



MINERAL KING CHRONICLE

Preserving the Past for a Better Future

Newsletter of the Mineral King Preservation Society

Volume 21	Number 1	Spring 2007
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****FROM THE BOARD ROOM****

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A Letter From The President

April 29, 2007

Greetings and welcome to another year in Mineral King. I find it hard to believe that in the fall it will be four years since the Mineral King Cultural Landscape District was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In the many years prior to the listing, the main focus of the Mineral King Preservation Society was to get the cabins listed. Now that the listing is behind us, we have been redirecting our focus to preservation, stewardship, and cooperative programs with the Park Service.

One of the requirements of the listing is to report and keep track of the exterior repair and maintenance of the cabins. Representatives, from the MKPS, MKDA, and the Park Service, recently met to discuss and develop the process and procedure for documenting, recording, and keeping track of this information. Their goal was to keep the process as simple and flexible as possible because the repair and maintenance of the cabins is so unpredictable. A one-page form was developed for reporting purposes which is to be completed each year by the cabin owner or permittee of record. Additional information regarding cabin repair and maintenance is included under the "Preservation" article of this newsletter.

I give my thanks to the MKPS Board of Directors and to the residents of the Mineral King community who unselfishly gave of their time last year for the benefit of the preservation of the community and the success of the volunteer programs; without your efforts, we would not be where we are today.

I am looking forward to seeing you this summer at Picnic-in-the-Park.

Stuart Hendricks
MKPS President

****THE PARK ****

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The *Final General Management Plan and Comprehensive River Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement* was finally released this year. Its impact on Mineral King is most clearly outlined on Page 164 in Volume 1 of the GMP. Although the final plan is still listed as the preferred alternative, it is the plan that will guide park policies for many years. Its implementation will begin once the GMP Record of Decision is signed by the NPS regional director. Basically, the following GMP concerns for Mineral King include:

- 1) Acquiring private inholdings and selected historic facilities for public use.
- 2) Redesigning or relocating the trailhead parking area.
- 3) Undertaking a review of existing permit terms and updating them with the following conditions: that they are compatible with the administration and needs of the park; that the cabins meet applicable health standards and safety codes and avoid unacceptable adverse impacts to park resources; that the park resources are protected and that public use of public land is preserved; that the process for NPS approval of the assignment or transfer of permits to heirs, successors and assigns is initiated.
- 4) Develop a cultural resource preservation plan for the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District in consultation with the state historic preservation officer and the Mineral King Preservation Society that identifies: a viable management/maintenance strategy; measures for resource protection including wetland and floodplain locations; making non-contributing cabins more compatible with the historical appearance of the district; and a

decision process for determining whether to repair, replace or remove cabins in the event they are damaged by natural disaster.

5) Allow snowmobiles only on the road corridor for access to private or permitted land.

PARK PERSONNEL

Superintendent Craig C. Axtell, was the featured program for the MKPS 2006 Picnic in the Park. In his talk, Superintendent Axtell outlined his concepts and visions for the park service and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. His first year has been spent learning the workings of the two parks, bringing the General Management Plan to completion, and developing a course for park management.

Bud Walsh, Mineral King and Kern Sub-district Ranger, has accepted a position at Manassas National Battlefield Park as Chief Ranger. **Roger Mayo**, a SNP patrol ranger has been selected to serve as the Acting Mineral King Sub-District Ranger for this summer season. There will be only one law-enforcement officer this year, **Mitch Hampton**, who is new to both law-enforcement and the park. His former position was as an Interpreter at Mesa Verde. **Julia Humphries** will be the new trailhead ranger, replacing Evan Schmidt. **Kurt Gross**, who was the Mineral King winter ranger this year, will become the front-country ranger during the summer. There will be a few familiar places to greet us. **Len Dickey** will return to manage the back-country desk and help with trailhead ranger duties. **Margaret Johnson** will continue as Visitor Use Assistant and Campground fee collector. Supervisor **Dave Yemm** and **Mike Budge** will return to maintenance.

With the retirement of **Bill Tweed**, the park's position of Chief Interpreter has been filled by **Coleen Bathe**, a former resident of Modesto. Sequoia South District Interpreter, **Denise Robertson** will be returning this year after taking some time off to have a new baby. **Alysia and Evan Schmidt** also have a new baby, and neither will be around Mineral King much this summer. Alysia has accepted a new position coaching and auditing the park interpreters and Evan will be working in fire management. A replacement has not yet been named for Alysia. We will announce who we will be working with and his/her working agenda on the MKPS website www.mineralking.org and to our e-mail list as soon as possible.

