

Trail Times



Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

A non-profit incorporated association formed in 1981 to develop, maintain and protect non-motorized recreational trails in the Sierra Foothills area for public use and enjoyment.



President's Message

The new refreshment committee consists of Krista Ericson, Maryann Colley, and Laura Duncan. I'm so glad to have a refreshment committee, so work can be coordinated between multiple people.

I really appreciate Lynne Sullivan for volunteering to chair the phone tree committee, and to Phyllis Shopbell for being willing to be a member of the phone tree committee. They do vital work to keep the membership informed.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do. We're making one change to the membership form. Now there is a check box above the address information that asks if the information has changed from last year. Please check either the yes box for changed information or the no box if your information is unchanged. This will significantly simplify creating the phone book.

As you know, Lynne Sullivan has made an amazing donation to the club of one week each at two different timeshares in Cabo San Lucas. They can be used from May to October in 2014. One time-share is at the Villa del Pamar in Cabo. It is worth \$794 and is a one bedroom. The other time-share is the Los Cabos golf resort in Cabo. It is worth \$981 and is an executive unit. The raffle is now underway. Tickets are \$5 per ticket, or 6 for \$25. You can still buy raffle tickets at the November meeting before we draw the winners.

The November meeting is our Thanksgiving feast, and the election of new officers and board members for next year. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Helen Harvey, President

Common Purpose

GCTC recently received a hand crafted raffle ticket tumbler from Backcountry Horsemen member Jon Caudill, presented to GCTC at the last general meeting by Kathy Zumbrunn. Kathy and Jon are friends of GCTC and BCHC member Mary Johnson. BCHC is a state wide organization with units in different areas of the state that perform the same type of tasks that GCTC engages in locally... keeping trails, staging areas and camping areas open for equestrian use. Kathy made a presentation of their 2014 fundraiser, a BCHC **Lucky Calendar**. It is indeed lucky! When purchasing the calendar for \$25.00, you not only receive a year of beautiful photographs, you are also entered into drawings throughout the year with 18 chances to win \$25 to \$150 every month! AND you are keeping trails open.

These delightful calendars will be available at the November 12 meeting or by contacting Mary Johnson at mjshasta@aol.com or 477-8501. Only one thousand of these calendars will be sold, there by creating wonderful odds of winning. They make wonderful gifts... a gift that keeps on giving in many ways.



DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR GCTC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

Committee Chairs

Camp Cook & Coordinator:

Merrill Kagan-Weston

Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich

530 346-9933 jaede@sbbmail.com

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Historian: Sharon Silver

Hospitality: Krista Ericson, Maryann Colley and
Laura DuncanLittle Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin
and Mary Johnson

Membership: Mary Johnson 530-477-8501

mjshasta@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Mangel 530-432-6979

quailhollowpv@me.com

Phone Tree: Lynne Sullivan

Poker Ride Fundraiser: Linda Lanzoni

530-265-3926 linda@mtnequestrian.com

Program Director: Melissa Ribley

Publicity: Open

Skillman: Robert & Melissa Ribley

Tool Storage and Maintenance: Willie Brusin

Trail Rides: open

Web Master: Ron Brown

United Trails Work Day: open

Gold Country Trails**Council Officers**

President: Helen Harvey 265-6908

harmony@heartworks.bz

V.P.: Melissa Ribley 268-1378

mmribley@gmail.com

Secretary: Karen Schwartz 470-8790

karen-schwartz@prodigy.net

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate 478-9813

kathysouthgate@msn.com

Past President: Teri Personeni 273-9144

teri@terobmorgans.com

Board Member: Vicki Testa 273-1735

vickite@att.net

Board Member: Don Soto 275-0536

jamessoto38@gmail.com

Board Member: Jeff Foltz 916-625-1524

jgf4oaks@yahoo.com

THANKSGIVING DINNER
Come and enjoy great food and visit with
fellow GCTC Members.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013
AT 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Members will have the opportunity to
vote on candidates nominated for 2013
GCTC Board of Director Officers.
Please plan to attend and vote. Support
your candidates.



Advertising Space Available 2014 Newsletter & Phonebook Advertisement

Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC Newsletter for just \$25.00. Your ad will appear in the six issues for 2013 and in the annual GCTC Phone Book. If you would prefer, you can place your ad in any one of the six issues for \$5.00 per issue. (members only).

The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on GCTC Web site.

