



# MNHG Newsletter

Fall 2016

## Board of Directors

Janet Enloe  
Director/Secretary

Hugh Enloe  
Director/Treasurer

Bob Majerus  
Director

The summer of 2016 proved to be a busy and productive time for the Historic Great Northern Railway Depot.

### Great Northern Railway Depot Restoration.

Phase III of the Foundation/Stabilization Project for the restoration of the Monarch 1902 Great Northern Railway Depot began in April. Projects for this phase of the restoration of the historic Depot were:

- The Monarch Neihart Historical Group Board of Directors and other volunteers removed the corrugated metal siding which was put on by the Montana Department of Transportation in the 1940s. This revealed the original wood

siding from 1902 which was in good condition for the most part. The north and south walls revealed where the Great Northern Railway had placed signs identifying the Depot as being in Monarch.

- Two board members hauled 35 yards of gravel fill inside the Depot in preparation for a 4" concrete slab which was poured in July.
- New siding was applied over sheathing which covered the 2015 rebuilt rotted walls. The west wall was out of plumb about three inches after the 2015 restoration work. The contractor was able to run a chain from the top of the northwest wall corner to a come-along attached to rebar in the opposite corner (NE) of the Depot foundation/floor. The come-along slowly tightened the chain which moved the upper wall into a plumb position. The chain and come-along remained in place until the north wall could be rebuilt.
- The north end of the building which had two overhead doors was restored to the original appearance. The doors were removed, wall framing constructed, sheathing applied to the framing, and new siding added. The chain and come-along were then removed.
- Repairs were made to a few areas of the original siding.
- One freight door was rebuilt following the Great Northern construction plans from 1899 and old photographs.
- The corners of the Depot received new trim.
- All the new siding was primed and the building will be repainted once the windows have been replaced and window trim added.
- The contractor, **Dick Olson Construction**, and a sign company, **Kelly's Sign**, made a MONARCH sign based on the original sign plans from the Great Northern Railway Historical Society and mounted it on the north wall as a donation. A second sign will be made later for the south wall.

Cost of this project: \$23,500.

**Why is MNHG Restoring the Monarch Great Northern Railway Depot?** One reason is the following Cascade County resolution, 13-48, which was made when the county donated the historic Depot to MNHG: "**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that pursuant to MCA 7-8-2211(4), the undersign Commissioners hereby approve the transfer of the Monarch Depot property, which is further described in the quitclaim deed, to the Monarch Neihart Historical Group, Inc., subject to the express condition that the property be preserved or restored. Passed and adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013." Signed by Cascade County Commissioners Joe Briggs, Bill Salina, and Jane Weber.

Because of the holes in the roof and rotted walls, MNHG Board of Directors determined the GN Depot could not be preserved in its dilapidated condition. Restoration commenced to create a place to preserve the area history.

**Monarch Rocks! Festival.** The third annual Monarch Rocks! Festival took place in August and proved to be the most successful. The Depot and Drovers Car Caboose were open for the public. Live campfire acoustic guitar music was provided, restored vehicles provided by the **Skunk Wagon Car Club** were on display, and the 1913 Ford car used by Rev. Snow who preached in Monarch and Neihart was on display. Free wagon rides around Monarch were provided by Ted and Tom, two Belgium horses. Vendors were available selling a variety of items and **Electric City Concessions** provided food.

**Drover Car Caboose.** MNHG received a donation of interior furnishings from a person in Bremerton, Washington, who at one time owned a bay window caboose as is the Drover Car. These items are in poor condition but serve as a prototype for reproduction. Included in the donation was a door to a locker, two coach seats that sit in the bay windows, pieces of the ice box, the base of the hopper (toilet), and an exterior door. Items in good condition that will be used are two exterior handrails and a light fixture base. Cost: \$100 for delivery.

**Testimonial:**

*MNHG has done a great job raising additional funds, working with historic preservation experts to determine what and how work needs to be done, and bringing their community together to accomplish the restoration work.*

**Montana History Foundation, 2016.**

Please visit our website for photos of all MNHG projects. [www.mnhg.org](http://www.mnhg.org)

**Just in time for Christmas.** MNHG T-shirts and hats with the inscription Monarch Rocks! or Monarch Neihart Historical Group. Available in a variety of colors and sizes S – XXL. \$15 each. Medallions with an image of the Monarch Depot, \$15. Call 406-236-5377 for information/ordering.

**This newsletter costs \$.28 per copy for paper, printing, and postage, written by volunteers. Donations to cover these costs would be appreciated. We mail 2500 Newsletters two times a year.**

Please join us for our meetings. Email MNHG to find meeting locations and time. Email address: [mnhg@3rivers.net](mailto:mnhg@3rivers.net).

MNHG has vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you like history and want some fun, you can apply to join the MNHG Board of Directors by contacting [mnhg@3rivers.net](mailto:mnhg@3rivers.net).

**Your tax deductible donations are greatly appreciated and your dollars are well managed. Please feel free to use the form below for your donation. Tax ID 46-1853767**

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