

Mineral King Chronicle



Letter From the Director

LISA MONTEIRO

Hello MKPS Supporters,

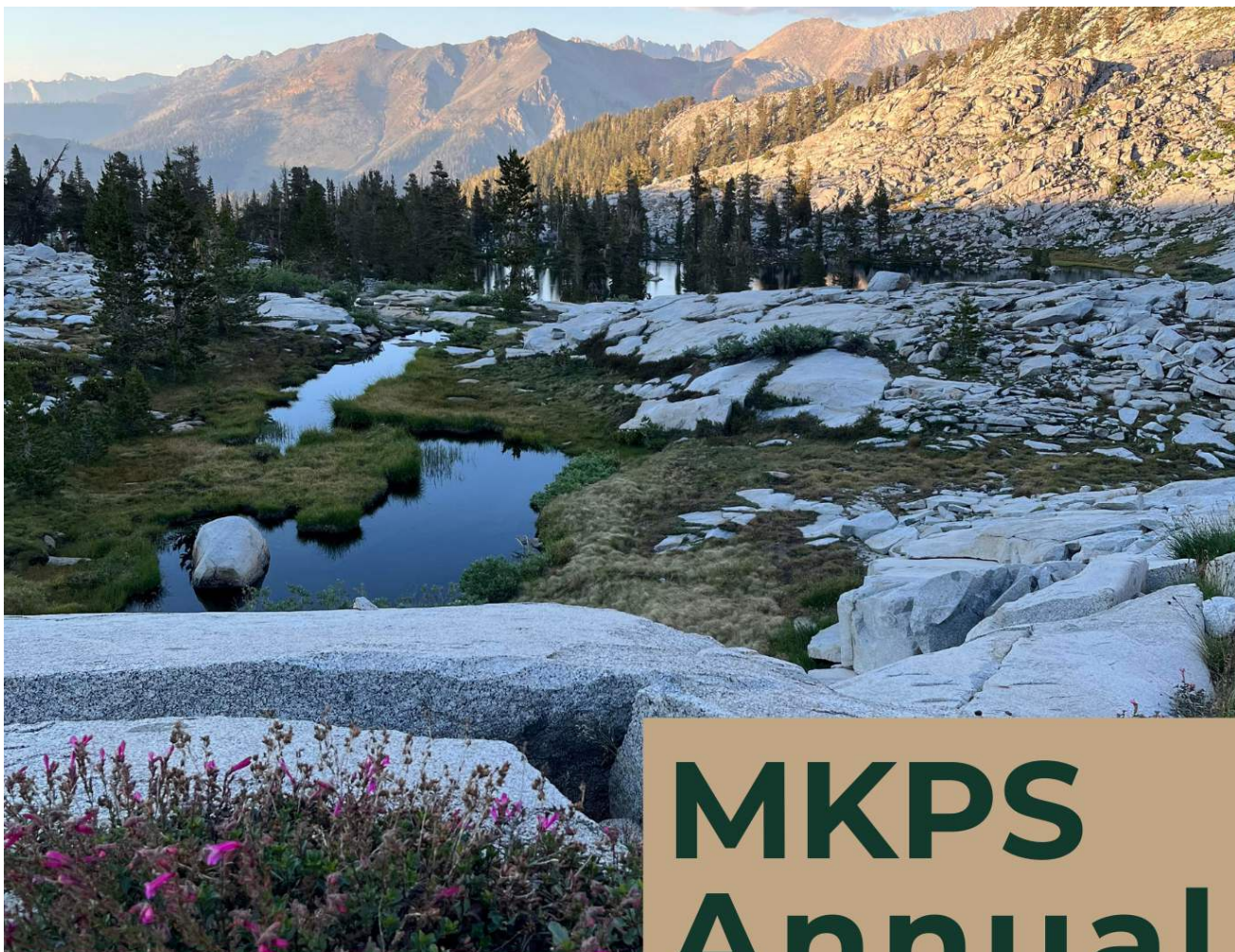
I must start off with a huge THANK YOU! Our year end campaign brought in just under \$10,000! We appreciate your generosity and helping to support these great MKPS projects. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Mineral King Chronicle. I am excited to share the dates for our annual meeting, Picnic in the Park, and Music in the Mountains.

We also appreciate those of you that reached out to your representatives to ask the current administration to reconsider the executive order that would significantly reduce the work done by the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS is the only federal agency dedicated to supporting American museums, providing critical funding to institutions in all 50 states. IMLS has played a vital role in supporting organizations like MKPS. We are in fact currently benefitting from a state-run program, California Revealed, that is funded by IMLS. You can read more about that digitization project in Sandi's curator report on page 6. By having these items digitized by California Revealed it not only saves us staff time and saves us from having to purchase multiple types of equipment for higher quality scans, but it also makes the collection available to a much wider audience. Digitizing historical documents ensures their preservation for future generations while making them more accessible to researchers, educators, and the public. Despite accounting for just 0.0046% of the federal budget, IMLS funding helps museums generate \$50 billion in economic benefits and support more than 726,000 jobs nationwide. Museums enjoy strong bipartisan support, and research shows that 96% of Americans want to maintain or increase federal funding for them. I also submitted two federal grants last year for projects that are now in jeopardy of not being funded through IMLS with these changes. If you are inclined, please speak to your representatives in support of museum funding!

As always, we are deeply grateful for your support. Whether you attend an event, renew your membership, become a sponsor, or simply share our work with others, you help keep Mineral King's stories alive for future generations.

Looking forward to a wonderful season in Mineral King together.

-Lisa Monteiro



Saturday, April 26

10:00 am - 11:00 am

**MKPS Office
40838 Sierra Dr.
Three Rivers, 93271**

RSVP to Lisa if you plan to attend!
Zoom option available.

MKPS Annual Meeting

Join us for the Mineral King Preservation Society's Annual Meeting! We'll share updates on current projects, upcoming plans, and the ongoing effort to protect and promote Mineral King's history. It's a great chance to connect with others who care about this special place and learn how you can be part of keeping its story alive.



(559) 561-1000



lisa@mineralking.org



40838 Sierra Dr. Three Rivers, CA 93271

Membership Renewals

It is that time of year, where we ask you to renew your membership, consider joining if you haven't already, and give the gift of membership to someone you think would appreciate it!

As a supporter of MKPS, you know that Mineral King's history is worth preserving and sharing. We work hard to bring our collection and the stories it holds to life by exhibiting it in different locations—reaching more people and keeping our stories accessible. But none of this happens without you.

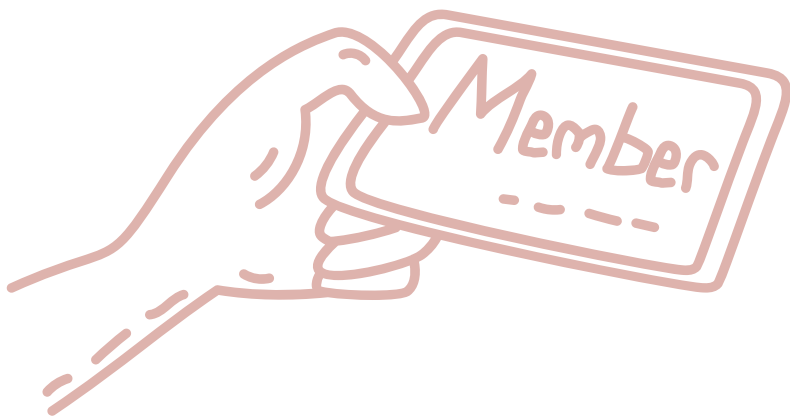
Your membership directly funds the projects and programs that protect and celebrate our unique heritage. It allows us to continue sharing these stories and maintain our collections.

Why join?

- Members receive the MK Chronicle first, keeping you in the loop on our latest efforts.
- Your support ensures our preservation projects continue.
- You help bring our exhibits and programs to more people.
- We simply couldn't do it without you!

If you've already renewed, THANK YOU! If not, now is the perfect time to show your support and help is continue the work we do to preserve Mineral King history.

To renew online scan this code or visit: <https://mineralking.org/membership/>



We are HIRING

Archival Inventory Clerk

We are seeking a Temporary Archive Inventory Clerk to assist with organizing and preserving our historical records. This position is 16 hours per week for approximately three months, with the possibility of extension. Pay ranges from \$16.50 - \$20 per hour, depending on experience.

Responsibilities include:

- Preparing original files for scanning
- Tracking and updating record status, location, and disposition
- Scanning files for archival purposes
- Creating inventory data sheets
- Indexing and cross-referencing files
- Loading individual files or boxes of files

If you are detail-oriented and interested in archival work, we'd love to hear from you!

To apply, please email your resume to our curator, Sandi, at Sandra@mineralking.org.



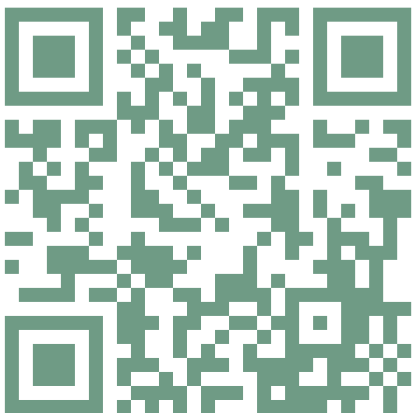
Become a Sponsor for Music in the Mountains

The annual Music in the Mountains concert will be held on Saturday, August 9th this year and we need your help to make it happen! We are seeking event sponsors to help cover the costs for the band, meal, and overnight stay.

Last year the music was provided by Ted Nunes and Allan Benton. They were a huge hit with attendees and we would love to have them come back again this year. We would also love to offer them a place to stay so they do not have to drive back down the hill at night.

