



Our Mission: The Monarch-Neihart Historical Group was established to promote and preserve the rich history of the settlers, miners, loggers, ranchers, and the railroad industry that served them well.

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MNHG News

Dear Neighbors,

With the holiday season behind us, we can enjoy the remainder of winter, the ski and snowmobile seasons, or snuggle by the warmth of a fire with a good book. MNHG accomplished a great deal in 2013 and we are gearing up for an active 2014. MNHG was organized for the purpose of saving the 1902 Great Northern Railroad Depot in Monarch, which was slated for demolition. The following news briefly describes our successes in 2013 and our goals for 2014.

2013 Activity

- * MNHG was designated as a non-profit by the Montana Secretary of State and received 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit corporation from the IRS.
- * Cascade County’s Commissioners, on behalf of MNHG, kindly stepped forward and agreed to purchase the property from Montana Department of Transportation.
- * The property transfer was finalized in late June with Cascade County paying MDT \$1850 for the depot and land. As part of the deal MDT agreed to donate \$25,000 to Cascade County, the equivalent of MDT’s budgeted cost for razing the building.
- * In early July, Cascade County Commissioners donated the depot, land, and the \$25,000 to MNHG. On the advice of Cascade County’s Preservation Officer, MNHG is holding the \$25,000 for use as grant matching funds.
- * In mid-July MNHG’s directors submitted a CTEP grant application to Cascade County requesting funding for restoration of the depot.
- * Later in July the Commissioners agreed to fund MNHG’s CTEP request provided there is money remaining after Cascade County’s use of CTEP funding to repair the copper roof on the Cascade County Court House. Whether any CTEP funds will be available to MNHG will be unknown until 2015.
- * Cascade County’s Commissioners agreed to sponsor MNHG for possible funding via the Transportation Alternative Grant program, and in early September MNHG’s board worked with the county grant writer to complete the application for funding, which was then submitted by the county to MDT. The TA Grant administration recently announced the selection of 25 applications out of 72 for funding but that MNHG’s project was not chosen.
- * Other September activities include an assessment by an architect and contractor (experienced in restoration work) to examine the integrity of the depot roof trusses, which they determined to be in relatively good condition. In addition, MDT excavated about two feet of dirt fill that had been placed against the depot along the east and south walls. Once the soil was removed it was determined that the wood foundation and significant portions of the wall in contact with the fill material was rotted and would need to be replaced before any other work on the depot could begin. Removal of the fill material serves another purpose as well; the resulting shallow trench provides a drainage channel that will help to move sporadic surface drainage away from the depot.
- * MNHG launched its website www.mnhg.org and email address mnhg@3rivers.net
- * US Postal Service accepted MNHG’s non-profit status and qualified the organization for reduced postage rates.
- * Fund raising started in earnest in August with the sale of hamburgers, hotdogs, raffle tickets and shingles for roof replacement at a community rummage sale; followed with a mini festival in the Monarch depot in early October. Donation letters were sent to Great Falls area businesses along with continued grant research and application submittals.

2014 Plans

Monarch depot’s immediate need is money. The big push for 2014 is fund raising and MNHG’s goal is to secure enough money to restore the depot from the ground up.

MNHG’s board invites you to attend their meetings. There is no set schedule and a board member will be happy to give you the next date or you can email MNHG at mnhg@3rivers.net for information about future meeting schedules. Meeting notices are posted in the Monarch and Neihart post offices and in the Community Center in Neihart. Guests are welcome to participate in discussions and activities; we welcome ideas, volunteers, and financial support. **The next board meeting: March 15, 10:00 am at the Monarch Fire Station.**

MNHG appreciates any support you can offer. We hope the coming year will be good to you and we look forward to meeting you at our following 2014 activities:

Pancake Dinner
May 16 – 4pm til 8pm
Community Center
Neihart

Monarch Rocks! Festival
Crafts, Music, Food & Fun
August 9 --10am til 4pm
Monarch Depot

Spaghetti Dinner
October 11 – 4pm til 8pm
St. Thomas Camp
Monarch

****NOTE that times will be announced, check www.mnhg.org for updates**

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Ride the Train to Neihart
www.mnhg.org

Visit our website to view a late 1930s home movie of a train ride from Great Falls to Neihart pulled by a steam locomotive. The movie was donated by a generous Great Falls resident whose grandfather was the engineer on the trains to Monarch and Neihart.

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Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated and your dollars will be well spent. Please feel free to use the form below for your donation.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Email _____ Donation Amount: _____

MNHG
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Address label