

Upper Swan Valley Historical Society

P. O. Box 1128
Condon, MT 59826



May 6, 2019

To: Members, volunteers and supporters of the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society.
Subject: USVHS 2019 performance, focus and invitation.

Welcome to the 2019 Season for the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society.

As we begin our 31st year as a Historical Society and our 7th season at our Museum and Heritage site in Condon we are very excited to focus this year on learning and sharing the Swan Valley fire history. We just held our May 3rd "First Friday Program" event where people shared their stories and experiences with forest fires, firefighting and lookout living. Thanks for the great participation and sharing your personal experiences. This topic will also be the historical theme for Fourth of July.

The history theme for our main fundraising event on August 3rd will focus on the experiences of outfitters in and around the Swan Valley featuring stories of the past. It will make for a fun and educational day for all of us who love the wonderful outdoors and we would also like to hear your "special wilderness moments" as you spent your time in and around the Swan Valley.



2018 Winter scene at the Upper Swan Valley Historical Museum and Heritage site in Condon, MT.



Filled tables at the December 2018 Frostbite Festival supporting our popular fundraising bake sale.



The Upper Swan Valley Historical Society volunteer's appreciation potluck.

2018 Year-end USVHS Performance "where the rubber meets the road":

We ended last year with an income (donations, grants, membership, merchandise, raffles, pledges, programs and events) of \$50,539 compared to our 2018 expenses of \$43,603 (museum operational costs, exhibits, events, personnel, program expenses, publications and newsletters). This will continue to allow us to improve the Museum and Heritage site as well as bring you new exhibits and events to share our rich history.

Fundraising and donation update, “do not mess with success”:

We will again participate in the Seeley Lake Community Foundation’s **“Change Your Pace Challenge.”** It has made a real difference for our organization as it has allowed our donors to increase the value of their donations through the matching fund available. ***The participation timeline this year will be six weeks long: June 14 – July 26, 2019.*** Please make the donation to the “Seeley Lake Community Foundation” and remember to identify “The Upper Swan Valley Historical Society” as the recipient.

Did you know.... The Maki cabin is in place, thanks to a very generous donation, and over the winter the cabin was restored and weather proofed thanks to the hard work of Steve & Sharon Lamar, Bill Anderson, Gary Lazarowski, Nathan Kauffman and Gary Freyholtz. The Maki cabin will display a wide variety of tools used in the Valley during the past 100 years.



The Maki cabin coming to life over the winter season with a new roof, windows and door.

“Thank you to the people who responded to our donation request for the new heat pump”.

The heat pump is now installed and up and running and we look forward to seeing the reduction in our future heat bills ☺. There is of course still time to donate to this project as we have paid \$6,074 to have it installed and raised \$950 so far to offset the costs.

Just completed! ... the firm gravel path between the buildings is complete in time for our opening on Saturday May 24th, Memorial Day weekend. Thank you, Matthew Brother’s construction! This is another opportunity to contribute to a project we initiated in order to make it more accessible to walk from one historical cabin to the next and avoid the uneven ground and the occasional wet and muddy lawn.

We continue, with your support, to perform financially to our expectations, have numerous activities and improvement projects in work, and we take great pleasure in sharing these with you and your family. The best way to find out what is happening throughout the season is through our newsletter, our comprehensive website or by calling or visiting us at the Historical Museum and Heritage site (see bottom of the page).

Together we have made something very special and for that we thank you for your contributions and involvement! Let’s have a wonderful 2019 season and we look forward to seeing you this summer.

Sincerely, the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society team,

Steve Lamar, Neil Meyer, Fern Kauffman, Cookie Beers, Anne Dahl, Susan Novosel, Sharon Gressle, Barb Raible, Pat Sinz, Ellie Greenough, Jenny Kauffman and Helene Michael.