

Mineral King Chronicle



Letter From the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

Hello readers and MKPS supporters,

What a busy season it has been. We have completed our new Five Year Strategic Plan, set our 2024 calendar of events, gotten a new board member, approved the 2024 budget, and so much more! I'm excited to share some of these updates with you in this newsletter. First and foremost, mark your calendars for the dates on page 9, where you can see flyers for four new events. We will also have a hike up North Fork on April 20th. We have a lot to celebrate in the coming months and we would love to see you there!

I am incredibly excited to announce a joint fundraiser with the Tulare County Museum on September 15th. As many of you know, we premiered our Packing in the Sierra video in their theater and we also have a rotating exhibit there. This fundraiser will be a very unique event and unlike anything that has been done in the Central Valley! See the next page for all of the details.

As we eagerly anticipate returning to Mineral King (fingers crossed!) for our annual Picnic in the Park and the Music in the Mountains events, we're also excited to introduce "Historic Happy Hour" talks at the Silver City Resort, providing an opportunity to delve into our rich heritage in a beautiful setting.

Finally, I urge you to consider renewing or joining our membership this year. Your support is vital in sustaining our programs, preserving our history, and ensuring the continued success of our endeavors. More on that on pages 7-8.

-Lisa Monteiro

THE MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY & THE TULARE COUNTY MUSEUM
PROUDLY PRESENT:

IN A LANDSCAPE

Classical Music in the Wild™



Photo Via IN A LANDSCAPE

Sunday,
September
15th

TICKETS \$40

🕒 3:00 PM - Check in table opens
4:00 - 5:30 - Concert

📍 At the Tulare County Museum:
27000 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA

Thank you to our event partner Visit Visalia for helping to make this event possible!

VISIT
Visalia



Food and drinks available for purchase

Call (559)561-1000 or lisa@mineralking.org or visit:
<https://www.inalandscape.org/> for more info

IN A LANDSCAPE: Classical Music in the Wild™ is an outdoor concert series where America's most stunning landscapes replace the traditional concert hall. Guests explore the surrounding environment while listening to the music through wireless headphones, creating an immersive experience that fosters a connection with the music, nature, and with one another.

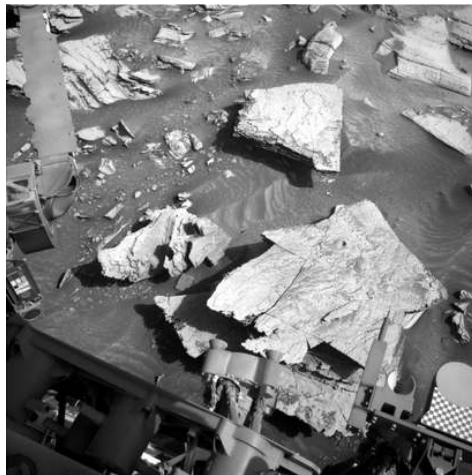


Mineral King,.. On Mars?!

-Lisa Monteiro

Imagine our surprise when we were notified that NASA's Mars Rover, Curiosity, is drilling into a rock on Mars that has been named "Mineral King" and it isn't a coincidence! The recent NASA blogpost even says it is "named after a silver mining district in Sequoia National Park, California." I reached out to the writer of that blogpost, Ashley Stroupe, Mission Operations Engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory who was excited to learn more about *our* Mineral King. She wasn't sure who named the rock they were drilling into after Mineral King so we decided to dig deeper. I remembered that this isn't Mineral King's only connection to NASA, and Mars. MKPS member and MK cabin owner, Glenn Cunningham, who was working for NASA in Mars exploration the late '60s when he worked on the Mariner 6 and 7 missions that were fly-bys of Mars. Then in the '90s, he was the project manager of two Mars orbiting missions, Mars Observer and Mars Global Surveyor, and project manager of the Mars Surveyor Flight Operations Project in the late '90s before he retired from JPL.