To place your add contact GCTC treasurer, Kathy Southgate, kathysouthgate@msn.com, 478-9813

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Attorney at Law

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Grass Valley, CA 95945-3453

(530) 470-1925
FAX: (530) 470-1955
EMAIL: lawzer@sbcglobal.net

Towle Mill Trail Workday

A small but hard working crew showed up for the workday on October 12, 2013 to create a short new section of the Towle Mill Loop trail along Burlington Road. The new section of the trail had been previously marked under the direction of Joe Chavez. A new trail develops like this: A route is chosen and flagged with ribbons, then flag markers are placed to designate the center of the trail. The clearing crew then comes in and cuts brush and trees to clear a path with a width of at least 6 feet. A chain saw operator makes the larger cuts, and then the hand crew follows to toss the cut items off the trail as well as trim the smaller brush and the low hanging branches. The larger type brush that is in the proposed trail bed is left with enough branches to allow the use of chains and a come-a-long to pull out the brush. After that the trail bed is shaped and smoothed with hand tools such as Mcleods, pulaskis, shovels and rakes. Trail building can be labor intensive, but is usually done in stages, allowing for a wide variety of workers with differing levels of ability to participate.

In this case, the new section of the trail followed part of an old unused trail and part of it was cut through a section of Manzanita brush, so the work involved clearing the path of the trail, which will be finished later. Although GCTC does some trail building, the main focus is on maintenance of existing trails, which involves mostly the use of loppers to cut back encroaching brush, so it is, not "back breaking" work. Aside from the obvious...making the trails we ride on more enjoyable...

one of the hidden benefits of trail work, is learning where the trails are located before your venture out on horseback. When you ride the trails that you have worked on, you have a greater appreciation on what it takes to keep them useable.

So the next time you hear the call for help on the trails, put your list of "must do's aside (we all have that list), mark your calendar and then come join your fellow GCTC members for an hour or two keeping our trails rideable!

The very appreciated crew:

- Sue Brusin
- Willie Brusin
- Irv Mazur
- Ginny Dix
- Vicki Testa
- Mary Johnson
- MartyMossman



Submitted by, Mary Johnson

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A High Country Wonderland Opens to Equestrians

A wonderful new area has opened for hikers and riders to explore. Recently the Tahoe Donner Land Trust acquired about 3000 acres of land associated with the Royal Gorge cross-country ski area. These trails, once private lands confined to cross country skiers in the winter and hikers



and bicyclists in the summer, are now open to equestrians.

The area is called Summit Valley and includes Lake Van Norden, the meadow cradling it and the heavily wooded ridges which surround them. Lake Van Norden was created in the 1860's by damming the waters of the South Yuba River, which originate in the mountains to the east, near the Pacific Crest Trail. Looking east, Boreal Ridge and Mt. Disney bracket various mountain passes used by the early pioneers in their quest to reach California. To the north stand the unmistakable contours of Castle Peak.



In the spring the lake is a breeding ground or migration rest stop for many birds, including songbirds, ducks, geese, swans, and even pelicans, and in the summer the meadow teems with wildlife. The river and the lake dwindle slowly during the year until the river ceases to flow in late fall.

This October nine lucky GCTC riders took advantage of a last-of-the-season ride to explore the trails. Although the weather was chilly and quite gusty at times, the riders were surrounded by natural beauty, from the gold of the rustling

grasses in the meadow to the pines green against the crisp blue sky.

The area is rich in history as well as beauty. The riders rode single-track trails through the pines along the mountain ridges and were able to view a little history in the meadow where the permanent tracks of pioneer wagons and later freight wagons are etched into the landscape. The presence of the early Indians is also evident in the grinding holes in the rocks, which skirt the meadow. Archeological evidence indicates that people of the Martis culture occupied this area in the summer for eons before suddenly disappearing in about 500 AD. Other native tribes arrived later and eventually greeted the early pioneers who began arriving in the late 1840's.

Snow arrived in the high country the night after the GCTC ride, and the window of opportunity has closed for a ride at Royal Gorge this year. But be certain to put it on your calendar for next year. A GCTC day ride is proposed for July, 2014 to view the abundant wild life in Van Norden Lake and Meadow.