Please reach out to me if you are interested in supporting this year's event! You can have your name and logo, if applicable, included in all promotional materials.

Scan this code to
donate via our website.
In the "Notes on
Donation" field, write:
Music in the Mountains.



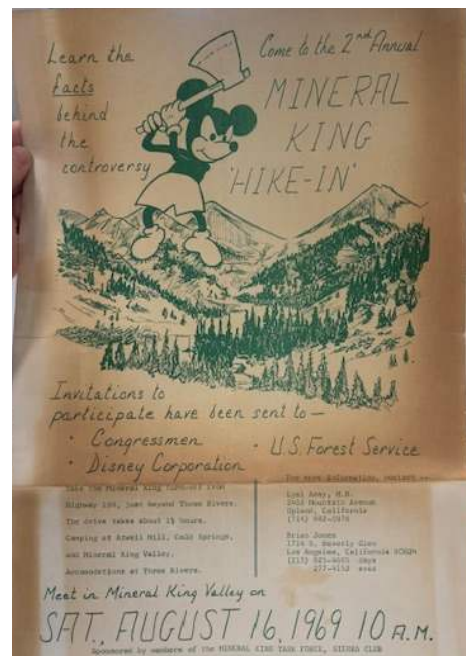


Curator's Corner

SANDRA STRYD

On March 3, 2025, I had the privilege of sending our archives from the Jean Koch Collection to California Revealed in Sacramento. Thanks to a generous grant from California Revealed, an outside contractor will digitize this invaluable collection. Once completed, the digitized materials will be made available on their website, and we will also receive both the original collection and the digital records to share on our own platform. Our dedicated archivist, Antoinette, worked meticulously to catalog every page of this extensive collection. Jean Koch's archive includes 556 individual items, totaling 2,146 separate pages (excluding copyrighted materials), along with one audio recording.

This collection highlights Jean Koch's unwavering efforts to preserve Mineral King. She worked closely with The Sierra Club and played a crucial role in mobilizing environmentalists, concerned citizens, and cabin owners to oppose Disney's proposed ski resort after the U.S. Forest Service awarded them development rights. Beyond her advocacy, Jean was a key figure in Washington, D.C., lobbying for the recognition of the historic Mineral King cabins and road. Her efforts contributed significantly to the creation of the Mineral King Road Cultural Landscape District and its eventual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Jean's dedication to conservation and historic preservation lives on through this collection, ensuring that future generations can access and learn from her remarkable work.



Save Your Brakes!

The following is shared with Steve Esson's permission. Steve left this as a comment on a Facebook post about the unique "Save Your Brakes" road signs on Mineral King road and the General's Highway:

Well, I can tell you all about that sign because I'm the one who conceived it, designed it, made it and installed it, and the story of how it came about is kind of funny. I'm retired from a wonderful job as a Sign Maker, and occasional Artist, in National Parks; 10 years in Yosemite and 15 in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The 2 signs on the Mineral King Road came after making the first two for the Generals Highway in Sequoia. That highway is unique in that it ascends 4,000 feet in 17 miles, and most drivers aren't used to that. It became a huge problem years ago when we had road construction that involved vehicle stops, and motorists with super-hot brakes from going down that mountain would sit for 15 minutes with their foot on the brake, melting the brake pads. When they started up again, they had no brakes and would drive off a steep mountain road or into other vehicles. There were signs at the top of the hill saying "Use Lower Gears", but they weren't working.

One day I saw a Japanese couple in a parking lot, and the guy was trying to pour water on his brakes because they were actually smoking. I tried to explain about using lower gears to him, but I didn't speak a word of Japanese and he didn't speak a word of English, so I got in his car and demonstrated the shift lever to him. He got that, and I thought, "Why don't I just put that on a sign?" So I did. I never meant for the gears to be that specific; all cars are geared differently, but people got the concept. It was extremely rewarding to be following a vehicle pumping and pumping their brakes as I was starting down the hill and, as they passed my sign, they slowed down and the brakes weren't being pumped, and I'd think, "They GOT it!", and eventually there was a drastic reduction in accidents. My supervisor was a pretty perceptive guy and said, "You might have saved lives with that." I hadn't thought of it in that way, but I liked it.



Steve Esson

Mineral King Preservation Society's Annual:

PICNIC IN THE PARK

 **Saturday, July 19th**

 **12 Noon**

 **Peterson Cabin #16**

East Mineral King

(follow the signs from the parking
lot at the end of the road)



Join us at our annual Picnic in the Park event! This year's presentation will include representatives from Sequoia National Park, Cal Fire, and Tulare Co. Fire discussing wildfire conditions, evacuations, and safety. Pack a lunch and bring a chair or blanket. Cookies and water provided.

Questions? Email us at lisa@mineralking.org

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Mineral King Preservation Society

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