I reached out to Glenn to see if he knew of the latest mission and could help us figure out who named that rock "Mineral King." He explained that while he doesn't know about the current naming, his Mars connection went even deeper. He explained the above about his previous work and also that his late partner, Gordon Wood was in charge of communications with the first Mars rover, Sojourner, in the mid-'90s, and worked with him on the NASA reviews of the early 2000s rover projects. "When we decided we wanted to know what the snow at the cabin looked like during the winter when we couldn't drive up there, we decided to build the webcam systems. We decided to use the same design principles that we used to build long-lived spacecraft that had to endure harsh environmental conditions (although this year I haven't lived up to that standard - maybe because the equipment is getting pretty old)." Did you know the webcams had a Mars connection? We still haven't solved the mystery of how the rock was named, but who knew one of our favorite spots on earth had so many interplanetary connections!



This image was taken by Left Navigation Camera onboard NASA's Mars rover Curiosity on Sol 4107.
Credits: NASA/JPL-Caltech

2023 Year-End Campaign

Our 2023 Year-End Campaign was a great success! We are so thankful to all of you who contributed and helped us raise \$9,755.00! These funds will go toward further repairs for the Honeymoon Cabin, our exhibit fund, the video series and our general fund. Thank you to the following contributors:

Michael & Jeanne Adams

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Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD

Sequoia wildlife exhibit for kids of all ages

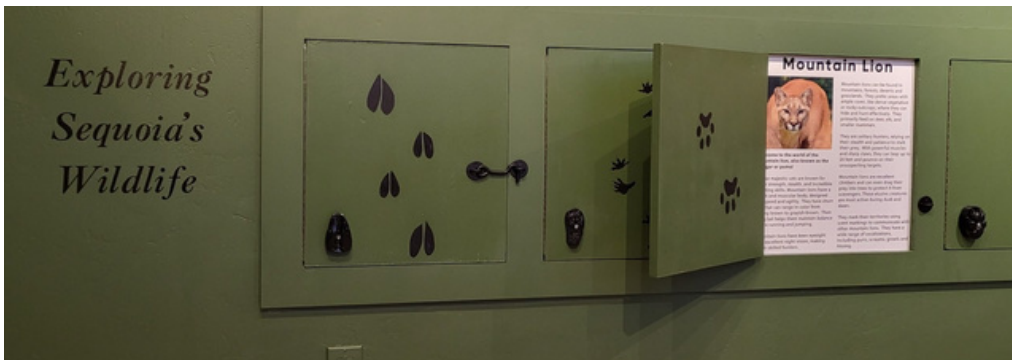
Greetings fellow nature lovers! We are thrilled to announce our newest exhibit, "Exploring Sequoia's Wildlife" here at the Three Rivers Historical Museum – Mineral King Room. Prepare to embark on a journey through the wilderness as we explore the intriguing foot prints left behind by some of the most captivating creatures on Earth.

As you approach the exhibit, you'll notice five doors adorned with lifelike paw prints, each representing a different animal track. But don't be fooled by appearances! These doors hold more than just a mystery; they are portals to the captivating world of wildlife.

Step closer, and let curiosity guide you as you open the doors, revealing images of the animals responsible for these tracks. From the elusive mountain lion to the curious opossum, each door unveils a new animal, offering insight into the lives and habits of these remarkable beings.

But that's not all! Accompanying each image is a wealth of information about the featured animal. Learn about their habitats, behaviors, and unique adaptations that allow them to thrive in their environments. Discover how a simple paw print can tell a story of survival, communication, and the interconnectedness of all living things.

Whether you're a seasoned tracker or simply intrigued by the wonders of nature, "Exploring Sequoia's Wildlife" promises an experience that will inspire, educate, and ignite a passion for wildlife conservation. Bring your family, friends, and fellow adventurers, and join us as we unravel the mysteries hidden within each track. Plan your visit to The Three Rivers Museum* – Mineral King Room today! We look forward to welcoming you to the "Exploring Sequoias Wildlife" exhibit and embarking on this wild adventure together!