THE ROAD

Marijuana growers are still in the area. The park has asked that all who drive the road keep an eye out for cars parked along the side, people walking the road with no vehicle in sight, food caches, or other unusual signs. Call 1-888-NPS-CRIME if you see any suspicious activity.

On a brighter note, the park is expecting to institute a **shuttle bus** from Visalia and Three Rivers to various park destinations this summer, possibly including Mineral King. Call Ash Mountain headquarters (559)565-4212 for particulars.

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The lightest winter in decades has left the Mineral King Valley with only 20.6% normal snow depth and water content for the season to April 1. Wildland fires are a special concern this season.

PRESCRIBED FIRE PROGRAM

The prescribed "High Bridge" burn below the west Mineral King cabins was successfully completed in the fall. One prescribed burn is planned for the Mineral King road corridor this year. It will be in the fall, in the Davenport area, and is expected to cover 881 acres. It is the largest burn planned by SNP this year. For information contact: NPS Fire Information and Education Specialist Jody_Lyle@nps.gov (559)565-3703; Tulare County Air Quality Board (559)230-6000.

****THE COMMUNITY****

VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARK

Ranger Station Volunteers

Last year was another successful, much appreciated and enjoyable year for volunteers at the ranger station. Volunteers assist on a one-time basis or as often as possible and can choose between two shifts 8 a.m.-12 and 12-4 p.m. Contacts: Ranger Len Dickey (559)565-3768; Margie Ewen (559)561-4311 or 561-0123, cabin #27; Mary Cochrun (559)561-3280, cabin #28.

Interpretive Program Volunteers

The 2006 season saw increased community and public participation in interpretive activities. **Guided walks** again included a hike to Eagle Lake with Geographer Dan Voelz; a Flower Walk with Nadean Bissiri; and walks through the valley's mining era and to the Empire Mine with Louise Jackson. **This year's guided tours** will be announced at a later date when arrangements have been made with the new interpretive ranger.

The popular evening programs featured the well attended second annual square dance "hoe down" and bar-b-que in August; Jim Ingram's "sing along" programs at Silver City; "Mineral King Then and Now" with Nadean Bissiri; and a special program of "The Old Miners" with sometimes ribald community members playing the roles of the old characters. Attendance at these functions reached as high as over 70 people. Programs for this summer will be worked out with the new interpretive ranger. If you have ideas or would like to participate, contact the ranger station (559)565-3768.

ALLES CABIN

Open House Sundays 11:00-3:00 July 1 through Sept. 2. Special thanks to Shirley Devol for all the hours and artifacts she has donated. More volunteer docents are needed for this year. Contact the ranger station or Margie Ewen (559)561-0123 to volunteer your time.

****PRESERVATION ****

CABIN MAINTENANCE

Guide to Repair and Maintenance

With the up-coming implementation of the GMP and its recommended policies, the park is again requiring park forms be filed for permission to initiate major cabin maintenance and repair projects. A new form for reporting routine maintenance performed during the 2007 season is being sent to cabin owners. The form has been worked

out by members of MKPS, MKDA and park employees to satisfy park accounting requirements. It is a simple form to be filled out at the end of the season and returned to the park. It eliminates the need to inform the park prior to small routine maintenance projects. It is very important to make certain all exterior projects are in conformance with the 2003 **Guide to Repair and Maintenance of Historic Summer Homes Within the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District**.

For a copy of the **Guide to Repair and Maintenance**, contact James Blair, (559)635-7820, 13342 Perry Ct., Visalia, CA 93292, or the people listed below. For **questions regarding the Guide and historic preservation guidelines**, contact:

MK Ranger Station (559)565-3763;

Tom Burge, SNP Archaeologist (559)565-3762, Tom_Burge@nps.gov;

Jack Vance, SNP Building Maintenance (559)565-3143, jack_vance@nps.gov;

John Crowe (559)734-0747, mgcrowe@aol.com; **Stuart Hendricks** (559)636-3523, stuart.hendricks@taylorteter.com;

Dan Voelz (559)294-9146, East MK cabin #2, kkv07@csufresno.edu;

Aaron Cluck, contractor, (559)786-5936, ourgodisawesome@earthlink.net

****MKPS ACTIVITIES****

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Saturday, July 14, 12:00 noon, outside the Peterson cabin #16 East Mineral King. The program this year will be **CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF MINERAL KING**. Longtime residents of Mineral King will share memories of their young lives and adventures in Mineral King. ! Featured people who will share a childhood memory or two are Earl Meyer, Cathy Lean (who grew up during the resort era), and Jim Barton. Contributions from the audience will also be included in the program, so do bring a memory to share.