Submitted by, Mary Johnson and Karen Schwartz

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Twenty Four Years in the Saddle

Melissa Ribley

On September 23, 2013 at 12:01 am under a full moon in the mountainous desert of south east Idaho, Robert and I took the time to stop our current task of following glow bars in the quiet darkness. We had just hiked up a mountainous trail on foot, leading our horses in order to give them a break from the seemingly endless climbs. We needed a breather and noted on our indiglo watches that it was midnight, our 24th wedding anniversary. At the top of this mountain, standing between our horses who were enjoying their rest in the shadows that the bright moon was creating with the trees, we wished each other happy anniversary. Two hours later we were rewarded with the finest anniversary present ever – crossing the finish line with two healthy and happy horses. I can think of no better way to celebrate 24 years together than riding a 100 mile ride. The feeling of riding a 100 mile ride is extraordinary – to be on your horse as the sun rises and to be on your horse when the sun sets and to be on your horse when the moon is high and camp has fallen asleep. Throughout a 100 mile ride, over a potentially 24 hour period on the trail in partnership with your horse, you will experience ups and downs, highs and lows, challenges and accomplishments; but the final result is a feeling like no other and worth every step. Very much like the experience of 24 years of marriage.



The carriage was owned by Viril Norton, the winner of the Great American Horse Race in 1976.

September 23, 1989 began a twenty four year marriage between myself and my best friend and riding partner, Robert. Who is also the best wrangler I know that saddles my horse at 4:30 am in the early morning darkness before every endurance ride.

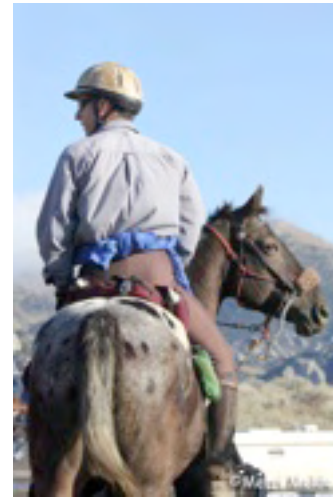
The AERC National Championship in City of Rocks Idaho started no differently, with Robert saddling my horse. The ride was spectacular with views from the mountain tops of the expansive desert below from where we started. Riding amongst huge rock formations, we

were able to watch the rock climbers at work with their climbing ropes and carabineers. Plenty of water and a well marked trail made for a good day for both riders and horses. The trail provided us with everything from narrow, technical switch backs to long stretches of good-going road that the stage coaches once traveled. The brisk winds on the open



mountain tops kept the horses cool during the ride, while the hot springs near ride camp provided a warm and comfortable place for riders to visit between riding.

Endurance riding brought Robert and I together and has kept us together. Going through life and 100 mile rides with your best friend and partner is a wonderful way to really experience living.



WHICH WAY IS THE TRAIL

Submitted by, Melisa Ribley

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GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL 2013 CALENDAR

Date	Event
NOVEMBER	
November 12	Gen. Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast 7 p.m. Grange Hall, GV
DECEMBER	
December 10	Board Meeting - 7 p.m. December's meeting will be held at the Memorial Park Annex Building, 415 Central Ave., Grass Valley, Ca 95945



SUPPORT GCTC AND BE SEEN AT GCTC FUNCTIONS

Check out the new GCTC T-Shirts

T-Shirts are available in short or long sleeves; sizes Small, Medium, Large and X-Large; in green, gold, orange and grey. Short sleeve Ts are \$10, long sleeve Ts are \$12.

They are available for sale at the General Membership Meetings, special arrangement by contacting member Mary Johnson @MJShasta@aol.com or calling Mary at 477-8501

Be sure to pick up the GCTC trailer decal for just \$1.00.

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Thank you to the following members who have renewed their membership and gave additional financial support to GCTC.

Susan Donnelly
Sharon Miles
Howie Muir




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If you know of a GCTC member that needs a little sunshine in their life, contact GCTC's Sunshine Person Cheri Crain at 916-996-8854 with the information and she will be happy to send a cheery note or card to light up their day.

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Maggie Bacot
Carter Chess
Kathleen Coates
Dana DePello
Mark Heuser
Mary Mollard
Dena Oller
Anna and Bill Trabucco

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL BBQ RIDE 2013

At least 25 trucks and trailers were rounded up at Lone Grave for the ride and BBQ. Great ride and Great BBQ



GCTC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2013

Memorial Park Annex Building
415 Central Ave.
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

Attendance: Helen Harvey, Kathy Southgate, Vicki Testa, Sue and Willie Brusin, Mary Johnson.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Helen Harvey.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not read because of the absence of the secretary.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate gave the treasurer's report. As of September 30 the current bank balance is \$19,836.55. Recent income included membership dues, and recent expenses included the newsletter, portable toilet (Lone Grave) and refreshments. Future anticipated expenses will include the trail work for the reroute of the Pioneer Trail.

