

# MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
VOLUME 39



## THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SUMMER

### In this Issue:

Letter from the Director  
PAGE 2

Curator's Corner  
PAGE 3

Volunteer Work Day!  
PAGE 4

Cabin Profile  
EMK #3  
PAGE 5

How to Donate  
PAGE 6

Board & Wishlist  
PAGE 7

Lifetime Members  
& Memorials  
PAGE 8

TRHM, Cabin Signs  
PAGE 9



Our 2021 events in Mineral King were a hit! Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time to make both of our summer events a great success.

Our annual Picnic in the Park was attended by 62 people! Thank you to Janet Tillam and Laile di Silvestro for volunteering as speakers and sharing such great tales of strong women in Mineral King's history. Thank you as well to Park Superintendent Clay Jordan and the Park's Environmental Planning and Compliance Program Manager Elly Boerke for attending and speaking about Park updates.

Our Music in the Mountains event was also a huge hit! Thank you to Michael and Jana Botkin, Keith and Tracy Cosart, Kate Pinkham Wu, Annie Wu, and everyone that helped plan and volunteer at the event. Esther Zurcher and Keith Hamm of Mankin Creek played beautifully and brought attendees to their feet to dance. We had 97 people attend. A special shout out to our event sponsors: Guest Equity Vacation Rentals, AMARQUEZ Design, and Sierra Subs for their generous donations that covered all of our event expenses.

We appreciate everyone that came out, donated, and supported us this summer and we look forward to even more in-person events next year!





## Letter from the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

A gentleman I worked with once told me, "If you're lucky enough to work in the mountains, you're lucky enough." I always think about that on my drive into Mineral King. Whether I am heading up to clean the Honeymoon Cabin, meet with members, film for our video series, or to attend an event, I always feel truly grateful for the chance to work in such an incredible community. This summer season brought a sense of normalcy I was desperately missing. It felt so great to meet so many of our members and supporters in person and to be able to put faces with so many names I see in our archives and have heard or read about.

I am sad to announce that we have indefinitely postponed the members-only 35th anniversary celebration that we were planning for October this year. With the number of Covid hospital admissions on the rise again, we do not feel it is in the best interest of our supporters to host a large event at this time. Hopefully next year we can celebrate a 35+1 event!

In happier news, we are in the planning phases to launch our new oral history program, Mountain Memories. In an effort to preserve the legacies of those that have lived, worked, and recreated in Mineral King and surrounding mountain communities we are seeking funding to move forward with this project. We will collect firsthand accounts through in-person and Zoom interviews. We will then be making the transcriptions of the interviews available for free on our website. So many of you have, or know someone that has, an incredible story of their time in Mineral King, we would appreciate your assistance in helping us make these connections so we can begin to schedule interviews. The costs for this project depends on the equipment we purchase, but we would like to record video as well as audio and that would include getting a video camera, microphone, headphones, and a subscription to a transcription app called Otter AI. We are hoping to purchase all materials, promote the program, and print copies of all stories for under \$5,000.00. If you would like to donate to this project, have a story to tell, or would like more information, please email me at [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org).

Lastly, we have moved into a new office! Though we loved the location of our office at the base of Mineral King Road, the new space will save us money, as well as give us more room to work and store our collection. We are now located in the Red Barn commercial space across the highway from the Post Office. Our new address is 40838 Sierra Dr. Unit C in Three Rivers. We will still use our same PO Box for mail. We are in need of an additional desk, a video security camera (like Ring) for outside for additional security, and additional shelving. Please reach out if you have any of these items you have been looking to donate.





