would require a ferry crossing. The road never materialized, but a small settlement did, informally called Cadyville and later when platted, Snohomish City.

But first there was that possibility of reaching the Fraser upstream in new territory. After their initial examination led them to the Cascade crest at Cady Pass via the north fork of the Skykomish in late fall, the two explorers brought a favorable report back to Snohomish. That winter the Snohomish men raised \$980 from Steilacoom contacts and received another \$1,100 from merchants in Port Townsend. As the nearest large town, they hoped to benefit from a better route to the Canadian interior to open new markets.

In the spring of 1860 a crew of white and tribal men were hired to construct a rough trail eastward. That August Cady and Ferguson followed it, pushed on down to the Columbia, and eventually traveled as far upstream as the Kettle River. They were discouraged by what they found and returned home, frustrated and disappointed.

Mining interest languished, as attention in Snohomish turned to land development, politics, and the Civil War. Placers were developed upstream on the lower Sultan River tributary of the Skykomish, but no nearby veins of gold were found. (The Snohomish River is formed at Monroe by the junction of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers, joined by the Pilchuck at Snohomish. The Sultan joins the Skykomish at the town of Sultan, and provides an access route north and east to the Sultan Basin south of Mt. Pilchuck and the South Fork Stillaguamish valley.)

After a lapse of ten years, however, new interest was sparked on a tributary of the north fork of the Skykomish. In 1871 George White and Hill Tyler investigated the mouth of Silver Creek, some 10 miles east of what later would become Index. They located eight placer claims. The following year Joseph Prunette crossed into the drainage from the upper Sultan River, located claims, and returned back to the basin with the his news.

Word reached Snohomish of the possibilities of both gold and silver, leading Emory C. Ferguson's brother Theron to improve the earlier trail with a passable route east from Gold Bar to Silver Creek and then to lay out a townsite, which he named Silver City. It was located at the junction of the north and east forks of the creek above its narrow, steep canyon and later refiled as Mineral City on June 20, 1892 by E.H. Hubbard. On the Anna quartz claim, it consists of fifteen blocks.

Unlike nearby Monte Cristo, the physical remains of this once enterprising metropolis are completely unrecognizable. The site was completely cleared for a helicopter logging landing zone over thirty years ago. A woman who owned the small vacant lot next to our cabin at Monte offered also to sell me several lots there, but I realized that the cost of trying to find corners and having them surveyed was far more than the purchase price, and this was before the 1980 flood. More to come on that and the rest of the troubled history of our neighboring mining district in our future issues.



Josiah E. Spurr photo, University of Wyoming collection, courtesy Forrest Johanson

The Mineral City hotel in 1900. A faded photo of the front shows its sign misspelled “HOTL.” It burned sometime after 1941.

MEMBERSHIP FORM - June 2015-May 2016

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, 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

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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

**Annual Meeting & Potluck
June 6, 2015 at Verlot**

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