*Please note the Three Rivers Historical Museum is staffed by volunteers through the Three Rivers Historical Society, we recommend calling ahead to check open hours. (55) 561-2707

What's Next?

As we prepare to delve into the history of Mineral King mining in our next indoor exhibit, we are reaching out to our community for assistance in making this endeavor truly spectacular. We are on the lookout for artifacts and memorabilia related to mining in Mineral King that will help us paint a vivid picture of this historical past.

Do you have any items tucked away in your attic, basement, garage, or even outside at your cabin that tell the story of mining's legacy? Perhaps you inherited tools, equipment, photographs, or documents from a family member. Maybe you stumbled upon fascinating artifacts during your own explorations or have a collection of minerals waiting to be showcased.

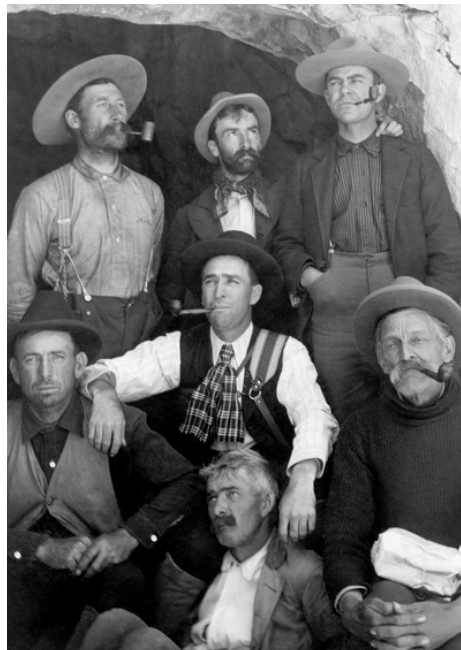
We invite you to become a part of our exhibit by donating or loaning us your mining-related artifacts from Mineral King. Your contributions will not only enhance the exhibit but also preserve and share the heritage of mining with future generations.

Whether it's a vintage pickaxe, a map, a piece of the Empire tramway, or a specimen of precious ore, every item holds significance in illuminating the challenges, triumphs, and innovations of the mining industry throughout history.

By sharing your treasures with us, you'll be contributing to the preservation of our collective heritage and helping us create an immersive and educational experience for all who visit the Mineral King Room.

If you have artifacts you'd like to donate or loan to our exhibit, please don't hesitate to contact me, Sandi Stryd at 559-561-1000 or Sandra@mineralking.org. Your generosity and support are invaluable to us, and we thank you in advance for helping us bring the story of mining in Mineral King to life.

Scan the QR code and complete a short survey on our upcoming mining exhibit. Your feedback counts!



White Chief Mine entrance. Photo by George D. Smith (back row center), restored by Bruton Peterson.

Membership Renewals

April kicks off our membership renewals, and this year, we're emphasizing why membership matters. Without admission-based benefits (since places like the MK Room and Honeymoon Cabin are accessible free of charge), you might wonder why you should join. However, your membership plays a pivotal role in supporting our programs, exhibits, and the preservation of Mineral King and the surrounding Southern Sierra region's history. Below, hear directly from some of our members on why they joined, why they renew, and what makes MKPS special to them.



I had the privilege of being part of the opening conversations about forming the MKPS. Human history is where the stories reside, and the influence and effects through time are vital to learning how to best steward the places that matter. Cabin communities are a source of living history, a stabilizing force in a location where visitors and workers come and go. -**Jana Botkin**

I have been a Lifetime Member of the Mineral King Preservation Society for 35 years and joined to support their (successful!) efforts to create the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District and thus preserve the century-old cabin community. Our family's history in Mineral King goes back to 1930, so preserving this special part of our history very important to me.