# Curator's Corner

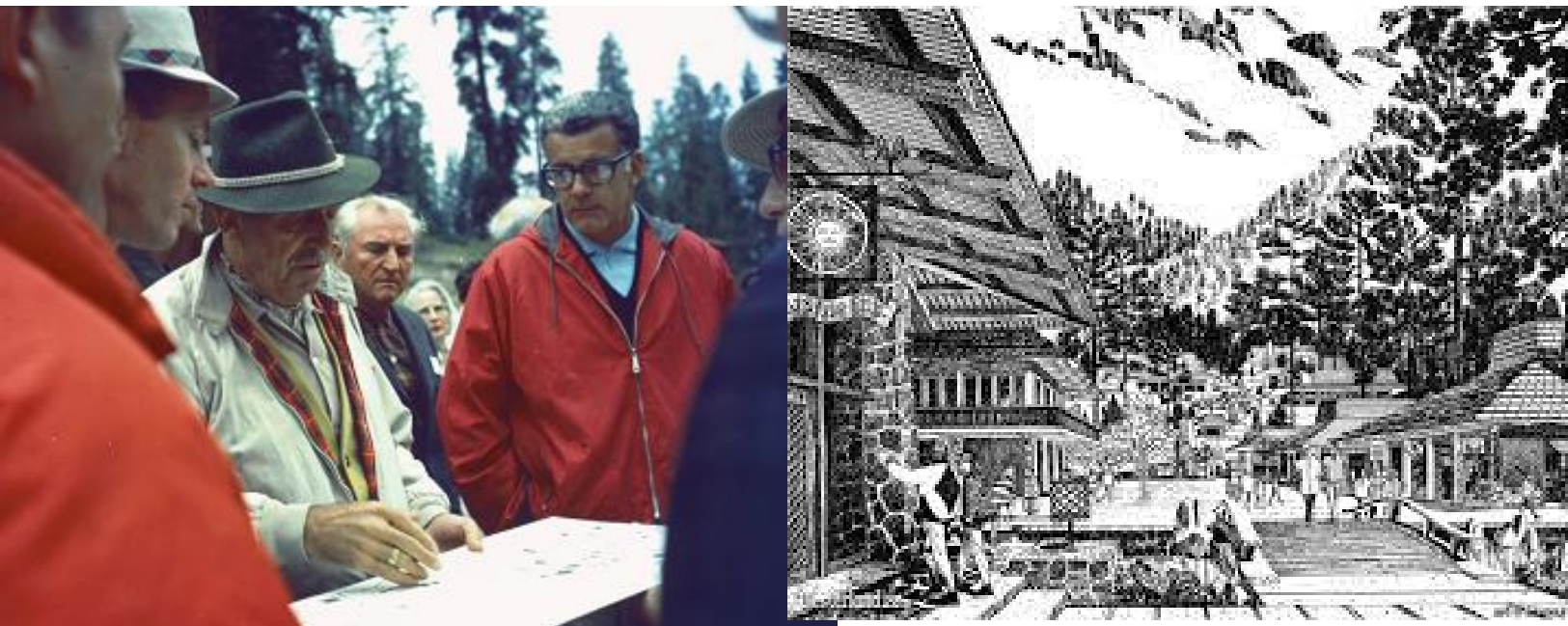
SANDRA STRYD

Plans are in the works to revive the Disney era exhibit in the Mineral King Room. This era was one of the most controversial times for our community. Our plan is to retell the story of not only an attempt to bring to Central California a ski resort akin to those in Switzerland, but to also tell the story of those that worked to keep Mineral King as natural and wild as possible.

The Mineral King controversy had as many opponents to the Disney development as it did proponents. "The importance of viewing historic occurrences, such as the Mineral King controversy, from all the different viewpoints, is that a clearer and more complete picture of the event comes to light. In addition, by studying the historic context of the different internal and external social and political factors, one has a better understanding of why and how such historic incidents take place" (Vicknair, 2013, p. 146)

MKPS is working to bring you that understanding Vicknair talks about. "Conservation isn't just the business of a few people. It's a matter that concerns all of us. It's a science whose principles are written in the oldest code in the world, the laws of nature. The natural resources of our vast continent are not inexhaustible. But if we will use our riches wisely, if we will protect our wildlife and preserve our lakes and streams, these things will last us for generations to come." - Walt Disney

Should you have any artifacts from the Mineral King controversy/Disney era, please feel free to visit us at our offices in Three Rivers or call us to set up a meeting.



Images from MKPS' Bob Hicks Collection

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

EMAIL LISA AT [LISA@MINERALKING.ORG](mailto:LISA@MINERALKING.ORG) TO SIGN UP

Have you visited one of your favorite waterfalls to feel the touch of mist on your skin and absorb the sounds, smells, sights, and wonders of nature—only to find the site’s natural beauty marred by dozens of unnatural stacks of rocks? Rock stacking in National Park lands is considered vandalism and a violation of the Leave No Trace principles that help keep Mineral King the magnificent place we love. Sadly, however, the rock stacking fad has reached Mineral King, and dozens of the cairns have been spotted in the valley. Black Wolf Falls has been heavily affected.



Rock stacking destabilizes soil, damages plants, and impacts fauna in both streams and on land. Rock stacking on archaeological sites can cause irreparable damage and impair our ability to read Mineral King’s unique and fascinating human story. Rock stacking on trails and summits has led to misdirection and rock slides. And, rock stacking diminishes the area’s natural character and takes the wilderness experience away from others.

So should we kick down cairns, or rock stacks, when we see them? It is not that simple. Some cairns are 150 year old survey monuments or the remains of historic structures, and are therefore invaluable cultural resources that are protected by federal law. Some trail cairns have been placed by rangers as essential directional aids. And, even when cairns are obviously modern stacks or dangerously misdirecting trail cairns, dismantling them without care may cause more harm than good.

**Join us at the Honeymoon Cabin at the end of White Chief/Eagle Parking Lot at 10AM on September 18th for a volunteer party where we’ll learn more about cairns and how to dismantle them, and then we’ll put our new skills to work.**



**Protect the places you love. Leave no trace.**

# Cabin Profile

Each newsletter we feature a different cabin from Mineral King and give you some of its history, building specifications, and more.

## East Mineral King #3

### "Martin-Dula Cabin" originally "Roper Cabin"

Thank you to William Martin for his contributions to this narrative compiled from our cabin profiles.

There is some confusion concerning the construction date of the original cabin. The only proof of an existing structure is a water permit issued in 1931. But the 1931 water permit included a 10X20 kitchen that was clearly added later than the original 20X20 structure (different wood, changed roof line). So why was a 10X20 addition constructed at the same time the original 20X20 was constructed? This would imply that the 20X20 original structure was built earlier. But a 1928 photo shows no structure on the lot so we'll have to go with 1931 as the construction date.

The cabin's footprint is essentially the same as when it was built, a 20X20 base with a 10X20 kitchen addition. It is a one and one-half story, three bay, medium sized gable with exposed rafters and has vertical board and batten siding, and a metal roof that lies on top of the original shingled roof. At least a portion of the wood used in the original 20X20 construction is assumed to be from Atwell Mill. The cabin has knotty pine wood paneling. Due to a snow slide that moved the cabin 4 feet off its foundation in the winter of 2009, the original pot belly stove and cook stove that connected to a wood heated water tank were destroyed. The bathroom was added in 1948, a requirement of Opal Avery (from the Avery family in West Mineral King) Dula and Helen Martin, wives of the cabin purchasers, Murt Dula and Leland Martin, who made the purchase in 1947 from the original owners, the Roper family from Exeter. All the original owners are deceased.

In 1978 the permit was transferred to William Martin (son and current permittee, founding member of the MKPS, past President, and current Vice-President). He shares the cabin with Elaine McCain, granddaughter of Murt and Opal Dula and each's extended families. Because the site lies to the north of a significant slide chute, it makes sense that cabin foundation work done in the early 1990s unearthed 19th century archaeological remains related to both the mining days and Native American activity.

Like all Mineral King cabin families wonderful stories and history are handed down through the generations around the camp fire. For example, before the Oak Grove bridge was built the road along the north and east side of the east fork was very steep as well as the section between Lake Canyon and Look Out Point. It was so steep that the Model A's and T's had to use the lowest gear to go up the slopes, which was reverse. And going down the slope they had to tie a tree limb behind the car because the brakes could not stop the car. Do you think the road is harrowing now? In the 1950s we had to meet logging trucks that couldn't stop on their way down the hill.

Perhaps the funniest story was a night a bear was getting into the tool box on the back porch. Clanging pans didn't help so my dad bravely said I'll take care of that "bleeping" bear. He grabbed a large cast iron pan and opened the door but he forgot about the screen door. He, the screen door, and the pan crashed very loudly on the back porch. The bear freaked out, took off, and never came back around the cabin that whole season.



# How Do I Donate to MKPS?

## Donating Artifacts

MKPS welcomes donations of objects, photos, and more that support our mission, fall within the scope of our region, and can benefit our exhibits. To submit an item for donation we ask that donors fill out an "acquisition form" that helps us understand more about the item; including its history and how it was used. This form is also a transfer of ownership. There are some situations where items can be loaned rather than donated. Our curator, Sandra Stryd, is happy to answer further questions and send the form to anyone interested in donating items to our collection. She can be reached at [Sandra@mineralking.org](mailto:Sandra@mineralking.org).

## Financial Gifts

No gift is too small, and we invite you to take part and make a tax-deductible donation—at any level—to support the future of MKPS and the preservation of its collections for generations to come. MKPS is a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible. There are many ways to donate including planned giving through a will or trust, stock donations, memorial donations, and project specific donations. Contact Lisa at [Lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:Lisa@mineralking.org) for details.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Hendricks - President  
William Martin - Vice President  
Daniel Vassar- Treasurer  
Kate Pinkham Wu - Secretary  
Forrest Jones  
Lisa McEwen  
Marc Mertz

Emeritus:  
Michael Botkin  
Louise Jackson  
Marilyn Weldon

If you are interested in joining our board of directors please contact Lisa at  
[Lisa@MineralKing.org](mailto:Lisa@MineralKing.org)

## WISHLIST

- Printer paper
- Shelving/stand alone cabinet
- Video camera
- Scanner (\$500 donation received so far!)
- Printer ink
- Security camera system (Ring)

## OUR MISSION

The Mineral King Preservation Society is dedicated to protecting and preserving the cultural and natural history of Mineral King and surrounding southern Sierra communities, and to educating the public about the historic and natural significance of these areas through programs and displays.

# Lifetime Members

Though MKPS no longer offers the Lifetime Membership level tier, we are grateful to the following couples and individuals who have signed up for a Lifetime Membership through the years. Thank you to all of our members for your continued support!