Willie Brusin presented the Forest Service report.

The Pioneer Trail relocation will follow the ditch berm as originally flagged. A previous historical impact report determined that there was no historical significance to the location. After the appropriate reports are filed by TNF the comment period (30 days) will be scheduled according to recent law. Clearance is expected by the end of the year, so that work to be done by the CDF crew can be scheduled in the spring of 2014.

Skillman campground is closed for the season. The water troughs have been removed and Robert Ribley will be asked to check the water system to assure that it has been properly drained and shut down for the winter. New fire rings are stored at White Cloud to be installed next season. It is anticipated that the same camp host will be taking care of Skillman next year and it is likely that AT&T will supply a phone connection into the camp. GCTC has committed to helping with the expense of the phone line.

Member Pat Gibb and her husband with the help of Sue and Willie Brusin completed the campground area survey. Metal markers were installed (which can be found with a metal detector) to help with mapping and positioning for possible relocation of some items in the campground. It is proposed that an additional horse water trough be located near site #7 & #9 along with the possibility of additional corrals at various sites. A thank you letter to Pat Gibbs for the donation of time will be composed and sent.

The workday for October 12 is still scheduled, although it is unknown if YBONC or BONC will be participating. The work will be conducted on the Towle Mill loop multi-use trail, which currently uses part of Burlington Road as the trail. The objective is to eliminate the use of the road as part of the trail except for the crossings. Irv Mazur, Sue and Willie Brusin have completed the trail signing project on the current trails. Signage for the relocation projects will be installed when all of the work is complete.

The United Trails Day with the Woods Riders, BONC and GCTC will be scheduled in 2014, probably in May.

BONC & YBONC completed the Lindsey Lake trail upgrade in the Grouse Ridge area. Joe Chavez is developing a trail sign replacement list for the area. The signs will most likely be made of oak with the names routed into the signs. GCTC has volunteered to assist in this project.

The purchase of the brush-cutting tool is still in process.

Old Business: Nominations for the Top Hand award are in progress. The form of the perpetual award was discussed with a freestanding award with positions for a yearly engraving of the recipient's name was decided upon. Helen Harvey will check with local trophy businesses for the award.

The Cabo Time share raffle is in progress. Helen Harvey looked into the possibility of making tickets available through the GCTC web site and Pay Pal, but it was decided that would not be feasible at this time. Notification and support for the raffle will be made through email notifications, the phone tree, and the newsletter with tickets being available via mail and at the November meeting.

A thank you note from Back Country Horsemen member Kathy Zumbrunn was received, thanking GCTC for allowing the presentation she made at the last general meeting for their Lucky Calendar raffle. Kathy donated the beautiful ticket tumbler to GCTC.

Nominations for officers and board members are still in progress. Current positions needing replacements are President, Secretary and a board member.

A possible date for proposed introduction ride at the Royal Gorge area for interested board members was discussed. Although it is getting late in the season and the weather is a factor, there is still interest so October 27th was decided. Karen Schwartz will be asked to contact the appropriate person for permission to hold the ride. It is hoped that a general GCTC ride in the area can be put on the calendar for 2014.

New Business: The Thanksgiving feast at the November general meeting was discussed. The new refreshment committee volunteers will need help with the logistics of the dinner. Helen Harvey will contact Gail Plakos, the outgoing refreshment chair, for her notes and suggestions on arranging the necessary food. GCTC provides the turkeys, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, relish and drinks (made by appointed volunteers) and the membership at large is asked to bring side dishes and deserts to finish out the "feast".

Kathy Southgate announced a Golf Tournament fundraiser for money to repair the Western States Trail, which was impacted by the recent American Fire. The fundraiser will take place on October 29 at the Winchester Country Club. Local trails clubs and businesses are being asked to sponsor a golf hole at the tournament for \$250.00. The club or business banner will be displayed on site. A motion to be a sponsor was made by Vicki Testa, and seconded by Kathy Southgate. All board members in attendance approved the motion. President Helen Harvey will also send the motion via email out to the non-attending board members for approval or opposition. Kathy will contact Teri Personeni for the GCTC banner.

Membership chair, Mary Johnson reported that 54 renewals and new memberships have been received so far for 2014.

The annual GCTC ride and Bar-B-Q at the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head is scheduled for October 19, 2013. Merrill Kagan-Weston will be the cook. Sue Brusin will mark the trail, and Willie will assist with set up. GCTC members are asked to contribute potluck food for the event. An email announcement and phone tree calls will be put in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Johnson