As a board member of the Mineral King District Association, I have appreciated the ongoing partnership we have with MKPS, and hope to continue working together to "Preserve Our History for Future Generations." - **Sharon Devol, Dixon Cabin**



SCAN THIS CODE
TO SIGN UP!

I think MKPS does an exceptional job at exploring, preserving, and sharing the local history of Mineral King and the surrounding area. This small organization shines a light on that local history for others, a history that could easily be lost without such a champion.

The new exhibit at the Three Rivers Historical Museum is carefully researched and professionally done. I am proud to support MKPS, local history in action. - **Kristin Telles**

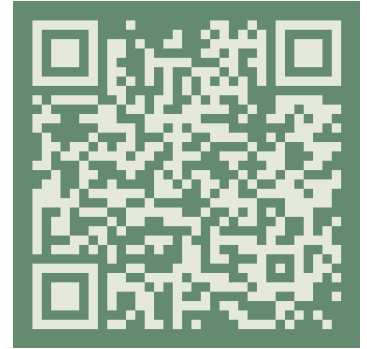
Renewing? Joining for the first time?
You can do both on our website:
<https://mineralking.org/membership/>



Members that renew or those that sign up for the first time will receive this custom designed sticker to proudly show their support! This was designed by local Three Rivers artist, Dayna Higgins.

Mountain Memories - Cattle Tale by Sarah Barton-Elliott

In February, I had the honor of sitting down with Sarah Barton-Elliott and recording “Cattle Tales” for our Mountain Memories page. The stories are now up on our website and you can listen to some fun Barton family stories. Scan the code to check it out.



If you have Mineral King and Sierra stories to share, we can record, preserve, and share them for you!
Email me at lisa@mineralking.org

2024 MKPS Event Dates to Save

April:

- Saturday, April 13th - Author Talk & Book Signing with Greg Glasgow & Kathryn Mayer - MK Room
- Saturday, April 20th - Guided Hike up North Fork - End of N. Fork Road
- Saturday, April 27th - MKPS Annual Membership Meeting - MKPS Office
- Sunday, April 28th - Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Oak Grove Bridge - TRHM

May:

- Saturday, May 4th - Commemoration of the Silver City Sesquicentennial - MK Room

June:

- Saturday, June 22nd - Historic Happy Hour at Silver City Resort

July:

- Saturday, July 20th - Picnic in the Park - Next to MK Ranger Station

August:

- Saturday, August 10th - Music in the Mountains - MK Valley at end of the MK Road

September:

- Sunday, September 15th - In a Landscape Piano Concert - Tulare County Museum



Upcoming Events

THE MINERAL KING PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESENTS:
AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING
WITH GREG GLASGOW AND KATHRYN MAYER


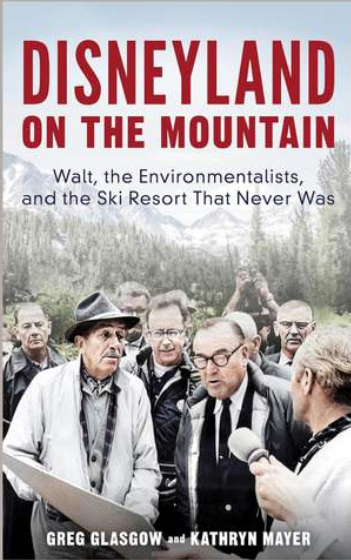
DISNEYLAND ON THE MOUNTAIN
Walt, the Environmentalists,
and the Ski Resort That Never Was

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
1:00 PM

IN THE MINERAL KING ROOM
AT THE THREE RIVERS
HISTORICAL MUSEUM

BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE

QUESTIONS?
EMAIL: LISA@MINERALKING.ORG
PHONE: (559) 561-1000



ZOOM OPTION AVAILABLE



ANNUAL MEETING



SATURDAY
APRIL 27TH
10:00 AM

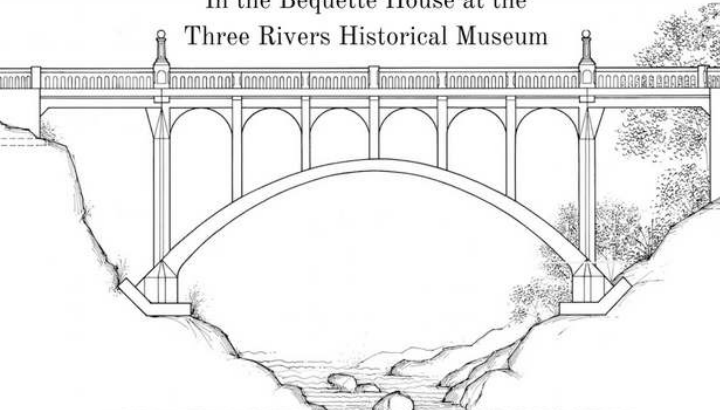
MKPS OFFICE
40838 SIERRA DR.
THREE RIVERS, CA

(559) 561-1000 LISA@MINERALKING.ORG

Mineral King Preservation Society Presents:




100th Anniversary Celebration
of the
Oak Grove Bridge


Sunday, April 28th at 2 PM
In the Bequette House at the
Three Rivers Historical Museum



DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF THE OAK GROVE BRIDGE WITH "CROSSING THE CHASM" A PRESENTATION BY LAILE DI SILVESTRO AND A COMMEMORATION BY SUPERVISOR EDDIE VALERO. ENJOY A SLICE OF CAKE AND HELP US CELEBRATE 100 YEARS!

EXPLORE OUR POP-UP MUSEUM EXHIBIT IN THE MINERAL KING ROOM.
FREE ADMISSION.
JOIN US!

 (559) 561-1000  lisa@mineralking.org  www.mineralking.org



150TH ANNIVERSARY
SESQUICENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATION OF
SILVER CITY

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH
10:00 AM

IN THE MINERAL KING ROOM AT
THE THREE RIVERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Join us in celebrating Silver City's Sesquicentennial with a short presentation by Laile Di Silvestro followed by a plaque presentation from Supervisor Valero.



New MKPS Board Member - Sasha Nichols

Join us in welcoming Sasha!

I'm originally from Minneapolis, MN and moved to Los Angeles in 2004 to pursue my PhD in History at UCLA. I didn't initially discover Sequoia or Mineral King. I surfed daily for my first decade in Los Angeles. Then when I moved in with my girlfriend (now wife) a bit farther from the beach (a mile), I surfed less and hiked more. In the winter of 2016 we took a weekend trip to Three Rivers. My first time in Sequoia. On Google Maps we could see this little dot in an area called Mineral King with the caption "great pie." We tried getting up there, but quickly learned the road is closed in the winter. That following summer we booked a cabin at Silver City and visited for our first time. I became hooked. We hiked to Franklin Lake that weekend. Since then, I have hiked out of almost every trail from Mineral King into the backcountry.

I've had glorious times exploring from Mosquito Lakes over Miners Ridge into Eagle Lake, scree skiing down Sawtooth Pass after completing the "Mineral King Loop", and running down Franklin Pass into the front country as ash fell on us from a nearby fire. My wife and I considered getting married in Mineral King Valley (Covid prevented us from having a ceremony). One of my greatest joys is having friends from Minnesota visit and taking them into the backcountry out of Mineral King.

I am currently an attorney for a company in the agriculture and tech space. I have been wanting to get involved with nonprofit boards for some time and I am at a place in my professional career now where I have the time to devote to it. Mineral King holds a special place in my heart .



Memorials



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have generously donated in memory of **Jean Koch** and **Neil Stuart**. Your contributions honor their legacies and support our mission. Thank you for helping us continue their legacy.





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William Martin – Vice President
Daniel Vassar – Treasurer
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Antoinette Cloutier – Archive Assistant

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Thank you to the Three Rivers Historical Museum for printing our newsletters at a discounted rate.



Mineral King Preservation Society

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