Bring your own chairs, lunches, hats, and sunscreen. Lemonade and cookies will be provided.

ARTIFACTS REPOSITORY



Efforts continue to secure a safe location for the preservation and display of irreplaceable historic Mineral King artifacts now scattered around the county in both private and public places. Several options are being considered. Commitments for funding, acquisitions and upkeep, are the key to this enterprise. It is one of the most important MKPS interests at this time as we are quickly losing our unique Mineral King history to decay, disinterest, and sales of the priceless objects. If you have any leads as to a possible repository location, funding, and any artifacts that may be loaned or donated, please contact Stuart Hendricks, president MKPS.

HONORS

On May 5, 2007, **Ora Kay Peterson** was inducted into the College of Sequoias Hall of Fame in a touching ceremony. The recognition of all she has done for Mineral King and the whole of Tulare County is well deserved. The importance of our history, the people who make it happen, and the people who preserve it has once again been honored.

OPPORTUNITIES

The people who contribute their time and efforts to our preservation causes are vital to the on-going effectiveness of our community. To volunteer your much-needed help, in any of the following activities contact: **Louise Jackson** (559)561-3367, mtnlou@earthlink.net

Honeymoon Cabin volunteers are needed through-out the summer to open and close the Honeymoon Cabin each day and occasionally sweep and dust it. Also needed: contribution of historic photos, stories for display, and set-up of displays.

Annual Hoedown and Bar-b-que organizers and helpers for dance floor clean-up, event set-up, bar-b-ques and people to man them, and clean-up.

Picnic in the Park coordinator to find speakers, advertise, and organize the event.

Ongoing functions need to be managed by several people willing to put in a few hours to ensure our interpretive and educational efforts continue. If the jobs are spread among several of us, each one will be easier and performed better.

The following help is needed for: **Web site** information to be posted including **news items, stories and cabin profiles** (our thanks again, to Jillaina Brown who is our webmaster and does a masterful job of posting all information provided for her); someone to take over the **MKPS Chronicle newsletter**; people to help develop a **new updated brochure**; a manager to advise possible **sales** items, order, store, advertise, distribute and keep records of sales; **interpretive program** volunteers (for guided walks and hikes, campfire programs, and Alles Cabin docents); coordinators for **summer projects** (e.g. painting and maintenance projects, plaque and sign placements and upkeep, etc.).

MEMORIALS

100% Satisfaction Guarantee
and
we'll refund your money

*MKPS is grateful for contributions in memory of loved ones.
If you would like to contribute to an existing memorial or establish a new one, please indicate your preference on the enclosed Membership Form.*

1989-2007

Ann C. Aldine
Grace Alles
Eunice Archer
Lyal Asay, M.D.
Elizabeth Hart Avery
Frank and Dottie Barboni
Bob & Muriel Barton
Beulah Beam
Richard Becket
Howard & Marvel Benedict
Attilio Bissiri
Lucille Danks Bissiri
Blackjack & Happy
Eugene Boswell
John Hyler Bree
Leona W. Bree
Peter Booth Breeze
Richard Breeze
John Britten Sr.
Henry Brown
Oscar G. & Dorothy T. Brundage
Gem & Ray Buckman
Lyn B. Bungay
Robert & Helene Bungay
Jeanne Struve Chandler
Wilber F. (Bill) Chandler
Phil Clawson
George & Bea Cochran
Tom B. Coughran
Alta S. Davis
Irwin P. Davis
Ken Devol
Evander (Van) & Mary Edith Dixon
Ann Dula
Jack & Bessie Dungan
Frederich Emiston
Legrand & Norma Ellis
Edgar Foreman
Carol Freeman
Winifred German
Retha Gilmour
W.B. Given
Robert & Mary Godsey

Eugene & Mable Green
Al & Margaret Griggs
William (Bill) Hamilton
Jack & Barbara Buckman Hansen
Cal Hansen
Ben Harris
Edwin & Belle Hart
Edwin F. & Ellen Hart
Homer & Beulah Hart
Hugh & Jessie Hart
Forest Heckman
Ralph Heckman
Al & Alma Hemsath
Bill & Golda Hengst
Willma Dinkins Hengst
Ed & Fanny Hester
Wayne & Hellen Holt
Verle & Nyelene Hoover
Nettie Howard
Ted Huffaker
Edna K. Jordan
Lester O & Marguerite K. Jordan
Martha Pogue Kelly
Richard Koontz
Thomas La Munyon
Wesley G. & Louise Leighton
Ord & Irma Loverin
Shorty Lovelace
Tom Lutrel
Leland K. Martin
Martha & Arthur R. Martin Sr.
Darrell Matoon
Bob McLain
Roy & Grace McLain
Raymond T. Merrow
Alvin & Emma Meyer
Robert H. Meyer
Tom & Helen Mixer
Robert B & Nora Pogue Montgomery
Robert & Phyllis Montgomery, Jr.
Jack Moore
Helen Louise Mueller
Thadeus Daniel Off
James L. Parks
Carl & Mabel Pennebaker

