

**Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
September 10, 2013
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley**

The general membership meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:08.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Treasurer: Kathie Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Teri Personeni (Past President)

Absent: Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Past President: Teri Personeni

President Helen Harvey welcomed visitors and new members and asked them to stand and introduce themselves.

Helen inquired about approval of the minutes of the August executive board meeting. Secretary Karen Schwartz confirmed that the minutes of the board meeting had been distributed to the board members and for publication in the GCTC newsletter. She reported that no correspondence had been received.

Helen asked Treasurer Kathy Southgate to report on GCTC finances. Kathy provided a detailed report dated 8/31/13 and stated that the current working balance is \$19,559.30. She reported that the Poker Ride fundraiser netted \$2100. A generous donation of \$5000 by Oregon endurance rider Mollie Farkas will provide money to purchase a heavy duty chain saw (approximate cost \$800) for GCTC member Robert Ribley to continue removing fallen trees from the Pioneer trail. Kathy also reviewed upcoming expenditures.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reviewed his report dated 9/2013, including the following items:

Pioneer Trail: The proposed re-route of a section of the trail is now in the final phase of the approval process. The trail pad has been moved 10 feet away from the ditch berm due to archeological concerns. Construction could begin as soon as November but more likely in the spring 2014.

Skillman Campground: GCTC member Irv Mazur, after riding and placing signs on the Skillman trails, is now revising the Skillman trails map. Pat Gibbs has volunteered to lead a crew to survey the Skillman campground and prepare a map that GCTC members can use in developing a proposal for changes to make the area more equestrian friendly. This proposal will eventually be presented to Tahoe National Forrest representative Heather Newell, who is replacing Joe Chavez. She has been contacted regarding concerns about the placement of new fire rings and the disappearance of a water trough in the campground. Currently, no funding is available for replacing the picnic tables. The campground will close at the end of this month.

Trail Building: The 2013 United Trails Day event has been postponed until 5/2014. Instead, BONC will participate in an abbreviated trail worday on 10/12/13 to construct a short rail above the Haleujah Trail to connect with the Towle Mill Trail on Burlington Road. Irv Mazur will chair a project to post new trail signs in the area. In addition, BONC is hosting a trail building project in the Loney Meadow area. For more information, contact BONC President Jon Pritchett at 470-3253.

Helen announced that a chain saw have been purchased thanks to a generous donation, and Kathy Southgate presented a used chain saw to Willie Brusin. A brush cutting machine is also needed but these machines are not sold in California but are available in Nevada. The donation money may also be used to fund a picnic table at Skillman campground.

New Business:

Helen announced that membership renewals are now due and noted that the membership has been slightly modified.

Helen noted that Linda Lanzoni has agreed to serve as Poker Ride Chair again in 2014 if she can count on the same level of volunteer support. Merrill Kagan-Weston has announced that she will chair the Poker Ride in 2015.

Helen thanked Maryann Jorgenson and Krista Ericson for agreeing to take over the responsibility for bringing refreshments at general meetings. Laura Duncan also volunteered to help.

Helen requested volunteers to bring roasted turkeys to the Feast at the November meeting.

Helen asked for a volunteer to take over coordinating the phone tree.

Karen requested volunteers to guide the PMS Posse, a group of horsewomen from Lockeford who will be camping at Skillman campground 9/18 and 9/19. Their group has offered to make a donation to GCTC. Sue Brusin, Ann Rubenstein, and Penny Martin offered to be trail guides.

Helen announced that the nominating committee chaired by Laura Duncan with the assistance of Email Notifications Jaede Maloslavich. Laura described the new Top Hand Award which will be presented to the member who has made the greatest contributions to achieving the GCTC mission. Jaede will seek nominees from the membership. The winner will be announced at the November meeting.

Jaede announced that the Park Watch program, which is now covering parks in five counties, is seeking donations to develop an app which would allow Park Watch to cover parks statewide. The program provides immediate electronic communication to park staff from citizens regarding problems. \$3000 of the estimated \$10,000 needed has been raised, including a donation of \$1000 from GCTC.

Helen announced that the Bear Yuba Land Trust fundraiser will be held later this month, and Jaede will send details to the membership.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements.

Valerie Logsdon announced that Motherlode Arabians has scheduled their 21st Trail Trials event for 9/22 on the Olmstead Loop trail near Cool.

Mary Johnson introduced Back Country Horsemen member Kathy who described the raffle her group is sponsoring to raise money for their trail work projects. She donated a raffle ticket tumbler made by her husband to GCTC and asked members to consider purchasing the BCH 2014 calendar which includes a raffle ticket for the BCH raffle.

Helen announced that raffle tickets were available for purchase to win two vacations in 2014 at time shares in Cabo San Lucas donated by Lynne Sullivan. The drawing will be held at the November meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 for refreshments, followed by a presentation by Heath Wakelee of the Red Cross on dealing with human trail emergencies

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary