



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

You should be receiving this newsletter just before the Poker Ride, and just after the Little Lasier Meadows camp/work/ride.

I'm impressed by the amount of work that goes into putting on the Poker Ride and how many club members are volunteering in order to make the ride a success. An event of this size is a major undertaking, especially considering the organizational work that takes place before the event. This includes making sure volunteers are available for all tasks, and all the up-front work on prizes, food, and publicity. I really appreciate everyone bringing potluck items, whether they're riding or not. In previous years, the food at the poker ride has been varied and delicious. If you haven't signed up yet, come ride! The weather should be perfect.

We're fortunate to have such wonderful equestrian campgrounds as Little Lasier Meadows available. This yearly event where we do any repairs needed on the corrals and any other campground work required is a wonderful opportunity to camp in a truly beautiful location.

We had a representative from Bear Yuba Land Trust come to the last board meeting to talk about their long-range plans. Please read the minutes from the board meeting to get a better idea of the range of possibilities. It looks like there are some real possibilities for multi-use trails. I'm going to add these projects to the list of possible projects for GCTC for our 5-year plan.

The July 10 general meeting will be the ice cream social, see you there!

Helen Harvey



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.

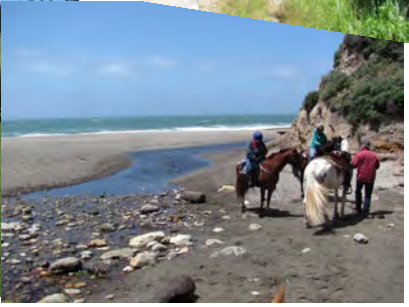
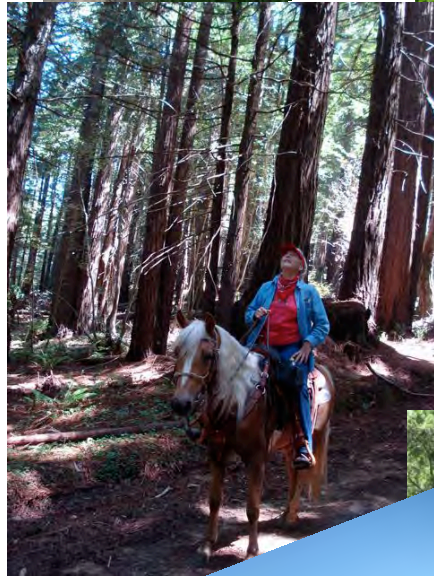


GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 10, at 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

The speaker for the July meeting is Dr. Cheryl Ellis, a veterinarian from UC Davis, who will be speaking on horse emergencies on the trail and UC Davis's horse rescue program.

Pt. Reyes Outing





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Thanks to eleven dedicated GCTC members, the trails around Skillman campground have been cleared. The Skillman workday on Monday, May 14 was a beautiful day in the forest with lots of trail clearing being done by the following members:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Robert and Melissa Ribley | Laura Duncan |
| Sue and Willie Brusin | Jeff Foltz |
| Tom Gore | Susie Roush |
| Kathy Southgate | |

A delicious, hearty and healthy lunch was provided by Cathy Blake and her husband.



Howdy and Welcome to

- Cass & Rob Creger
 Christal Matthews
 Dave & Linda Palley
 Karen & John Sheehan
 Susan Whichard & Gil Denney
 Brent, Alisan, Erin Hastey

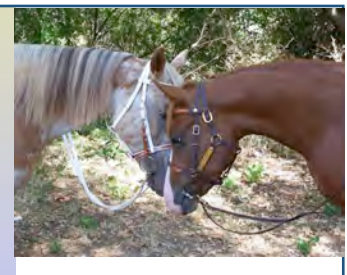
Committee Chairs

- Camp Cook & Coordinator:
 Merrill Kagan-Weston
 Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich
 Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
 Historian: Sharon Silver
 Hospitality: Lori Moniz-Waddell
 Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin,
 Mary Johnson
 Membership: Mary Johnson
 Newsletter: Lynn Mangel
 Phone Tree: Melissa Ribley
 Poker Ride Fundraiser: Linda Lanzoni
 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
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mmribley@gmail.com
 Secretary: Karen Schwartz 470-8790
karen-schwartz@prodigy.net
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2012 CALENDAR

JULY (Fundraiser)

- 7 GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser
- 10 General Membership Meeting
Ice Cream Social
- 21-23 Loney Meadow Camp/work/ride

AUGUST

- 4 Tevis Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)
- 14 Board Meeting*
- 8-12 Nevada County Fair (non GCTC event)
- 10-12 Robinson Flat Camp/ride
- 29 Trail Work Day, Skillman

SEPTEMBER (Membership Renewal)

- 11 General Membership Meeting
- 15 Upper Pioneer Trail Ride
- 21-23 Draft Horse Classic (non GCTC event)
- 29 Work Day, Lone Grave

OCTOBER

- 9 Board Meeting*
- 13 United Trails Work Day
- 20 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ
- 27 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)

NOVEMBER (Elections)

- 13 General Membership Meeting
(dinner, elections)

DECEMBER

- 11 Board Meeting*

* BOD Meetings (August, October and December) will be held at the Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty office at 855 Sutton Way, Grass Valley.



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Try A Benefit Ride This Year

Would you like to get away with your horse for a few days?

Time out from modern life. No phones, no TV's, no computers. Nothing to do but ride beautiful trails and visit with friends, old and new. No responsibilities, no chores, no demands beyond exploring miles of trails through deeply shaded woods and brightly lit meadows. Take your time, ride at your own pace, ride as much or as little as you like. At the end of the day, a delicious dinner, entertainment, and the camaraderie of other riders await you.

If this sounds like something you might enjoy, there are several great rides within your reach this summer. Both are benefit rides put on by horsemen for horsemen like you.

The first is the Twain Harte Horsemen's High Ride at Eagle Meadow east of Sonora. Held in early August, the High Ride is a fundraiser that provides 6 days of access to remote and spectacular high country near the Sonora Pass. It includes three huge meals a day to satisfy the appetite you'll work up riding those gorgeous trails, plus entertainment every evening. It offers some of the most beautiful scenery and challenging horseback riding anywhere in the world. Trail rides led by THH members range from easy to advanced. Over 100 riders participate in the THH High Ride each year, and many return year after year. This year's ride begins July 29th. For details, go to twainhartehorsemen.com and click on Event List. Click on Photo Gallery for pix of the 2011 ride.



Closer to home is the 6-day East Bay Hills Trail Benefit Ride held to benefit the Bay Area Ridge Trail. It's sponsored by the Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen and is similar to the Twain Harte Horsemen's High Ride in some ways: the trails are varied and beautiful, the food is delicious and plentiful, evening entertainment is provided, and many riders return year after year. It differs from the High Ride in that it is more easily accessible. The ride moves through the necklace of beautiful East Bay parks adorning the coastal mountains above Berkeley and Oakland, and detailed maps are provided. This year it begins August 29th with two days camping in Tilden Park, riding the Wildcat Canyon trails, and ends September 3rd. Then on to Miller Park to ride among the redwoods for a couple of days. Camp at Bort Meadow in Anthony Chabot Park the last two days and ride the trails around and above Lake Chabot. During the 6 days, a dedicated rider could cover more than 100 miles, but most of us ride in a more leisurely fashion. Another difference from the Twain Harte ride is that the benefit includes a contingent of hikers who camp separately from the horsemen and bring interesting stories and different perspectives to discussions over dinner. For details go to twaha.org for details.

I hope to see more GCTC riders at these two wonderful benefit rides this year. Feel free to email me any questions you may have about these rides.



Submitted by, Karen Schwartz

I Was So Embarrassed

(but what does the skunk have to do with that?)

We had so many adventures at Pt. Reyes with GCTC in May. Worth and I caravanned with the other members on Wednesday morning, arriving in time for an afternoon ride. The weather was wonderful and the trails darn near perfect, if you could dodge the stinging nettles. Those of us not partaking of the catered meals gathered around the evening campfire at Willie and Sue Brusin's campsite and enjoyed good talk and even better homemade desserts.



Thursday brought another day of fun rides and happy horses. Friday came along and we anticipated "more of the same." Well, we lazed around in the morning, relaxing on our vacation. We finally hit the trail, and ventured hither and yon, checking our map and decided at each intersection that "this trail is only 1.2 miles to the next intersection." We continued adding on those little short jaunts, as the horses were having as much fun as we were, not having to dodge the rocks we are so used to locally. Pretty soon we were on trails new to us, but we knew which way was home, and the fox trotters were trotting and loping along at the speed of sound. So on we went, enjoying the hours in the saddle. We finally had lunch about 3:30 at a picnic table at the Education Center, a very nice little lodge-like setup. The horses grazed and continued being happy horses.

Eventually, these old legs were quite tired of going downhill and I decided to walk. That was all good and fine until I tried to get back on my little pony, Jesse. I keep his saddle fairly loose as he has muscled up to the point that he objects to a tight cinch. By the time we had walked almost the entire length of the Bear Valley trail, I was exhausted. There is not one rock or log on that trail to stand on. Pure manicured city-folk trail. In the defense of Pt. Reyes riding, it is probably the only trail there in that condition. Just before the Visitor

Center, I mounted up. Whew. On we went, down the Rift Trail heading back to camp. We came to the large gate with the sign that says "dismount to open gate" and for good reason. It's on the side of a hill and you pull the gate uphill to open. Worth dismounted and did the honors, afraid of how many more miles I would end up walking if I dismounted. He found a little area on the side of the hill to get back on Sandy. Well, that didn't go so well. Just as he had one foot in the stirrup and one leg directly over his rump, Sandy's feet slid down the trail and Worth did what he likes to call "an involuntary dismount." Smack on his already painful back. Ouch. You can imagine my dismay at what that could mean. But after a while he stood up, said a few words, and we decided to walk a while and see how things went. By this time, it must be pushing 7:00 or so.

Two steps forward and there's the skunk. About 2 feet above the trail, walking back and forth, rooting like a pig in the grass. Back and forth. Cute little guy, his tail all fanned out like a peacock. Back and forth. Okay, move on, little guy. Back and forth. By now I am fretting about what the other club members are going to be thinking (and worrying about) at our absence from camp. So we head off the trail, Worth going down through a very marshy marsh. Sandy's long legs sink to his knees. Okay, little Jesse and I opt to go under a huge tree, dodging the low branches and not missing one leaf of the poison oak that's everywhere. We arrive safely past the skunk, still rooting away by the trail. Whew again. We are alive and walking. All is good. At least for about 5 more minutes, until Worth's body stiffens up and the legs don't want any weight put on them. Oh, dear. How do we get him back on that giraffe of a horse? We shuffle along for what seems like hours (it may have been.) Finally we get to the cow pasture and attempt numerous tries at Worth standing on the rails of the various stuff out there, but Sandy is not having any of snuggling up to anything, especially with about 15 cute little black cows circled around us, staring inquisitively. We shuffle on some more, until a suitable log is found and Worth is on board that horse. I get on Jesse and we are finally homeward bound.

Somehow it got dark. One minute we are moving along and the next minute all I can see is the big white rump of the giraffe.

Those horses knew exactly what we needed, calmness and a steady walk home. We both knew that the portion of trail we were approaching was narrow, winding, and had drop-offs all along it. But Sandy could see well enough with the moonlight (when we weren't blanketed by trees) and Jesse just followed that big white butt. And I kept my big trap shut.

See Embarrassed on Page 7

Embarrassed, Continued from Page 6

Asking if Worth could see the trail wasn't going to help anything. Whether he could or not didn't change anything. Keeping calm for my horse is all that mattered.

Now mind you, we went out prepared. We both had cell phones. Neither one was turned on. It never occurred to me that the club members might be trying to call me, as they had my number on the printout at camp. We both had flashlights, but neither remembered that. (Besides it might ruin the horse's night vision.) We had jackets and we had munchies. But I was so tired I could hardly remember my name. I had a camera on a lanyard around my neck and didn't think to take a picture of that cute little skunk.

Well, let me get to the point of this story.

We rode into camp and approached Brusin's campfire. "Who goes there?" someone asked. It's us, long lost riders. "Oh My Gosh! It's Mary and Worth." "Call the Sheriff and call off the search!" What? They are searching for us? Oh, how embarrassing! "Were you lost?" No, just kinda slow. "Are you hurt?" No, well yes, kinda. Can someone help Worth get off his horse?

This is where I learned something very important. In a matter of a few minutes, Worth was off his horse and into the camper, because of a club member's help. The horses were tied, tack removed and placed in the trailer. Hay and fresh water was provided and the horses were on the highline, blanketed with other people's blankets. Dinner appeared in front of us, ready to eat. Lots of hugs and kind words, and suddenly everyone was back to their own campsites. Wow. What incredible people. What an incredible club.

Things to do before my next riding adventure:

- 1) Buy (and read) the book "Using new fangled phones for dummies."
- 2) Buy (and read) the book "Improving your memory (or remembering why I carry a camera for memorable occasions.)"
- 3) Get my horse a saddle I can cinch up.
- 4) Make sure my friends in Gold Country Trails Council know how much I appreciate them!

Embarrassingly yours, Mary Lundin

P.S. Worth has a contusion and is staying off his feet as much as he can and is healing. He hopes to be on the trail this Memorial Day weekend.

P.P.S. The nettles along the trails remain from April to September thanks to the Park Service's desire not to disturb some bird that might like peace and quiet in the 2900 or so acres they have access to at Pt. Reyes.

Submitted by Mary Lundin



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Check out the following websites:

www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org


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They are available for sale at the General Membership Meetings or by special arrangement by contacting member Mary Johnson at MJShasta@aol.com or by calling 530-477-8501. Be sure to pick up the GCTC trailer decal for just \$1.00



GCTC NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!!

Remember we need your input to the newsletter. Articles/pictures of GCTC activities, rides, workdays, camp outs, or other information of interest to GCTC members would be appreciated. Submission deadline for the Sept/October 2012 Newsletter will be Friday, August 31. Articles/pictures should be sent to Lynn Mangel, Editor (quailhollowpv@me.com)

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 05/31/12**

BALANCE SHEET

Assets:

Cash (bank balance)	12,972.32	
Prepaid Expenses	397.90	
Total Assets		<u>13,370.23</u>

Liabilities & Fund Balance:

Beginning Fund Balance 9/1/11	13,531.10	
Change in Fund balance	-160.88	
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance		<u>13,370.22</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME (CONTRIBUTIONS)

Contributions:

Membership Dues	3,432.00	
Donations Received	424.00	
Poker Ride	0.00	
Newsletter Advertising	301.00	
T-Shirts, Decals, Raffles	286.00	
Total Contributions		<u>4,443.00</u>

Expenses:

Poker Ride	0.00	
Trails/Campground Maintenance	1,421.36	
Equipment purchase & repair	135.88	
Food, Trail Workdays	342.33	
Education (club projector, speaker supplies, etc.)	782.55	
Trails Promotion (maps)	0.00	
Membership Expenses	379.14	
Newsletter	397.23	
Membership Directory	216.09	
Refreshments - General Meetings	92.11	
Donations made	25.00	
History - Scrape Book	138.53	
Post Office Box (\$56 per yr)	104.67	
Grange Hall - Annual Rent (\$300 per yr)	250.00	
Liability Ins - Annual Premium (\$425 per yr)	318.99	
Website	0.00	
Total Expenses		<u>4,603.88</u>

NET CONTRIBUTIONS -160.88

Tevis, From the Back of My Horse
my new book, is now available
Visit SharmaGaponoff.com
and order your copy today!

Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Ride/Work

On a lovely day, two weeks prior to the scheduled work, John Connelly and Mary Johnson made a day trip to assess the needs and make a work plan. Wayne McCarter from California Land Management previously reserved the weekend and met with John and Mary to help in the planning stages. As the scheduled weekend approached, the cold, wet weather earlier in the week (ask Mary & Worth) slowly developed into bright sunny days to beckon the arrival of many GCTC campers, most arriving on Friday, for the Little Lasier Meadow work weekend. On Saturday morning at 9:00 AM there was a very impressive crew of eager GCTC members and California Land Management staff. A group picture was recorded, assignments were handed out and the work began! Many tasks were accomplished, including: on the main corral, a gate was replaced, one was re-hung, top pipe was realigned, old boards were replaced, and horse wire was placed on two of the inner (common) walls for horse safety; a cracked top rail on the wire corral was repaired, cement stepping stones were placed under picnic tables to prevent deterioration of the wood; low hanging branches were trimmed, fire pits were cleaned and debris was raked away; an energetic crew hiked up the connector trail and trimmed brush on the way back down and two chainsaw experts took out some big logs on the Pacific Crest Trail. Whew! and that was all accomplished by 1:00 PM. Many hands make the work vanish quickly, allowing for plenty of ride or relax time.

A delicious abundant pot luck supper was devoured Saturday night and many members enjoyed the great vistas and wide variety of trail options that this lovely camp provides. CLM staff was impressed by the number of GCTC members who participated in this event and GCTC enjoyed the cooperation and help of Wayne and his staff. It is a delight to work together to preserve Little Lasier Meadow camp as a HORSE camp. A BIG THANK YOU goes to these hard working individuals: Wayne and Shar McCarter, Larry Lowdermilk, Doug Howard, Brian Anderson, (CLM), Mary and Worth Lundin, Karen Schwartz, Karen & Harry Wyeth, Stephanie Hensey, Helen Harvey, Warren Thorsen, Cherri Crain, Karen & Joe Jeffers, Lori Moniz, Gigi Lawton, Jaede Miloslavich, Jeff Foltz, Valerie Logsdon, Robin Karlstedt, Nikki Julian-Vasquez, and Mary Johnson.

Submitted by, Mary Johnson



Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
June 12, 2012
Town and Country Realty
226 Mill Street
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:03.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: John Connelly, Vicki Testa

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair)

Absent:

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Board Member Jeff Foltz,

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen inquired about approval of the May minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz responded that revisions to the minutes had been received from the board members and were thus approved. Membership Chairperson Mary Johnson noted additional typographical errors. The second revision of the May minutes will be sent to board members via email. No correspondence has been received.

In the absence of Treasurer Kathy Southgate, Helen reviewed several reports on the status of GCTC finances. She reported that the bank balance as of 5/31/12 was \$12,972.32. Membership totals about 160.

Old Business:

In the absence of Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin, Helen reviewed Willie's report dated 6/4/12, including the following items:

Pioneer Trail: The AERC has awarded GCTC the funds to cover the NEPA report costs for the re-routing of a section of the Cable trail. Joe Chavez of Tahoe National Forrest (TNF) will advise us as to when actual trail work can begin. TNF has removed three large trees at Steep Hollow Creek.

Skillman Area: 50 Skillman trail maps have been printed and delivered to the campground host at White Cloud, at a cost of \$7.50, to be passed out to riders camping at Skillman. Gravel has been delivered to Burlington Road, and David Higbee is scheduled to do tractor work there Wednesday, 6/13/12. A GCTC work day is scheduled at the campground for August 29th.

Helen reported that the plan to seek donations for maintenance of the Porta Potty at Empire Mine has not yet been implemented.

Helen requested that Mary Johnson email her the contents of the Policies and Procedures manual so they can be posted on-line.

Helen announced that preparations are on schedule for the Poker Ride fundraiser. A motion to award a prize of \$100 for the best poker hand was passed unanimously. Entry forms have been emailed by Notifications Chairperson Jaede Maloslavich and will be available on the GCTC website when webmaster Ron Brown returns. Teri Personeni will be asked to follow up with Ron. Notification of the event has been emailed to all who attended in the past. Publicity Chairperson Mary Lundin has sent a press release to the Union newspaper for publication. Helen and Camp Cook Coordinator Merrill Kagan-Weston will be in charge of grilling meat, but coordination of potluck donations remains to be arranged. Many members have already volunteered, and no additional volunteers should be needed to fill various positions.

As the GCTC board considers possible projects for the next 5-year plan, Bear Yuba Land Trust Executive Director Mary Coleman-Hunt and President Fran Cole were invited to attend a portion of the board meeting to address several future projects in which GCTC might play a role. One project, known as Rice's Crossing, will extend from Bullard's Bar to South Yuba State Park and will encompass about 2500 acres along the Middle Fork of the Yuba River. Another possibility is recreational access and improvements on future PG&E land divestitures, which could amount to as much as 10,000 acres, much of it near or along the Bear River and the Fordyce and Lindsey Lakes areas of the Tahoe National Forrest. The transfers will occur in 2016, and potential recipients include Indian tribes, University of California at Berkeley, land trusts, and other public entities. Several board members expressed particular interest in the PG&E land parcels which are near areas where in the past GCTC has sought unsuccessfully to establish an equestrian trailhead/camp.

New Business:

Helen reported that Willie recommended that GCTC purchase additional trail maintenance tools, i.e., 32" Fiskar Power Gear loppers which cost about \$46. A motion to purchase three pairs was passed unanimously

Vice President Melissa Ribley raised the possibility that GCTC dues should be increased. She noted that many equestrian groups in the region charge higher dues, while GCTC provides more activities for its members than many other equestrian groups do. Board member John Connelly volunteered to conduct a survey of other groups' dues, to be presented at the August 14th board meeting. Mary Johnson asked John to include information regarding individual and family memberships.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary