

## Board Members

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Greetings Everyone!

We hope everyone has had a nice long summer. Aside from the fires in Central Washington and the North Cascades, our weather has been unseasonably nice and prolonged. Closer to home, the Goodell Creek fire has come down into and around New Halem, so hiking in that area is currently closed off. The campground may be gone by now (it was burning on 8-25-15). The power stations were all taken off line and water was being spilled over the dams. The gardens around Ladder Creek Falls are burned and destroyed. In summary, the area between Gorge and Diablo dams is a mess. Seattle City light will have an unprecedented amount in monetary damages. The federal government employees involved in the fire-fighting are staying in Marblemount, 10 miles from the fire, but aerial fighting equipment has so far been useless due to high winds and thick smoke. Fortunately, Monte Cristo has remained unaffected as the fall season starts to turn colors in the area.

On a lighter note, our next work party will continue to improve the outhouse at Weden. Please meet at the usual place by the MCPA picnic table, 9 pm, Saturday, September 19. Please bring rain gear, food and water, good work gloves and water proof boots. We plan to restore more of the outhouse where some of the wood needs cleaning or replacing, especially on the roof.

Our last work party date was a nice picnic, our first in a long time for the summer season. We had 18 people, including a couple of Forest Service staff who joined us and displayed a new, large photo album with old pictures of the Big Four area and surrounding mountains. Louise showed some recent pictures of the cleanup on her laptop and there was plenty of great food of course.

Currently, the cleanup is well along: the repository has been filling up with mine tailings. It looks as big as a football field. The cleared trees have been decked for trucking out at a later date. The concentrator is cleaned up and the excavation has vastly improved the exposure of the hand built rock wall foundation (even some timber framed windows have been exposed). A road has been excavated for cleanup access along the Glacier Basin trail to well past the Comet Mine Bunker. The Comet was carefully excavated so most of the timbers were preserved in place. They are also trying to preserve the timbers of the old trestle as it approaches the concentrator but much excavating must be finished in this area of high contamination. A new road also goes up to the Rainy Mine on the north side of Glacier Creek and a temporary bridge also crosses the Creek to access the United Companies Concentrator and beyond. Of course these roads will all be torn apart and put back to their original state when the cleanup is finished. Many undiscovered artifacts have been set aside during the cleanup. In summary, we are very grateful that the Forest Service has been so careful, showing much interest in preserving this area for everyone.

Something new! We now have a new way to obtain charitable donations from members and their employers with matching gifts, called "Boeing Corporate Gift Matching". Through corporate gift match programs, your generous financial donations and volunteer hours could be matched to eligible organizations like the Monte Cristo Preservation Association. To learn more about these program and request a gift match, please contact your company. For your convenience, the following link is to the Boeing Gift Match program for Boeing employees. Or access the Boeing Gift Match program through Total Access and My Community Giving.

<https://give.boeing.com/#GIVE> Thank you to David Hartzel for organizing this for our membership! It took a lot of effort and time.

As usual, please remember your membership everyone. A form is both on our website and in this newsletter. We appreciate everyone's support.

Our next board meeting is September 29th. Anyone interested in attending, please email me.

Sincerely,  
Kal Klass, MCPA President

## Historical Essay

At this point reports are that the summer's required cultural resources work at Monte Cristo has gone well. Information comes from people who have seen what is occurring and also from the contracting firm monitoring the excavation of hazmat sites and their artifacts. We hope they are correct, as once disturbed you can't go back and restore places as they were. The archaeologists' phrase *in situ* means "in place." If moved, a found object loses its full potential as evidence, as a "dig" destroys the site and the objects their "provenance." We've all seen enough cop shows not to pick up a suspected murder weapon at the crime scene. However, an archaeological case happened once at an historical society meeting in Granite Falls one evening when some well meaning and helpful people came with a cardboard box full of what appeared to be stone tools. They'd dug them up from their property over the years and wanted to donate them. Almost all were real, but how much more they might have been able to tell about the people who made them (and when) if they just had known more about how to handle them? For example, one stone knife blade probably is older than another if it's buried deeper. A batch of waste flakes and unfinished tools might indicate a site where they were made, while the presence of charred animal bones perhaps a cooking hearth.

We are going to face a similar challenge next year or shortly after as we decide how best to utilize our three MCPA-owned lots above the Royal Hotel and Kyes Memorial on Dumas Street. Two parcels were generously donated to us by Drs. Harvey and Janice Heiges, while the Edmonds-South Snohomish County Historical Society added the third. In the 1890s they had structures on them. Those didn't last long, made of sawn lumber and of frame construction. Winter snows, rain, and lack of maintenance after they were abandoned saw to that.

We are fortunate to have photos of them. We also know the surveyed lot boundaries. Our policy is to do a surface archaeological survey to see what might still be there before we do any construction of interpretive or other structures.

When Forest Service archaeologist Jan Hollenbeck did some sample test plots in the townsite a few years ago with Passport In Time volunteers they found only a single layer of remains, which corresponds with what we know of ours. No one built a later cabin, logging road, or outhouse on them, for example. On the other hand, we've had over a century of people picking up things and taking them away, including avid antique and bottle hunters such as the Nordlunds and lodge owners, as well as thousands of tourists.

To our knowledge the spot never was used by members of the Sauk-Suiattle tribe for any particular purpose, as it's along the top of the divide between 76 and Glacier Creeks and at only 75'x75' is not distinctive. None of their artifacts has been found nearby, save for at a lakeside campsite some miles away, and there is no word in their Lushootseed language to our knowledge which relates directly to Monte Cristo.

Some examples of their area place names are "sha-shat-ik" for both the South Fork Sauk River and Elliott Creek, "Squal-quas" or "Squal-guas" meaning a gap for Barlow Pass, and "Stubshadad" meaning skeleton people for Monte Cristo Lake. That refers to a raid probably by Wenatchi (traditional spelling) people and a fight which took place there, the Wenatchi losing and dead branches/tree trunks in the water reminders of it. Close by are the "Dale-kuls," red stained rocks above the lake where elk were driven over the cliffs by hunters.

Goat Lake at the head of Elliott Creek is called "Sweethe-Hatchu." You can find much more interesting information about the people from Nels Bruseth's *Indian Stories and Legends of the Stillaguamish, Sauks and Allied Tribes*, which should be available in libraries, as it has been reprinted most recently by Ye Galleon Press in Fairfield, Washington in 1977. He first published it in 1950. Nels was an important figure in preserving tribal and early Darrington area memories, one of those key individuals along with Harold Engles, Ray Bruckart, and George Sawyer in early U.S. Forest Service area history. Likewise Edith Bedal and her sister Jean Bedal Fish were major sources for our knowledge of their family, tribal heritage and language, and that transition from pre-contact through early mining and settlement times into Monte Cristo as we know it.

As we examine and take care of our little piece of the townsite and keep records of what continues to happen there we are adding to the story and expanding our understanding. It's an important responsibility, and on behalf of our organization I thank you for your support and willingness to help.

David Cameron



Gifford Pinchot photo, The National Archives

The flat false fronted Monte Cristo Hotel dominated the current MCPA lots on Dumas Street in 1897. Below it is the Monte Cristo Mercantile with its large shingled porch.

**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.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:

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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!**



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

**Next Work Party is  
Sat. Sept 19th**

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