

*Board Members*

President..... Kal Klass [klasstwin@gmail.com](mailto:klasstwin@gmail.com)  
 Vice Pres..... David Cameron  
 Treasurer ..... Bill Rawlins  
 Secretary ..... Ruth Danielson  
 Corresponding Secretary. .... Louise Lindgren  
 Webmaster/Advisor..... Chuck Miller  
 Advisor..... Doug Hammond



Message From The Board

Hello everyone! Our most recent board meeting was on 10-26-2010. We now meet at a new location in Lake Forest Park. Our board members drive from different locations including Index, Marysville and Seattle so this is a good central location. Remember if any other members are interested in attending a board meeting, please email me and I can give you the location and directions. Our work parties this year were more productive than years past. We were able to drive in 4 times with a river crossing permit from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Getting tools back all the way to the Town site really made a big difference. Also, trail crews from the Forest Service were working about 10 days on trails to Silver Lake and Glacier Basin. A new road is being planned for construction next summer to parallel the old wagon road, intersecting above Haps Hill and continuing past the Town site to the Mine to Market road. Heavy equipment will be crossing Glacier Creek the following year to access the area for the planned Hazmat cleanup. We anticipate some closures to the area this next year while the new road is being constructed.

I want to thank all our volunteers this year for the many hours which have been donated for both the MCPA and the Forest Service. Some of our board members put in well over 100 hours of volunteer work, both during and outside of work parties. Our vice president, David Cameron and corresponding secretary, Louise Lindgren, have both continued volunteering their time doing much brushing around the town site. They have done other big projects to benefit the area around Monte Cristo but I would need a separate newsletter just outline it all. Thank you David and Louise!



Bill Rawlins has come back on the board this year as our designated treasurer. Bill always brings other members with him to our work parties so he always makes the most difference for man power when we are doing the physical work. He goes up often to check on the gate, takes care of all the keys and related records, a huge task, and is our liaison with the County. He also takes charge of the winter social every year and some other things I will leave out due to space. A big thanks goes to Bill.

Ruth Danielson has remained as our secretary. She takes care of the newsletters, brings all the food and prepares lunch for all the work parties. Ruth works with Louise on other related business for the MCPA in addition to doing volunteer labor with the rest of us around Monte. Thank you Ruth.

Chuck Miller continues maintaining our website which he made himself and now has about 20 pages, complete with photos, virtual tours and all sorts of incredibly detailed info about Monte Cristo. Chuck also finished redoing the MCPA brochure this year, another incredibly involved job that took over a year to finish. He also volunteers as a Town site host for the Forest Service. We cannot thank you enough Chuck.

It is more difficult for me to tell you what Doug Hammond has done for us because Doug works alone a lot of the time and never does anything to get recognition for it. Suffice it to say that he probably does more volunteer labor than any of us. He works a lot during but also outside of work parties, and not just around Monte Cristo. Doug works on other trails off the Mountain Loop too. You would see a big difference if Doug was not involved as much as he is. Thank you very much Doug.

Last to thank and certainly not least is the Forest Service. They have been a wonderful partner in coordinating volunteer work and maintaining the Monte Cristo area despite the strict budget limiting their resources. A big thank you goes to Peter Forbes, Darrington District Ranger and Matt Rigger, the Wilderness Ranger in charge of the Monte Cristo area for the Forest Service.

*...An aside from Ruth: Thank you also Kal for all the work you do including running the board meetings, annual meetings, writing the minutes, writing the newsletter's main page, I could go on... Your work for the MCPA has been an invaluable asset to the MCPA for many years. So thank YOU Kal. ☺*

Ok, write this date down everyone: **February 12, 2011 for the Winter Social.** It will be at our usual location in Maryville at "The Barn" and will begin at 5:30 pm. We will mail out a post card with the date, time and directions for driving sometime in January. There will be another excellent program with speaker and photos.

We need your membership continued everyone so please renew. But remember our calendar year is June to June, NOT January to December. This is because we change the gate locks every June after the snow melts. We also would like to see some new members on our board. It is not a big time commitment and is actually a lot of fun to participate on the board. Please email me if you are interested. Have a wonderful holiday season everyone!

~ Kal Klass, MCPA President

## Historical Essay

For a number of years in the newsletter I traced events in Monte Cristo a hundred years in the past, writing in 1994 of events in 1894, for example. To do that for this forthcoming 2011 would be an exercise in frustration. Monte a century ago was as empty as a miner's billfold the morning after a payday's visit to town.

The preceding winter had been one of the hardest for the place, as exceptionally heavy snowfall that season and the lack of any maintenance led to the collapse of virtually all the remaining homes and commercial buildings along Dumas Street. The Royal Hotel remained standing, as did the closed concentrator, but essentially the town was a wreck.

Adding insult to injury, the railroad was blocked almost until the summer of 1910 by slides in Robe Canyon, and then only repaired to the settlers at Gold Basin. Then in October first tunnel #4 and then #2 were blocked by new slides. Giving up on keeping them open, in 1911 Northern Pacific crews blew off the tops, creating rock cuts instead but providing service only as far as Robe.

However, if you were to read the popular Polk's Directory for Snohomish County with its invaluable listing of people and businesses for that year, it would sound as though Monte were a bustling little community! Population supposedly was "200," and it was home to a hotel, general store, and grade school, along with telegraph and railway express service. Nine businesses were included, seven of which were mining companies. Elizabeth Sheedy and Jacob Cohen had the hotel (no longer called the Royal), while James M. Kyes operated the Monte Cristo Mercantile Co. As for mining, there was the Monte Cristo Metals Co.; the Mackman Mining Co. with former telegrapher E.C. Baker as manager; the Philo Mining Co., managed by E.F. Brown; and the Sidney Mining Co., managed by one F. Peabody. The Packard Mining Co. was managed by H.C. Packard, whom I assume was Snohomish publisher C. H. Packard's son. He had been the nemesis of former *Monte Cristo Mountaineer* publisher and justice of the peace James Bartholomew, who frequently criticized him for not being positive enough about the present and future of the mining town. It appears the Packards had more staying power, even after their misadventures with the financially troubled O&B mine on Toad Mountain in the mid-1890s. Although the Penn Mining Co. operated at Goat Lake at the head of the Elliott Creek drainage and had its warehouse at Barlow Pass, it too was listed. M.F. McIntosh was the manager. Lastly, one James Picalo managed the misnamed Lucky Day Mining Company. In reality, Monte was virtually a ghost town that year.

Meanwhile, down in equally cut off Silverton, Polk's described it as a 50 person "village" boasting a Presbyterian church, having a water works, and receiving tri-weekly mail. Gold and copper mines were the economy. C.E. Anderson operated the grocery, sold real estate, and was postmaster. Mr. J. Wichser was listed as clerk for school district #69. Mining companies were the Bonanza Queen, Eclipse Consolidated, Forty-Five Consolidated (over the ridge in the Sultan Basin) with Nathan Jones as superintendent; Copper Independent Consolidated managed by C.F. Lee; and the Eagle, with C.R. Dahl as manager. With no other names given here or at Monte, clearly these were doldrum years.

Happy holidays, and may our 2011 be far better and more productive than 1911!

David A. Cameron, Ph.D.