

MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY
VOLUME 43



Letter From the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

Dear MKPS Members and Supporters,

My three-year anniversary of starting at MKPS came in August. It felt strange thinking about how time has passed since being hired. This summer felt the most "normal" since I started, it was great to have a much better sense of what a true Mineral King summer can feel like. We were able to hold all of our events, plan new programs, and even meet in person with many of the people and organizations we collaborate with. Thank you to everyone that attended our events in Mineral King and to the volunteers that made them possible. All that to say, we have been busy, and it has been fun and exciting to feel like we are gaining momentum. I am asked less, "What do you guys do?" and more, "What are you doing next?"

So, what's next? We will host a talk and book signing with author Dan Selmi in December at the Three Rivers Historical Museum. Dan has written Dawn at Mineral King: The Sierra Club, the Disney Company, and the Rise of Environmental Law. It was published by the University of Chicago Press and came out earlier this year. We will finish filming for the video on the history of packing in the Sierra; see page 8 of this newsletter for more info on that project. Our Giving Tuesday and Year End Campaigns will both be raising money to continue to support our video series. If you would like to sponsor or support this project, please let me know. Sandi goes into greater detail on the updates in the MK Room and the exciting ones to come! We will also use our time over winter to finish planning and then move into installation of the new Native Voices exhibit in the Mineral King Room.

We had a great summer and are able to do all of these things and more, because of your generous support. We truly appreciate you!

Thank you,

Lisa

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Mineral King Memories

The following is a story shared with us by Thomas Davis.
Please reach out to us if you have a story you would like to share.

Recently Thomas Davis reached out to us to share some photos of a harrowing event in Mineral King:

These photos were taken the day that Cabin #9 blew up. It was winter of 1973 and my folks had gone into Mineral King with several friends on snow mobiles. They dug down to the door of the cabin and were all getting settled in with the wood stove going and a fire in the fireplace. One of the group spotted a flame through the window just outside of the fireplace and yelled "Gas Fire! Everyone out!", and miraculously, everyone bolted out through the door. My dad ran around to the propane tanks and closed the valve. He did a quick check at the door to be sure no one remained and then turned to run. That is when the cabin exploded.

Dad was partly buried in snow and debris but was ok. It was concluded that someone had entered the cabin at some point prior and had switched propane tanks (there were always two, set side by side). The connection was cross threaded and gas had slowly leaked under the cabin, trapped by the high snow. It was literally a bomb awaiting an ignition source.

All that remains today is the stone fireplace. I currently live on the East Coast, but visit MK whenever I am out West. I have such great memories of that cabin, hiking, fishing and just being present in Mineral King.



Thank you to Marty Peterson and Dr. Jade Star Lackey



Jade Star led a geology hike on August 20th and Marty Peterson led a snow survey hike on September 3rd. They both volunteered their time to plan and execute these hikes; we are grateful for all of their work! Another thanks to those that attended. If you are interested in leading a hike next summer email lisa@mineralking.org





Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD

Change is a good thing, right? (Didn't I already say that in the last newsletter?) The New England Smelter Exhibition now has a stand for the water jacket.



New stand on the left; water jacket and Ward Eldredge on the right. Hmm what's wrong with this picture?

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we want to thank the College of the Sequoias Welding Department, Randy Emery department head, Christopher Huff instructor, and Dave King, retired welding instructor at the Visalia Adult School and retired metal sculpture and blacksmithing instructor at College of the Sequoias (and 3R local). I expect the stand to be in place under the water jacket early next year after the water jacket has been properly preserved. (Yep, it can't go under the water jacket until the water jacket is preserved!)

The updated Disney Dream exhibition is 99.9% complete. I listened to you all that visited and said you missed a couple of items. 1) The schematic of the many ski lifts planned by Disney, and 2) The book with the newspaper clippings from the Disney Dream Era.

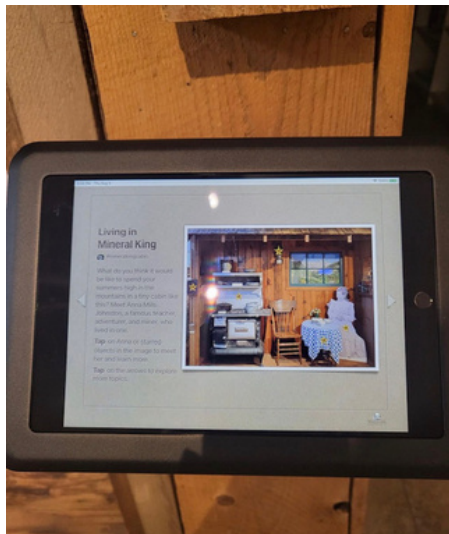


Curator's Corner Continued

You spoke and I'm working on it. The picture is in poor shape and we will get it remastered and up on the wall for all to see. The book will take a bit longer as we need to scan all the pages from the book that was given to us to preserve and make a new book with coated pages for all to look through.

