



## MNHG Newsletter

December 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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Fall finds the streams in the Monarch/Neihart area flowing nicely after four days and four inches of rain in August. What a surprise and welcome to have the moisture as we head into winter. The new roof on the 1902 Great Northern Railway Depot in Monarch kept the inside dry! It is a pleasure to know the interior is protected from further water damage. The new roof was one of many projects for the board of directors and the volunteers helping to return the depot to its long ago appearance. Here are the 2014 highlights:

- MNHG received the 2014 Historic Preservation Award from the Great Falls-Cascade County Historic Preservation Advisory Commission for outstanding leadership in the preservation of the area's history and cultural resources.
- Cleaning the area surrounding the Depot continued with the removal of a large tree growing against the building and an old fuel tank. With a new roof and the weeds mowed, the depot area looks much better.
- The Montana History Foundation awarded MNHG a \$5000

Preserve Montana Grant for the rehabilitation of the depot roof. After removing the old shingles and the rotted sheathing, new sheathing and shingles were put in place. The project was completed by the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The 1902 shingles are in bundles for sale as kindling.

- MNHG participated in the Belt 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.
- The Hermanos Motorcycle club held a poker run with a round trip ride from Great Falls to Neihart and a bikini carwash afterwards with proceeds going to MNHG.
- The first Monarch Rocks! Festival took place along Cascade Avenue providing craft vendors, food, face painting, and locals sharing their memories of life in the Monarch/Neihart area.
- A Great Northern Railway historian was pleasantly surprised to see the 1916 privy sitting on a little knoll south of the depot. These structures were removed when depots were modernized or abandoned making our privy one-of-a-kind remaining. It too will be restored upon completion of the Depot.
- MNHG was notified the city of Belt was selling their 1940s Great Northern wooden caboose which had been used as a concession stand. Fund raising has been completed for the cost of the caboose and a rail line constructed where the original line had been. The arrival of the caboose awaits while donors coordinate the move. The caboose will be the first railcar to arrive in Monarch since November 1945.

The work involved in these activities consumed a great deal of time by many volunteers. But a greater benefit goes to our communities as neighbors work with neighbors. As each activity was completed, all agreed, "This was fun!"

One roofing task remains incomplete which is the removal of the old dusty moldy fiberglass insulation in the attic of the depot. The depot was built without attic vents however a ridge vent was installed with the new shingles. To help the building breathe until gable and eve vents are installed, it is necessary to remove the old insulation. Anyone willing to volunteer for this project, email [mnhg@3rivers.net](mailto:mnhg@3rivers.net) giving your name and if a weekend or weekday will be best. When a date is set next spring, your availability will be checked. You will provide your own mask and kneepads.

### 2015 Plans.

Exhuming the Depot from the earth and placing it on a foundation is the next rehabilitation project when funding becomes available. This project, as the roof once did, needs financial

backing by those who share our vision. If you value what we are doing, we want your support. No donation is too small and all are tax deductible.

MNHG's board invites you to attend their meetings which will be posted on our web site. There is no set schedule but a board member will be happy to give you the next date. Board members are listed on the web site ([www.mnhg.org](http://www.mnhg.org)) with their email link. Board meeting notices are posted in the Monarch and Neihart post offices and in the Senior/Community Center in Neihart. Guests are welcome to participate in discussions and activities. We welcome ideas, volunteers, and financial support.

Mark your calendar for the next Monarch Rocks! Festival, **August 8, 2015.**

**Special thanks** to individual donors and to the following who have provided funding to rehabilitate Monarch's 1902 Great Northern Railway Depot.

Montana History Foundation (Roof Project)  
Davidson & Kuhr Architects (Roof Project)  
Dick Olson Construction (Roof Project)  
Great Northern Railway Historical Society (Rehabilitation)  
3 Rivers Communications (Monarch Rocks! Festival)  
Showdown Ski Area (Monarch Rocks! Festival)  
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (Rail line, Caboose Project)  
Hermanos Motorcycle Club (Rail line, Caboose Project)  
Bob Swartz Construction (Rail line, Caboose Project)  
Travis Johnson Construction (Rail line, Caboose Project)  
NCSG/H&H Crane (Rail line, Caboose Project)  
Shumaker Trucking (Rail line, Caboose Project)

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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