Adams, Linda E.	Doctor, Joseph E.	Megalli, Mary Dungan
Aldine, Charles R.	Dungan, Vincent & Tori	Mitchell, Annie
Alltucker, Michael	Edgerton, Bradford & Louise	Newman, Robert & Betty
Alltucker, Marilyn	Elliot, John & Sarah	Off, Tracy
Andresen, Robert & Elizabeth	Gravelle, Gordon & Molly	O'Neill, James & Louise
Asay, Lyal D., M.D.	Gregg, Mignon	Peterson, Bruton
Barboni, Richard	Hack, Sherry	Peterson, Edward (Jock) & Ora Kay
Barboni, Richard C., DDS	Hamilton, Maureen Griggs	Peterson, Jay & Betsy
Bennett, Thiry Gail	Hansen, Jack & Barbara	Paterson, Michael B.
Bickett, Jill	Hansen, William & Jinx	Pinkham, Charles & Lindsay
Bree, Donn, PhD	Hawthorn, Roy	Pinkham, Donald R. & Helen W.
Brewer, Chris	Hastrup, Louise	Pinkham, Judee B.
Britten, Sophronia A.	Hath, Kathy Tavares	Pinkham, Patrick & Mary
Brodhead, Loren F.	Hawthorne, Roy	Queirolo, Annie Lowson
Burdic, John & Elaine McCain	Hendricks, Stuart	Reid, Harold & Torri
Bungay, Robert	Hengst, Robert & Linda	Runciman Jon
Cairns, Aubrey	Hicks, Bob & Jerry	Runciman, Jere Jr.
Cairns, David & Carol	Holden, John	Saurenman, Louise B.
Cattanach, David & Shirley	Hubbell, Robert & Jill Beckett	Sauve, Julie Chandler
Cluck, Rosemary	Jackson, Bruce & Marge	Seaborn, Margaret
Conrad, Kristy	Jackson, Louise	Shephard, Sonie Gay
Cosart, Pam Young	Jacobsen, Richard & Patricia	Sorenson, Louise B.
Cunningham, Glenn	Kelly, Bradford James	Stansfield, Jeff & Tracy
Curry, Donald	Kelly, Douglas	Steiny, J.D.
Curtis, John & Linda	Koch, Richard & Jean	Steiny, Susan
Davis, Alta S.	Kuhn, Janet L.	Sweet, Ardeen
Davis III, Jeff & Sally	Lean, Cathy Hansen	Tavares, Trevor
Deitz, Steve	Ledford, Merl & Diane	Vassar, Daniel & Barbara
Devol, Nicole	Ledford, Joy	Voelz, Daniel & Kim
Devol, Randy	Livermore, Norman B., Jr.	Weldon, Marilyn K.
Devol, Sharon M.	Luxenberg, Diana	Whitendale, Marjorie
Devol, Shirley	Martin, Helen	Wills, Mary Bree
Di Silvestro, Brian	Martin, William	Wollenman, LaWanda
Di Silvestro, Laurel	Matthews, Susan	Young, Pam Cosart
Dixon, Evander	Mauritson, Blake	Zurcher, Esther
Dobson, Edward Brown	Maze, Bill & Becky	



## MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED:

In Memory of Jim Ingram  
In Memory Paul Bissiri

Memberships and donations are the lifeblood of our preservation and education efforts. Your donation of historic documents, photos, and artifacts, are also deeply appreciated. They are an important part of what MKPS offers so that we may share the wonderful history of this area.

## MKPS CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE: (559)561-1000

MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 86, THREE RIVERS, CA 93271

OFFICE ADDRESS: 40838 SIERRA DR. UNIT C, THREE RIVERS, CA 93271

Email: [lisa@mineralking.org](mailto:lisa@mineralking.org)

### STAFF

Lisa Monteiro - Director

Sandra Stryd - Curator



Thank you to the TRHM for printing our newsletter at a discounted rate.

If you would like to receive your newsletter via E-mail please let us know.

The TRHM is in need of more volunteers to help docent at the Museum from Friday - Tuesday each week. If you are interested in more information on volunteering please contact them at: [history@3rmuseum.org](mailto:history@3rmuseum.org)



## Museum New Hours

**9:00am - 4:00pm**

**Friday -Tuesday**

**Closed**

**Wednesday-Thursday**

**Subject to available volunteers**

**Public Restroom Building Open Daily**

## CABIN SIGN SPRUCE UP!

If you have a cabin sign in Mineral King and need someone to give it a bit of love, Jana Botkin does an excellent job and has completed quite a few. You can contact Jana at [cabinart@cabinart.net](mailto:cabinart@cabinart.net)



Before



After

## MKPS, MKDA, AND THE NPS

Did you know the management of the historic district happens by a cooperative effort between the National Park Service at Ash Mountain, the Mineral King Preservation Society, and the Mineral King District Association? Representatives from each group have been meeting monthly for several years to discuss and resolve issues affecting preservation, permits, and the NPS.

It is beneficial that each of these groups bring their own perspective to the table. It has resulted in cooperation, compromise, and building trusting relationships between the entities, as well as benefitting all users of Mineral King.

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
PO BOX 86  
THREE RIVERS, CA 93271