The Cabin exhibit is completed. Laile DiSilvestro is amazing! If you don't know her you should. You can find her all summer up in Mineral King. She's the one hiking around carefully identifying artifacts, she knows the mining community like the back of her hand, and she can tell you whatever you want to know and didn't know you wanted to know about Mineral King! Laile has helped MKPS with numerous exhibits, interpretations and now she's developed a program (I think that's what it is, I'm so NOT an IT type person) for the iPad we have in the Cabin Exhibit.

Just touch the stars in the picture (looks just like the cabin exhibit) on the iPad and learn about that item. Whether it's Anna Johnston or the popcorn maker there is a story to tell. We are so happy with the final product.



Remember the Disney book I mentioned above? Well, The Thingerie in Three Rivers graciously donated a mid-century book stand for that very book. It was from the estate of Eileen Farrell, a long time Three Rivers resident. Again, the book and stand will be on exhibit once we are able to get a new version of the book completed. Thank you Thingerie and Maureen. We are currently working on the Mining Exhibit and the Geology/Natural World exhibit. We have great plans for those 2 exhibits.

Changing exhibits, updating exhibits, maintaining the Mineral King Room and preserving our collections all take money. Please donate and/or become a member to help support us in educating children and adults, as well as preserving Mineral King's and the surrounding Southern Sierra's artifacts, stories, legacies and collections with which we have been entrusted.

Sandi

Thank you for a wonderful summer in Mineral King!



Music in the Mountains - Thanks to Mankin Creek for the great music!



Lisa gave a talk about Mineral King history to members of the Sierra Club and Earth Justice in MK before their backpacking trip.



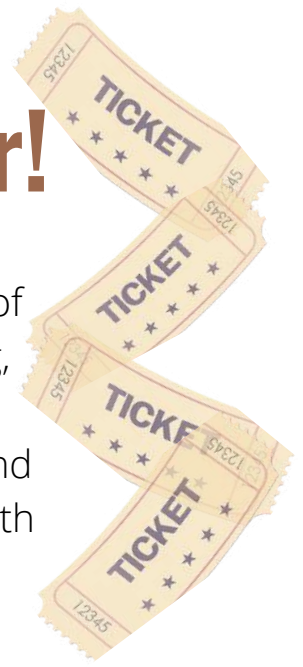
Picnic in the Park

Thank you to the following people that gave their time to help make our concert, picnic, talks, and hikes possible this season: Kathy Allison, Judy Trucker, Leif Mathiesen, Clay Jordan, Elly Boerke, Charlie Norman, Andy Turner, Michael Botkin, Keith Cosart, Hannah and Molly and the staff from the Silver City Resort, Brian Anderson, Daniel Vassar, and Marty Peterson.



Raffle Winner!

Congratulations to the winner of the Honeymoon Cabin painting, Cyndi Signett! Thank you to everyone that bought tickets and to Jana Botkin for partnering with MKPS on this fundraiser!



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Our WISHLIST is now Online!

We have an Amazon wishlist that can be viewed by visiting the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p5znvm7!>

MKPS 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.

MKPS Video Series - Packing in the Sierra

We have begun filming our next video about the history of packing in the Sierra. We are excited to be working with Zach Green Films again. So far we have interviewed Bill DeCarteret and Tim Shew and his daughter Alexandra at the Balch Park Pack Station. We are scheduled to interview Louise Jackson this month.

We have received such positive feedback on our videos and are currently raising money to be able to make more videos. To do so we need your help; each video costs between \$2,500-\$3,500 to film and produce. Our upcoming Giving Tuesday and Annual Year End Campaign will be designated toward this project this year.

If you are interested in sponsoring or supporting this project or have an idea on future video topics, please email me at lisa@mineralking.org.



Bill DeCarteret being interviewed in his home by Zach Green on September 14th.



Filming at the Balch Park Pack Station



Filming at the Balch Park Pack Station

To watch the other videos we have made please visit our webpage: www.mineralking.org or scan the QR code below to be directed to our YouTube channel:



Standards for Sustaining the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District

Even before most of Mineral King's cabins were deemed contributing members of the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District, cabin owners took pride in the history of their cabins and the stories preserved in the land upon which the cabins stand. The history of Mineral King helped shape both the region and the nation. Its stories captivate, amaze, and form meaningful connections to the landscape and our shared roots.

That is why MKPS, MKDA and the Park established standards to sustain the District so that "future generations of visitors to the Mineral King Valley will be able to recognize and experience the unique cultural and physical characteristics of the community." To help ensure that this vision is achieved and permittees are allowed to retain their cabins, it is important to understand and follow the updated standards when considering maintenance or improvement projects affecting either the cabins or their surroundings.

Contact us if you have any questions or comments or refer to the Standards for Sustaining the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District. A copy can be found by scanning this QR code or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/4fb8wm3x>.



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