

# Trail Times



[www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)

## 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.

### Greetings GCTC Members!

Hoping this message finds everyone safe and dry. It's been a wet year no doubt about it. Our dreams came through and then some to ease the drought that plagued us for the last several years. Many of us have experienced the challenges of keeping happy healthy horses in this wet muddy year. If you have something that you found helpful and willing to share with members please send to Jaede Miloslavich for posting.

Looking forward to our upcoming trail work season, early reports indicate that there will be more than enough work to keep us busy. The USFS depends on us to help maintain the trails. As always, we encourage members to review the calendar and commit to one or all of the work days. Remember, the day starts with fresh doughnuts provided by Irv Mazur. Also new this year is an incentive that will only be offered to trail workers. Trail Work Coordinator Susan Donnelly will provide the details at the March meeting.

As I write this message I am basking in the sun enjoying the warmth of this beautiful day. This time of year I am always encouraged with the lengthening days bringing promises of longer rides in the high country.

I hope all of you are looking forward to fun and exciting times this riding season with your equine partners. GCTC Trail Boss Jamie Canon has some great rides scheduled to get you going.

Your President  
Laura Duncan



Minutes of the Tuesday, February 14, GCTC Board Meeting can be accessed on the GCTC Website [www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)



**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**  
**at 7:00 P.M.**  
**Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse**  
**10600 Bubbling Wells**  
**Grass Valley, CA**

Speaker: Dr. Natalie Drost will be educating us on acupuncture for the horse.

### Echo Valley Feed Assists GCTC Member

Echo Valley Feed, located in Auburn, is a feed store known to help horse people in need. They once again have come to the aid of an equestrian who could use some help, and donated hay to an ailing GCTC member. The generosity of Echo Valley Feed has helped a GCTC member through a tough time, ensuring the horses will get the quality hay that Echo Valley is known for. A big thank you goes out to the owners of Echo Valley, Greg and Tammy Kimler. Please remember to support the businesses that support GCTC and it's members.

Submitted by Melissa Ribley



Stara wants to know if it's done snowing yet!  
Submitted by Linda Lanzoni

**Thanks you GCTC members !**

You sneaky people truly surprised me this year!! I was bowled over with the presentation of the 2016 Top Hand Award last night. THANK YOU!!

It is an honor to be your recipient of this special and worthy award. I don't feel for a moment I am the equal of the previous honorees, Willie and Sue Brusin and Mary Johnson, but it sure makes me feel special!



We all bring something to this organization. It was my goal when I joined GCTC seven years ago to be able to use my Apple experience to support its mission. I had established a website and an email newsletter for Apple K-12 education in California and western Nevada to help teachers and administrators integrate technology into their curriculum - and to tell their stories. With two years, there were over 3,500 subscribers, and the neat thing - the stories connected teachers and created a community. The GCTC email notification list was a copycat, and from that we added a Facebook page and a revamped website.

Our public equestrian trails mission is important. Communicating with (and between) our members is the way we help create our GCTC community. All I did was facilitate that communication.

I hope everyone enjoys GCTC's lovely website, our Facebook page and the emails that arrive almost daily! It is worthy work. But, it is YOU and your contributions are what make it all mesh and GCTC a community.

Thank you so much for this honor. The beautiful award is on my mantel in the family room where it is enjoyed every day.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Jaede.

**Deborah Guelinas**  
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## GCTC Pioneer Trail Work/Camp/Ride at Skillman Campground

The Pioneer Trail Work/Camp/Ride is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th through Friday the 19th this year.

The purpose of the Pioneer Trail Work/Camp/Ride is to celebrate one of GCTC's most outstanding accomplishments, the beautiful Pioneer Trail, which extends along Highway 20 from near Nevada City to near Bowman Road. This event will provide a great opportunity for our members to gain greater familiarity with this wonderful trail while working and riding on it.

Similar to other GCTC Camp/Work/Ride events at Little Lasier in June and Loney Meadow in July, we will be working, camping and riding together, while fulfilling our mission of improving and maintaining trails for public access. We'll be working on improving the trails around Skillman campground before it opens on Memorial Day weekend.

But unlike other GCTC events, each afternoon you will have the option of a guided ride over a different part of the Pioneer Trail. If you already know the Pioneer Trail and other trails around Skillman, you may plan your own trail rides. But if you'd like a little company, each afternoon you'll have the option of a guided ride over a different part of the Pioneer Trail. Though we won't ride the whole 30+ miles of the Pioneer Trail over the three days, we'll ride the Pioneer Trail west toward Lone Grave and east toward the Bear Valley Overlook, as well as many of the other trails surrounding Skillman campground. We hope by the end of the Pioneer Trail event you'll feel quite confident about riding these beautiful trails in the future.

Each evening we'll enjoy good food and great company. We'll gather together to share a different BBQ entree supplied by GCTC and supplemented by potluck dishes.

Please note: A competitive bicycle ride sponsored by Y-BONC is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th on some of the trails surrounding Skillman campground. Those GCTC members who wish to stay camped over the weekend will be asked to avoid the marked trails from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm that Saturday.

Rain will cancel the Skillman Work/Camp/Ride event.

Because this is a trail work event in the Tahoe National Forrest, there will be no charge for camping. First preference for campsites will be given to members who plan to attend all three days, then to those who plan to attend two days, and then to those who plan to attend only one day. Campsites will be assigned on a

first come/first served basis. When you reserve your place at the Ride, you may request a particular campsite, but we can't guarantee you'll be assigned that campsite. To join us, or if you'd like more information, please contact Karen Schwartz at [karen-schwartz@prodigy.net](mailto:karen-schwartz@prodigy.net).

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

### Leaders

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 Historian: OPEN  
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 Tool Storage & Maintenance: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro  
 Trail Rides: Jamie Canon  
 Trail Workday Coordinator: Susan Donnelly  
 United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

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**Gold Country Trails Council - 2017 Events Calendar**

**MARCH**

- March 11 Spenceville Ride
- March 14 General Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- March 18 Spenceville Day Ride (rain date)

**APRIL**

- April 11 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- April 19 Lone Grave Workday  
Leader: Susan Donnelly
- April 22 Fundraiser Ride
- April 26 Lone Grave Workday (rain date)

**MAY**

- Open Cronan Ranch Day Ride  
Trail Boss: TBA
- May 9 General Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- May 17-19 Pioneer Trail Work/Ride/Camp  
Leader: Karen Schwartz
- May 20 Penn Valley Parade
- May 24 Work Day - Skillman  
Leader: Melissa & Robert Ribley

**JUNE**

- June 3 GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser  
Leader: TBA
- June 13 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- June 16-18 Wild West Endurance Ride  
(non GCTC event)
- June 23-25 Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride  
Leader: Mary Johnson

**JULY**

- July 4 GrassValley Parade
- July 8 Royal Gorge Day Ride  
Trail Boss: TBA
- July 11 General Mtg./Ice Cream Soc. - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- July 14-16 Loney Meadow Camp/Work/Ride  
Leader: Teri Personeni
- July 16 Loney Meadow Work Day

**AUGUST**

- August 5 Western States Endurance Ride  
(Tevis) (non GCTC event)
- August 8 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- August 9-13 Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
- August 23 Work Day - Upper Pioneer Trail  
Leader: Vicki Testa

**SEPTEMBER**

- September 10 Nevada City Constitution Parade
- September 12 General Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- September 16 Work Day: TBA  
Leader Harry and Karen Wyeth
- September 21-24 Draft Horse Classic Fair  
(non GCTC event)

**OCTOBER**

- October 10 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- October 14 United Trails Day, Leader: Ivyr Mazur
- October 21 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ  
Leader: TBA
- October 28 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)  
Leader: TBA

**NOVEMBER**

- November 14 General Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 5:30 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

**DECEMBER**

- December 12 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.



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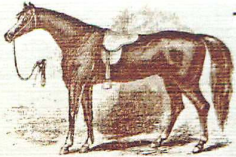
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**Cal Star now AirMedCare**

If you are already a Cal Star member then you probably have been made aware of the transition to the AirMedCare Network. The merger placed several emergency air flight companies together under one large team, broadening the covered area in California and other states. GCTC continues to have a group plan under AirMedCare which gives members a discount rate for the membership year. All family members are covered under the plan which is \$10.00 less than the non group rate. Currently the discounted rate is \$55.00. Whether you are riding your horse, driving your car or using another mode of transportation, if you receive emergency transport by AirMedCare, the costs are covered under their plan. For more information and to sign up go to their web site. Be sure to indicate that you are a Gold Country Trails Council member to receive the discount rate.  
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**GCTC Poker Ride**  
**Saturday, June 3, 2017 - Skillman Campground**

GCTC annual fundraiser will be here before you know it, and after all this rain and snow what a better place to take your horse. GCTC members have been working hard to make it a wonderful event and a successful fundraiser for GCTC. As always we still need Volunteers to help the day of the ride. We also need all the members to help with either bringing a prize for the poker hands, raffle, and silent auction, or seek a donation from your favorite vender. Sign up sheets will be going out in May to bring a side dish to the poker ride. GCTC is known for all the great food, which everyone contributes to the event. Most importantly sign up for the ride, tell or bring a friend. And who knows you may be the big winner of the top poker hand or, win a raffle prize or bid on that favorite horse item at the silent auction, always lots of prizes.



We hopefully will again have live music for our ranch lunch. Camping will also be available at Skillman Friday and Saturday night by reservation, limited spaces and only through GCTC website under poker ride.

Your Poker Ride Manager, Jeff Foltz  
[jgf4oaks@yahoo.com](mailto:jgf4oaks@yahoo.com)

Registration is available on line at the GCTC website along with the ability to pay through PayPal or by credit card.

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**Horse Packing in Emigrant Wilderness**

July 2016 horse packing for 11 days. The part I like the most about packing with the horses is spending 24 hours a day with them (mostly – see below). As you can see our horses spent time in camp with us and in one of the pictures Cinco (the buckskin) is studying the map with me. Of course, the other thing that I like is we can bring some items along that we would otherwise not be able to, such as the screen house along with musical instruments, extra books, a good supply of wine and spirits. We lounged a bit and gave a back-country concert to a large group of equestrians who helped us track down our horses after they had gone on a bit of a walk-about for a few days while we were on a couple lay-over days. There was so much mountain grass and water that the horses had not travelled far but, darn, it was still hard to find them. They were happy, well-fed and rested when we found them. It all ended well and the music party was a highlight.



Coming around Emigrant Lake



Relaxation and map study.



A change in the geology and a lunch break for everyone.

– there was a cold margarita waiting for me at a camper’s site on the far end. Sweet.

Submitted by Helen Crawford

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### Executive Summary

In 2016 the GCTC Board directed that a Strategic Plan be developed which would provide a comprehensive plan and guidance for future strategies and projects. A committee of ten GCTC members and with the input from a survey of the membership produced a long-term strategic plan.

A revised mission statement was created to reflect the changing times:

*GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain, and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users.*



A new vision statement was also created: *Public access to trails for equestrian use.*

Goals, strategies and projects were developed to document the future directions that could be undertaken by GCTC over the next five years.

Six goals were identified (in short):

1. Develop and maintain trails
2. Build a strong internal organization
3. Provide meaningful education to the membership
4. Market and promote GCTC
5. Develop a cooperative and working relationship with the minded groups including the Forest Service
6. Engage the membership to be more involved in GCTC activities



A list of strategies/projects was established for each goal based on input from the survey, committee members and the membership. The strategies and projects will be reviewed by the Board each year and priorities will be established as to which projects should be accomplished with the help and support of the membership.

GCTC was founded as a non-motorized trail building and maintenance organization and the plan adherers to those roots and provides goals and direction to sustain those founding beliefs.

Submitted by Jeff Foltz

### NEW GCTC T-SHIRTS!

We have new Ladies' V-neck short-sleeved T's, new Tank Tops and new Ladies' long-sleeved T's. And now we even have Ball Caps! And of course we also have our standard short and long-sleeved T's as well. Most of the shirts come in Hunter Green, Orange or light Gray. The Ball Cap comes in a light Hunter Green.

The T-shirts were a big hit at the Thanksgiving Feast this year and we sold half of the Ball Caps already.

So if you would like to get up-to-date on your GCTC apparel, email Linda Lanzoni at [Linda@MtnEquestrian.com](mailto:Linda@MtnEquestrian.com) to get color and size availability and to place an order.

- Ball Caps are \$8.00
- Standard SS T's are \$10.00
- Tanks are \$10.00
- LS T's are \$12.00
- Ladies' SS and LS T's are \$12.00

