



MNHG Newsletter

Summer 2020
Member of the Great Northern Railway Historical
Society since 2014

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.*

Board of Directors

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Monarch Rocks! Festival Rescheduled. Out of concern for the health of our neighbors and supporters, the Monarch Neihart Historical Group has rescheduled the 6th Monarch Rocks! Festival for **August 14, 2021**. We hope our country and citizens will be in better health.

MNHG Receives Grant. **Humanities Montana** funded a grant request from MNHG for \$2500 to cover 2020 utility and insurance costs due to lost revenue caused by Covid-19. The money is part of the Coronavirus Aide, Relief, and Security Act congress put together earlier this year. The MNHG Board of Directors is very grateful to have this funding available for non-profits.

Visits to the Monarch Great Northern Depot. Although the Depot has been closed, people have peeked in the windows and taken selfies beside the Depot. **Malmstrom Air Force Base** held a contest to encourage military personal to explore Great Falls and the surrounding area when the Montana Phase One Reopening began. The Monarch canyon was one of thirteen places on the explore list. To verify a person's visit, a selfie taken beside the Depot was required. Points and prizes were given for each site visited.

Monarch Depot and MNHG in Print. The **Great Northern Railway Historical Society** (GHRHS) in St. Paul, Minnesota, publishes a quarterly bulletin for Society members titled the *Great Northern Goat*. The June issue included an article describing the impact the Great Northern had on the residents of Neihart and Monarch in the 1890s soon after the railway arrived. A second article describing the Monarch Depot restoration will appear in the September issue. Memberships in the GNRHS run from January through December so anyone joining now will receive the March and June Goats in addition to the September and December and their 2021 calendar. Included with each issue of the Goat is a bulletin for model railroads and reference sheets on topics related to the Great Northern. Membership information can be found at: <https://gnrhs.myshopify.com/collections/memberships>

National Register of Historic Places. The Depot's application for the National Register is moving through the approval system. A presentation to the Great Falls/Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission will take place by the time you receive this newsletter. The application will go before the Montana Preservation Review Board September 16. If approved it will go to the national Park Service for further consideration. In addition to the Depot, the application includes the Northern Pacific Drover Car caboose, the rail line on which the caboose sits, and the GN privy. The application is titled "Monarch Depot Historic District". It is posted on mnhg.org for public viewing.

MNHG PROJECTS:

Neihart Bell Tower: Due to greatly reduced donations caused by Covid-19, the construction of the Neihart fire alarm bell tower has been delayed. MNHG is seriously working on this important project. Cost of project: \$40,000.

Caboose restoration: On hold.

GN Depot Restoration. The next restoration project is installing donated wood flooring over the concrete slab that was poured in 2016. The flooring was salvaged from the old Montana School for the Deaf and Blind gymnasium and stored for many years before the donation to MNHG. 2" X 4" sleepers will be laid on the concrete slab, sub flooring will lay on the sleepers, and the gym flooring on top. Sanding and finishing will be necessary. A time frame for this project is undecided but the work will be done with volunteers. The budget is set at \$4500.

Depot Interior Paint. It is hoped interior painting can be done before fall. The Great Northern had several color schemes over the decades. The MNHG board decided to paint the interior of the Depot different schemes to demonstrate the historic colors. The depot agent's living quarters will receive buff upper walls and green lower walls. The waiting room will receive the two tone gray which was the last scheme painted in the Monarch Depot. The natural wood bead board will be unpainted in the office. The freight room will be unpainted, the natural Ponderosa pine shiplap. A volunteer is lined-up for the job. Budget: \$500.

GN Three-room Section House. A Depot neighbor who owns a portion of the original Great Northern railyard in Monarch has donated a three-room section house located on his land with the understanding it will be moved. MNHG is excited to add this structure to the Monarch Depot Historic District. A little interior bracing will be needed for the move. Bracing and move budget: \$8000.

From the *Neihart Herald* June 11, 1892: "The Neihart Electric Company by its Superintendent, C. P. Downing, is showing no little enterprise in the rapidity with which it is arranging its machinery, wires, etc., preparatory to illuminating the streets, and shops of a thriving camp. The poles are now being placed in position and citizens can expect to see the streets and houses lighted up in about 10 days. Many citizens have already inserted private wires into their residences." *The Neihart herald. [volume]* (Neihart, Mont.), 11 June 1892. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.* Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85053323/1892-06-11/ed-1/seq-1/>>

Covid-19 has had a significant adverse impact on MNHG's projects due to lack of income. For the protection our neighbors' and supporters' health, our primary source of funding, the annual Monarch Rocks! Festival, was cancelled. MNHG needs your help. Your financial support is essential for MNHG to continue. We realize times are tough for many of our supporters and the future looks uncertain. We are asking all our readers for a minimum donation of \$10. Of course, if you chose to donate more, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. Please mail donations to: MNHG Inc, PO Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463. Thank you.

Please feel free to use the form below for your donation. 501(c)(3)Tax ID 46-1853767

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Mail to MNHG, P.O. Box 924, Monarch, MT 59463

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