Charlie Penwell
Virginia Ann Peters
Serena Pike
Eben Pinkham & Josephine Brundage
Pinkham
Frank C. Pinkham
Jenny H. Pinkham
Sibyl Scott Pogue
Dorthe Nolan (Dutch) Rachford
Dick Reed
Dale Daniel Reinhold
Leland Augustus Reinhold
Ruby Crowley Reinhold
Marilyn Hart Reynolds
Betty Smith Rez
Myrtis E. Roper
Jere Runciman
Phillip Saurenman
Merritt Savage
Helen Aileen Sellars
Irvin Shiffert
Elva Slote
Vern Smith
Richard Spriggs, Jr.
Richard L. Spriggs, Sr.
Wilber Stover
Sol Sweet
Rolie Turnpin
Tom Tutress
Dr. Frank Voelz
Rebecca Voelz
Stanley Van Voorhees
Emma Davis Welch
Walter & Mary Wells
Earl Whitendale
Dick Whitney
Jim Whitney
John C. Willard
Bernadine S. Wollenman
John A. Wollenman
Letta Jean Dalgleish Wotton
Donna Merrow Wright
Diane Dixon Yates
Fred Zurcher

****MEMBERSHIP NOTICE****

PLEASE NOTE: ALL 2007 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE.

UNLESS YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER OR ALREADY HAVE PAID YOUR 2007 DUES, THEY NOW ARE DUE AND PAYABLE. A membership renewal form is enclosed in included on this website.

If you have questions, please call Keith Cosart, Treasurer, at (559)592-2821; address them to MKPS, Box 286, Exeter, CA 93221; or contact us at preservation@mineralking.org

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DECUCTABLE UNDER 501(a) IRS ID#77017430

Beulah Then

From History to Parking Lot

Beulah Now

****LIFE MEMBERSHIPS****

MKPS offers two types of Life Memberships – Individual at \$250 and Couple at \$400. If you would like to be a Life Member, please indicate your preference on the Membership Form.

Aldine, Charles R.
Alltucker, Marilyn Pinkham
Andresen, Robert & Elizabeth
Barboni, Richard
Barboni, Richard C., DDS
Bennett, Thiry Gail
Bree, Donn, PhD
Britten, Sophronia
Cairns, Aubrey
Cairns, David & Carol
Conrad, Kristy
Curry, Donald
Curtis, John & Linda
Davis, Jeff & Sally
Devol, Nicole
Devol, Randy

Devol, Sharon M.
Devol, Shirley
DiSilvestro, Brian
Dobson, Edward Brown
Dungan, Vincent & Toni
Gravelle, Gordon & Molly
Hack, Shery
Hamilton, Maureen Griggs
Hansen, William R.
Hastrup, Louise
Hath, Kathy Tavares
Hawthorne, Roy
Hicks, Bob
Jacobsen, Richard & Patricia
Koch, Richard & Jean
Kuhn, Janet L.

Luxenberg, Diana
Martin, Helen L.
Martin, William A.
Maze, Bill & Becky
Peterson, Jay and Betsy
Peterson, Edward (Jock) & Ora Kay
Pinkham, Charles & Lindsay
Pinkham, Donald R. & Helen W
Runciman, Jon
Saurenman, Louise B.
Sauve, Julie Chandler
Shephard, Sonia Gay
Stansfield, Jeff & Tracy
Steiny, J.O
Tavares, Trevor

TWENTY- FIRST ANNUAL “PICNIC IN THE PARK”

DATE: Saturday, July 14, 2007

TIME: 12:00 Noon

PLACE: Mineral King Valley
The Peterson/Davis cabin #16, East MK, at the north end
of “Pogue Road” near the Eagle trailhead parking lot.

BRING: Your own favorite childhood memory to share if you have
one; a picnic lunch, folding chair or blanket
Lemonade and cookies will be provided.

PROGRAM: **CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF MINERAL KING**
Residents of Mineral King will share memories of their lives and adventures
in Mineral King.

See you at the “Picnic in the Park”