



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

As I write this many members are at Little Lasier Meadows for the campout and workday. I know we have an excellent turnout. It's a beautiful place to camp and ride. Our efforts keep the trails clear and usable and the campground pristine.

Our workday at Skillman was a definite success. We got an excellent turnout with enough people to finish all the trail work that needed to be done. Thank you very much for coming to the workday to make sure the trails are clear for the poker ride.

The poker ride coming up on July 6. Linda Canzoni has again done a fantastic job of getting everything organized for the poker ride. It really requires everyone's participation to be successful.

As you've already heard, the Truckee Donner Land Trust acquired the Royal Gorge property at the end of last year. If you are not familiar with the property it is nearly 3000 beautiful acres on Donner Summit. They are in the process of trying to get a feel for the public's vision of the use of the land, particularly for recreation, and have begun a formal public process. Details about the process, and the land can be found at:

www.royalgorgeoutreach.org

There is a link to the recreational use survey on the Royal Gorge Outreach Site in the lower right hand corner. The direct link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S3Y3RDW>. One major problem with the survey is that it omits a trail use option for hikers and equestrians. Truckee Donner Land Trust is aware of the problem. They asked that we add a comment asking for equestrian and hiking trails. Please, fill out the survey and add a comment stating that you'd like to see equestrian and hiking trail usage. I'll be going to a meeting on July 9 to talk about recreational uses of the land.

July 9 is the general meeting and the all-important ice cream social. Hopefully, I'll have some more information about Royal Gorge to share. I'll see you all at the meeting.

Helen Harvey, President

The Skillman Workday on May 22 was a huge success. Thirty three club members turned out to enjoy the beautiful Tahoe National Forest while helping to maintain and repair the trails around Skillman Horsecamp. Several trails were cleared of brush, one had necessary water bars put in place, and one trail was re-routed around a dangerous hole in the side of the existing trail. The trails are now in great shape. A delicious lunch was provided afterwards by club members Cathy Blake and Michael Brook. Following are the club members who were fortunate enough to enjoy the beautiful outdoors while participating in much needed work on our trails:

Irv Mazur	Melissa Ribley	Allen Appell
James Soto	Robert Ribley	Karen Schwartz
Judy Moore	Kurt Sorenson	Sharon Silver
Bill Gore	Teri Personini	Claudette Paig
Michael Curry	DeeDee Carlini	Laura Duncan
Dale Scoville	and her mom	Jeff Foltz
Gail Anderson	Karen Aulyd	RosMassara
Sue Brusin	Ray Bryant	Susie Raush
Jan Geller	Helen Harvey	Harry Wyeth
Willie Brusin	Mercedes Bevard	Karen Wyeth
		Barbara Hobbs



Article Submitted by, Melissa Ribley
Pictures Submitted by, Sharon Silver

GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.
GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
 off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speaker: A Spokesman from Top This, an RV repair shop in Grass Valley, will address the group about maintaining our towing vehicles and hitches.



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Tevis, From The Back Of My Horse

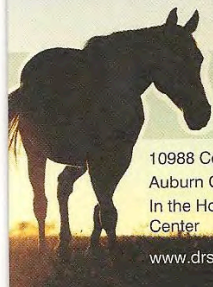
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Proceeds donated by the author to the
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Howdy and Welcome
 to our newest
 members!!



Heather and Virgil Angove
 Honey Cowan
 Howie Muir
 Julie Neuman

Committee Chairs

Camp Cook & Coordinator:
 Merrill Kagan-Weston
Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich
Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Historian: Sharon Silver
Hospitality: Gail and Jim Plakos
Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin,
 Mary Johnson
Membership: Mary Johnson
Newsletter Editor: Lynn Mangel
Phone Tree: Cherri Crain
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
V.P.: Melissa Ribley 268-1378
mmripley@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
jdsoto@dishmail.net
Board Member: Jeff Foltz 916-625-1524
Igf4oaks@yahoo.com



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**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
2013 CALENDAR**

Date	Event
JULY	
July 6	GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser
July 9	General Mtg./Ice Cream Soc. - 7 p.m. (Grange Hall, GV)
July 20	Tevis Endurance Ride (non-GCTC event)
July 28	Work Day TBD
AUGUST	
August 9-11	Loney Meadow Ride/Work
August 13	Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
SEPTEMBER	
September 10	General Meeting - 7 p.m. Grange Hall, GV
September 14	Work Day TBD
Sept. 19-22	Draft Horse Classic Fair (non GCTC event)
Date	Event
OCTOBER	
October 8	Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
October 12	Unified Trail Work Day
October 19	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ
October 26	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)
NOVEMBER	
November 12	Gen. Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast 7 p.m. Grange Hall, GV
DECEMBER	
December 10	Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

E-mail announcements will be sent prior to each RIDE or WORK DAY with staging area info, times, road conditions, directions, footing, ride difficulty, etc. pertaining to that specific event.



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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.

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WELCOME HOME FAY!!

May 18, 2005 my beautiful, buckskin Morgan, Homestead Butterscotch Swirl gave birth to her first foal. She was fussing in her stall and when I went out to check on her at 8 pm, she would not let me leave the stall. She actually blocked the door with her pregnant body. Within 40 minutes she was giving birth. As the foal emerged I was so disappointed to see a bay filly and not the buckskin I was counting on. She was immediately dubbed "Bucking Fay". Use your imagination to figure out how I got that barn name. In time her registered name was to be Terob Bittersweet Kiss. Dark like bittersweet chocolate and sweet like a chocolate kiss, she lived up to her name, and was the sweetest foal I've ever had. At 3 years of age I started her under saddle work and she was a dream to work with. Within a few months I had received an offer to buy her and off to Ohio she went. Nice family with children for this little 13.3 hand filly.

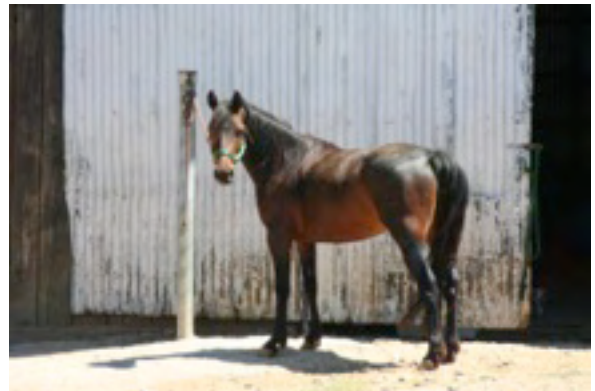


Somewhere along the line things went downhill for this family and despite my repeated attempts to buy Fay back, I was reassured that all was well. This past April I got an email from the gal who had sold Fay's mother to me. The SPCA had seized all 29 horses on the Ohio farm. The charges were neglect. When the SPCA sent a photo of a small horse I told her that couldn't possibly be Fay. I was assured it was. Thin, hairy and covered with lice!! I cried over the phone when I called to tell them I wanted to get my horse HOME!!

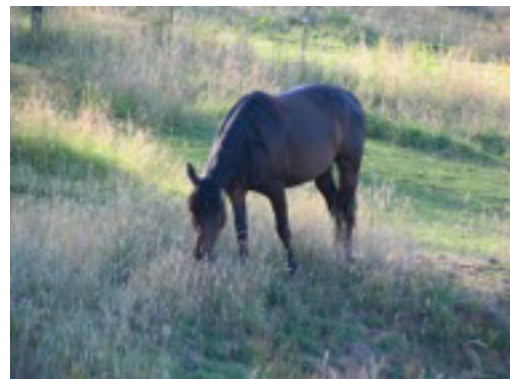
Two months of paperwork, locating shippers and a foster home building Fay back up to a healthy state and she was ready to come home. By wonderful coincidence another Morgan owner in Grass Valley had a filly in OH [even the same town] who was coming home. We coordinated and Fay had a ride. Boy do I love my cell phone. Most of the communication with the shipper and the farm where he was to pick her up was done at a rest stop on I-5 north of Kettleman City.

Fay is home now and has put on a lot of weight. Worming, vaccines and a dental float and she really looks good. The SPCA vet had noted something about her eye, so I had Dr. McCarthy check it out. She couldn't see deeply enough into the eye and referred us to Dr. Faber.

Lucky for us the visit was before this hot spell and I met him at Loomis Basin Vet Hospital. He gave her a thorough eye exam in both eyes and declared her in good eye health. There were signs of a previous injury and some residual inflammation, which I had been treating as per Dr. McCarthy. Whew! What a relief. Now my girl is home and seems to be healthy in all ways. Just as sweet as ever she is very territorial about her feed with the other horses. This I can live with.



June 15, 2013



June 28, 2013

Submitted by, Teri Peresini

Editor's Note: Thank you Teri for sharing this heartwarming story with us. I love horse stories that have happy endings. Bless you for your perseverance to get this little gal back home.

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HORSE PROPERTY FOR SALE

Gold Country Trail Council members Warren and Debbie Thorsen are moving back to Santa Barbara County. We want to let everybody know that our Equestrian Ranch in Penn Valley is for sale and listed for \$480,000 with Diane Helms at ERA Cornerstone Realty. We are located at 13780 Falling Leaf Lane, only 1 mile from McCourtney Rd. Our ranch is ideal for all animals, not just horses. Totally fenced, pastures, paddocks, 4 stall barn, arena pad, hay storage, wash rack and tack room, Also, an 1800 sq ft Workshop building and seasonal pond, We have a 4 bed/3bath home on a beautiful treed 5.25 acre property. We are listed on the Nevada County MLS # 20131380.

Wild West Ride at Skillman

It was a wonderful, well managed ride. The local band was the icing on the cake.

Dale Scoville with his Shagya gelding, Ninja. They Top 10'd on Friday and Saturday.



Our fearless, and I mean fearless leaders, Melissa and Robert Ribley dancing.



A great time was had by all.

Submitted by, Judith Moore



Jonathan J. Zerín
Attorney at Law

Law Office of JONATHAN J. ZERIN
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www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org

www.parkwatchreport.org

www.coolhorsetrails.com

THANKS AGAIN!

to all of you who remembered to take your cameras along. Keep the pictures and articles coming on the GCTC activities. The submission deadline for the Sept/Oct Newsletter will be Friday, August 30. Newsletter Information should be sent to me at quailhollowpv@me.com.

Lynn Mangel

GCTC Newsletter, Editor

Little Lasier Meadow

On a beautiful day, June 9, 2013 a reconnaissance trip was made by Mary Lundin, Gail Plakos and Mary Johnson to determine the repair needs of Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. The trio met with Wayne McCarter and Jace Reed of California Land Management to discuss the camp and the type of work to be done. Wayne and Jace are very helpful and supportive of GCTC efforts to continue horse camping in this wonderful area. It is a pleasure to work with them and the rest of the staff. After the short meeting and a walk through in the camp, the recon crew hiked up the connector trail to access its needs. Several fallen trees were discovered on that trail and the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail). There was work to be done for the planned June 28-30 outing!



The delightful and welcome rain set up a real treat for the arrival for some of the Little Lasier Meadow camp out participants on Wednesday. The air was clean and fresh and the gravel road into camp was dust free! The soft mist across the meadow early Thursday morning was a scene worth waking up for and leisurely rides on dust free trails lined with wild flowers in various shades of lavender, blue, pinks, and oranges were the reward for the weekend. Friday brought the steady arrival of the majority of GCTC members who quickly settled into their assigned campsites. Jeff and Willie arrived early so they could get a start on removal of the several downed trees on the connector trail, and the "monster" on the PCT, prior to the Saturday work party. Because of the anticipated warmth, it was decided to start the Saturday work gathering at 7:30 AM. Most everyone retired early, although the unknown site 11 camper had not arrived yet. Around 10:00 PM, the wait ended as a very large rig crept carefully and quietly through camp. A quick hello to the mystery camper revealed Mike and Laurie Sweeney, trail advocates for the Royal Gorge property. Mike joined the GCTC work crew Saturday AM despite his late arrival!

Workers broke into 4 groups: trail trimmers, trail bed construction, camp ground workers, and trail scouts. White thorn brush and Manzanita were cut back off the trail, water breaks were created and the trail bed was

enhanced on the connector trail. The PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) north of the connector trail was checked and cleared for equine passage. In camp, low hanging branches were trimmed from the campsites, fire pits were cleaned, corral gates were rehung, and wire was added to the "4-plex" corral. And after all that, the hearty workers dug out the gravel from the plugged culvert and moved the gravel to fill in the ruts (big ruts!) in the campground road. All that in four and 1/2 hour !!!



Although the temperature was warm, the afternoons brought a refreshing breeze...just right for a relaxing ride. GCTC members took advantage of spectacular views from the PCT, lush green meadows, majestic trees and carpets of wild flowers. To top the evening off participants gathered for a delicious potluck then retired for a much-deserved night of rest. Sunday and Monday provided more enjoyed riding, and in most cases easy trips home.



A huge thank you is extended to all who made the Little Lasier Meadow work weekend a grand success: Don Soto, Warren Thorsen, Gail Plakos, Mary Johnson, Gail Anderson, Beverly Milke-Hillar, Jeff Foltz, Lori Moniz, Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro, Willie and Sue Brusin, Pat Huntsinger, Frank and Cheryl Maricich, Debbie and Cal McKitrick, and Mike and Laurie Sweeney. For those members who signed up, but had to cancel at the last minute...we hope to see you next year!

Submitted by, Mary Johnson

May 5, Cronan Ranch Ride

This was the first GCTC ride that I have been able to go on. Teri Personini was kind enough to come over to Penn Valley and pick me up. I have to say that the road out to Cool is not for the faint of heart.

It was a beautiful day for the ride. Things were still pretty green with some wildflowers still in bloom. Best of all the weather was perfect. Merrill was our Trail Boss and we had about 13 riders in all.



Never having been to this area before I really enjoyed the trails. We rode in and out of shaded areas, had a couple of water crossings, very nice trails. Half way through we stopped along the American River to let the horse rest, have lunch and watched the kayakers go rushing by. One brave rider even took time out for a little swim.

After a leisurely lunch, we mounted up and headed back to the staging area. Somewhere along the way, Teri suggested that we ride a little longer, so five of us broke off from the group and headed over the ridge. Love riding with Teri, you never know where you might end up.



I think my horse was as happy to see that trailer as I was. After letting the horse cool down, chilling ourselves, we loaded up and headed home. Oh, and did I say the road home was not for the faint of heart either.

Thanks Teri for picking me up and taking me along, it was greatly appreciated. I look forward to my next GCTC ride.

Submitted by, Lynn Mangel



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This request comes from Sharon Silver, our Club Historian. Many of you take your camera along when you attend GCTC activities throughout the year; rides, campouts, workdays, and special general membership meeting during the holidays. You can forward your photos to Sharon via Email at tvp@sierra.net. Help her fill up the club albums for all see what our club is about.



Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
June 11, 2013
Memorial Park Annex Building
415 Central Avenue
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:02.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey
Secretary: Karen Schwartz
Treasurer: Kathy Southgate
Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa
Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Sue Brusin

Absent:

Vice President Melissa Ribley
Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen requested approval of the May minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz reported that a revised version of the May minutes has been issued to all board members, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 6/11/13 was \$14, 820.00. She stated that no billing has been received for the food provided at the Skillman campground workday. She also reported that no billing has been received for the Grange rental. Helen volunteered to contact Sidney Hunt to request a billing.

Board member Jeff Foltz asked about expenses associated with the upcoming barbecue at the board meeting in August. Board members will bring salads or desserts and Jeff will supply the meat entree.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin distributed his report dated 6/2013, including the following items:

Pioneer Trail: The TNF botanist has completed the on-site survey of the wild flowers on the Pioneer Trail relocation area but has not submitted her report. Once the report is submitted, a 30-day period is allowed for public comment before the trail relocation can proceed.

Skillman Campground: Willie reported that Joe Chavez new title is TNF Trails and Recreation Specialist and that Carlos Gonzales is now our contact person for Skillman. The changes proposed for the campground have now been reduced to fire rings and a new vault toilet, probably due to ongoing budget problems. At the May 22nd work day several GCTC board members surveyed the campground to prepare recommendations for TNF representatives on proposed changes, including parking barriers, and considered developing a GCTC proposal. Willie proposed that GCTC develop and propose a master plan for Skillman to be presented during an orientation with Carlos in August or September. In response, board members agreed that a proposal be developed, including a site map, to be presented to Carlos Gonzales in August or September. A site map is needed, and Karen agreed to contact member Jaime Canon, who is experienced in architectural drafting, as to what might be involved. The board voted unanimously to support this proposal with a letter detailing our recommendations and to ask Vice President Melissa Ribley to spearhead this effort.

Upper Pioneer Trail: Willie and Sue recently rode the trail and determined that the trail needs brushing across from the Overlook Vista area. Overgrowth is increasing near the Omega rest stop, and an extra workday may need to be scheduled to remove it.

Other: Board member Don Soto suggested that cyclists carry some sort of sound device to alert horses. Member Sue Brusin recommended that Don contact BONC regarding this idea.

Helen reported that a publicity chair is still needed. Membership Chair Mary Johnson agreed to review members' applications for those who might be interested.

Helen reported that she intends to produce a pdf. format of the membership directory information to be sent to members via email. Kathy reported that she has not received a billing for printing the 2013 membership directory.

Helen asked if the board was satisfied with the GCTC Trail Etiquette Guide included in the GCTC Policies and Procedures manual. The Guide was unanimously approved for distribution to members. It was noted that no dogs or ponying of horses would be permitted at the Poker Ride.

New Business:

Helen reported that food contributions are needed for the Poker Ride and will be coordinated by member Sue Hammontre.

Karen reported that she and member Merrill Kagan-Weston attended an equestrian tour of Royal Gorge, 3000 acres recently acquired by the Truckee-Donner Land Trust. The trails there are spectacular and Karen proposed that the board schedule a day ride there, which she will arrange if there is sufficient interest. The Trust is seeking input from potential recreational users via an outreach survey at royalgorgeoutreach.org, and equestrians should be encouraged to complete the survey.

The Top Hand award, proposed previously by Mary to recognize members who have been outstanding volunteers, especially those who work on trails, was discussed in detail. Nominations will be sent to Nominating Committee Chair Laura Duncan, and the Nominating committee will decide on the annual winner. The winner's name will be added to an engraved plaque to be presented during the November membership meeting.

Helen asked if there were any announcements or questions. Don asked about donating picnic tables for Empire Mine. He agreed to research the costs involved.

Mary Johnson reported that she and several other members met with Jace Reed and Wayne McCarter at Little Lazier to review what work would be addressed during the GCTC workday there scheduled for the weekend of 6/28/13 through 6/30/13. She noted that a number of projects need attention including: limbing of trees in the area where rigs are parked, raking fire rings, scraping and painting picnic tables, removing bumps and washouts in the access road, and removing at least 6 trees from the PCT connector trail. Mary will send photos of the trees to Willie, as well as a huge tree, which has fallen across the PCT. A water bar may also be needed on the PCT connector trail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 753
CEDAR RIDGE, CA 95924

Next Meeting
Tuesday, July 9
7 p.m.

