

# 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.



### GCTC President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Get out your calendar and make sure you don't miss all the fun events we have scheduled for May and June.

First, our day ride at Cronan Ranch is scheduled for **Sunday, May 4th**. This is one of the best places to ride in the spring, with flowing streams, some shaded trails and lovely vistas of the American River. Check this issue for Trail Ride Coordinator Jamie Canon's article on the details of how to join us on this fun ride.

Next, our general meeting on **Tuesday, May 13th** at the Grange will feature a short business meeting, followed by refreshments and a presentation on horse welfare by our own Fran Cole. She is an excellent speaker and will tell us about the fight to save Tennessee Walking Horses from mistreatment.

The next day, **Wednesday, May 14th**, we'll be meeting at Skillman to straighten up the horse camp in preparation for our upcoming Poker Ride. Did I mention the delicious lunch we'll enjoy after we complete our cleanup? Contact Coordinators Melissa and Robert Ribley to let them know you'll be joining us.

Don't forget our Poker Ride fundraiser, which is scheduled for **Saturday, June 7th**. This is always a wonderful opportunity to ride beautiful trails and then enjoy socializing and eating a bountiful luncheon buffet together in camp. There'll be prizes awarded for the best poker hands and all kinds of great-donated items to bid on in the Silent Auction or win in the Raffle. Check this issue of the newsletter for more details from Poker Ride Coordinator Linda Lanzoni.

Last but not least, we'll be going on our first horse camping of the year at Little Lasier Meadow **the weekend of Friday, June 27th** and departing Sunday, June 29th. Check this issue of the newsletter for more details from Little Lasier Meadow Coordinator Mary Johnson.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE see Page 2**



### Cronan Ranch Ride Sunday, May 4

Our Cronan Ranch ride is coming up soon, May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you attended the Spenceville ride you will know what I mean about the beauty of this area in the spring. Merv Kril and Carol Scurria have graciously volunteered to be our Trail Bosses for the Cronan Ranch ride. Karen Schwartz and I met Merv and Carol there recently for a pre ride. It took us a little less than 1.5 hours from Nevada City.



Talk about a beautiful place! Oh my gosh, this place has everything. Let's start with shady single track trails, leading to vistas of the South Fork of the American River. There are long stretches of open, gently sloping wide dirt roads perfect for a long canter. Wildlife is all around (no cattle BTW), level areas, great climbs for conditioning horse and rider and much, much more. On our pre-ride we chose a lovely spot on the American River to have the ride lunch, where the horses can go right into the river for

**CRONAN RIDE see Page 4**

**GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.  
 GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL  
 off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speaker: Fran Cole will talk about the fight to end soring of the Tennessee Walking Horse. This breed, one of the most popular breeds of trail horses both nationally and locally, has suffered unimaginable cruelty in the show ring for decades. However, the horrendous practices may be drawing to a close, as new legislation pending in Congress is moving forward to passage. Even if you don't own a gaited horse, you will appreciate the story of how social media, veterinary associations and public outrage have come together to change history. Fran, the founder of the Northern California Walking Horse Association, has been at the center of the battle to end soring for many years. She has now been kicked out as a member of the national association for her anti-soring advocacy. Fran wants to share her story and enlist your help to end soring of the Tennessee Walking Horse forever.



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Speaking of important dates, be aware that a half marathon is scheduled on **Saturday, May 24th** to be run at and around Skillman campground, including the Pioneer Trail from Chalk Bluff to the Equestrian Overlook, the Hallelujah Trail, the Dogwood Trail, Upper Burlington, and Stanton Trail.

Join us at any or all of the Gold Country events. They're just the beginning of many activities coming up in the near future, like the Ice Cream Social and the Royal Gorge day ride in July. I hope I'll see you at every one of these events to share the fun.

Karen Schwartz, President

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Merrill Kagan-Weston

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Historian: Sharon Silver

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Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin  
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**POKER RIDE Is Almost Here**

Hi Everyone,

With just about a month to go, we are ramping up to make this year's Poker Ride the best one ever. We've moved the date up a month to (hopefully) avoid the hidden bees nests; volunteers have been raising their hands and offering their time and skills; the Forest Service has been quite cooperative; the prize donations are already rolling in; Renewable Energy Products has graciously offered to cook for us again and Irv Mazur's band is going to serenade us with their fabulous classic rock!

We still need lots more volunteers and lots of food donations. Please call or email me or the Captain of the committee that you would like to help... it's never too late!

I'll be at the May meeting with extra colored flyers for you to post, copies of the registration form for you to give out or sign yourself and copies of the prize donation receipt form in case you are able to solicit a prize or have one yourself.

If you've been to the Poker Ride in the past, you know what a great, fun day it is... If you've never been, DON'T MISS IT! Great ride... Great food... Great prizes... Escorted parking... Music... THE BEST POKER RIDE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA!

See You There!!!!

Linda



**GCTC Annual camp, work, ride at**



**June 27 - 29, 2014**

Enjoy the weekend at this beautiful horse camp created and maintained by GCTC in cooperation with the Tahoe National Forest and California Land Management. Each June during the camping trip members work for 4 hours Saturday morning to spruce up camp, make needed repairs to corrals and clear the connector trail and parts of the PCT. The rest of the time is spent riding the many trails and enjoying friends and good food. There will be a potluck dinner on Saturday night. Camp for free on Friday and Saturday nights, courtesy of CLM. You can come earlier in the week or stay later as many have done in the past, paying the regular camping fees for the extra nights.



Contact Mary Johnson, [mjshasta@aol.com](mailto:mjshasta@aol.com) or 477-8501 as soon as you can if you are planning to participate. There are a limited number of corrals, so it is best to have a back up plan to house your horse, such as portable corral, high line, or tie to trailer. I will need to know what type of rig (size) you have in order to assign appropriate campsites. Call if you have questions or need more details. Come join the fun in this scenic restful area!

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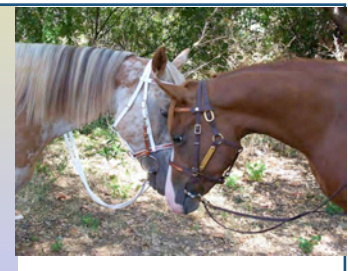


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If you know of a GCTC member that needs a little sunshine in their life, contact GCTC's Sunshine Person Cheri Crain at 916-996-8854 or [cwcrain01@gmail.com](mailto:cwcrain01@gmail.com) with the information and she will be happy to send a cheery note or card to light up their day.



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**CRONAN RIDE**

a drink or a dip. There are even Porta potties. (Did I mention this place has everything?) Also still standing is an old movie set. Attached is a link to a great description of the movie and the area. The wide, gently sloping, dirt road that is there was apparently the road Wagons descended down in the movie filmed there. <http://americanvintagebarns.blogspot.com/2012/07/cronan-ranch.html>

Don't miss this ride. It is going to be another great day for a guided tour of a place you will want to return to. If you plan to attend, let me know, and I will email you directions and also a link to a map of Cronan Ranch. See you there, Jamie Canon 530-265-8326, [tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net)

The Gold Country Trail Council would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous donations.

Patti Bell  
Gold Country Gaited Horse Club  
Kelly Garner  
Cathi & Alyssa Mayo

GCTC members are not always able to participate in workdays or other activities but want to contribute to the support of the important work that the Gold Country Trail Council does throughout the year. We appreciate their donations and support.

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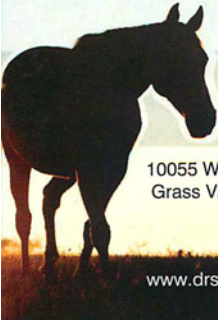
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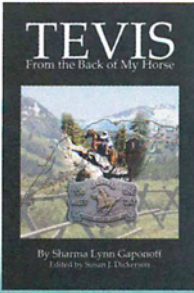



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**Trail Times** is the official newsletter of the Gold Country Trail Council. It is an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of GCTC and of interest to its members. It is published every other month (Jan-Feb, Mar-Apr, May-Jun, Jul-Aug, Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec).

Editor - Lynn Mangel - (530)432-6979 (please leave message) - [quailhollowpv@me.com](mailto:quailhollowpv@me.com)

**Member submissions** are encouraged and may be made by email or snail mail. Submissions may be edited to accommodate the space available.

**Deadline:**

All submissions are due on or before the last day of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec. Our objective is to provide members with a copy of the GCTC Newsletter, containing BOD meeting minutes, a week prior to General Membership meetings.

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL  
2014 CALENDAR**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>MAY</b>	
May 4	Cronan Ranch Day Ride Trail Boss: Carol Scurria, Merv Kril
May 13	General Meeting - 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
TBD	United Trails Day/Work Day Coordinator: Irv Mazur
May 14	Work Day - Skillman Coordinator: Melissa & Robert Ribley
<b>JUNE</b>	
June 7	GCTC Annual Poker Ridge Fundraiser Coordinator: Linda Lanzoni
June 10	Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV
June 13-15	Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento (non GCTC event)
June 20-22	Wild West Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)
June 27-29	Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride Coordinator: Mary Johnson
<b>JULY</b>	
July 8	General Mtg./Ice Cream Soc. - 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
July 19	Royal Gorge Day Ride Trail Boss: Mary Johnson
July 26	Work Day - Bowman/Langs Crossing Trail Boss: TBA

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>	
August 6-10	Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
August 9	Tevis (Western States Endurance Ride (non-GCTC event)
August 12	Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV
August 23-31	Loney Meadow Camp/Work/Ride Coordinator: Teri Personeni
August TBA	Robinson Flat Camp/Ride Coordinator: TBA
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
September 9	General Meeting - 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
September 13	Work Day - Bowman/Langs Crossing Coordinator: TBA
Sept. 18-21	Draft Horse Classic Fair (non GCTC event)
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
October 4	Work Day TBA Coordinator: TBA
October 12	United Trails Day/Work Day Coordinator: Irv Mazur
October 14	Board Meeting - 7 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV
October 18	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ Coordinator: TBA
October 25	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
November 11	General Meeting/Thanksgiving Feast 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
December 9	Board Meeting - 3 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV



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Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Teddi Alves-Craigen  
Teresa Dietrich, Michael Denis  
& Kaitlin Crowley family  
Rich & Tamara Dumont  
Kelly Garner  
Charles Green  
Cathi & Alyssa Mayo  
@ Penn Valley Equine

**Gold Country Trails Council  
Trail Etiquette Rules  
Date Adopted April 2013**

*This safety policy and rules apply to at all GCTC activities involving horses.*

Before the ride:

1. Contact the Trail Boss to RSVP that you plan to attend and to ask any questions you may have. You are responsible to judge your horse's fitness and conditioning level. Do not attempt a ride that requires a better level of conditioning than you or your horse has. Take into consideration the distance of the ride, your horse's muscular and aerobic fitness for hills or mountains, and your horse's heat tolerance. Sometimes arrangements can be made for a second, shorter, less difficult ride for less conditioned horses.
2. Arrive at the trailhead well before the ride is scheduled to start. When parking your rig, leave plenty of room between rigs so that horses tied to trailers next to each other can't kick. If camping, don't park near someone's campsite with your rig unless you talk it with them first.
3. Be ready to ride out at the time the ride is scheduled to begin. It is recommended that you carry a halter and lead rope, hoof pick, drinking water, and a sharp knife or Leatherman-type tool. Helmets are strongly recommended and are required for riders under age 18. Keep your horse's safety and well-being in mind at all times and check with the Trail Boss if you have any concerns.
4. Riders are responsible for the conduct of their horses. If your horse kicks, put a red ribbon in its tail and warn other riders. Inform the Trail Boss before the ride begins if your horse is inexperienced on trails, kicks, or may engage in any other behavior, which could represent a threat to other riders and their horses. The Trail Boss will carry extra red ribbons for riders needing them. For safety reasons, the Trail Boss may assign you and your horse to a particular group and/or may specify that you are to ride at the back of the group. No horses may be ponied during group day rides. No stallions may be ridden on group day rides.

During the ride:

1. Riders must use appropriate riding footwear, e.g., no sandals, no bare feet. Members under the age of 18 are required to wear helmets on all club rides and events. Use of helmets is recommended at all times for all riders.
2. The Trail Boss leads the group unless he or she designates someone else to be in the front. Do not ride ahead of the group or the Trail Boss without permission.
3. Riders are responsible for maintaining control of their horses. If your horse kicks, you may want to consider riding at the back of the group. If your horse is unruly, continues to jig, or is upset and unable to relax, consider moving to the back of the group so you do not distract the horses behind you. Or consider getting a partner and separating from the group to give both you and the rest of the group a safer, more pleasant ride. Be sure to notify the Trail Boss before you leave the group. If your horse engages in other objectionable behavior, the Trail Boss may prohibit you from participating in the ride in the interests of maintaining safety.
4. Keep at least one full horse length between horses, especially on single-track trails. Always keep at least one full horse length, preferably more, between horses when going up or down hill.
5. Use hand signals to notify riders behind you that you are stopping or slowing. Watch for hand signals from those riding in front of you.
6. Don't pass another rider without calling for the trail and telling them that you are coming by them on the right or left.
7. Never speed up going up a hill when riding with a group, unless the entire group has agreed to do so. You may upset horses behind you and create a dangerous or uncontrollable situation for yourself and others.
8. If you want to ride faster, ask permission from the Trail Boss. If you are given permission to ride ahead, wait until you are out of the group's line of sight before you increase your speed. Wait at the next intersection for the group to catch up so you do not get lost.
9. If a rider dismounts, wait until they are back in the saddle before riding off. If you don't wait, they may not be able to mount. This is especially important when opening and closing gates.

10. Practice responsible trail stewardship. Stay on designated trails at all times. Do not ride on trails which are in poor condition (such as deep mud) which may cause permanent trail damage or endanger the soundness of your horse.
11. Attempt to ride on the uphill side of trails whenever possible, but especially if there are blind corners, so it is easier to avoid an accident if other trail users surprise your horse
12. When encountering other trail users, always slow down to a walk. Make verbal contact with them to alert them that you are approaching. Watch for a response. Be very courteous and careful when approaching and passing bicycles, hikers or other horses.
13. Do not dip sponges in water troughs. Other horses won't drink salty water.
14. When tying your horse on the trail, always double check to be sure you tie only to sturdy objects such as large trees and fence posts, not cross rails.
15. Always carry out everything you brought in.

After the ride:

Leave the trailhead as least as clean as you found it. Clean up all manure and hay before leaving and dispose of it in appropriate manner (bag it, spread it, etc., as required).



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## Ten Habits of Competent Riders

We can all think of a rider we know that seems to always do well, has calm, happy horses, and steadily improves their horse's physical and mental state in an almost effortless manner.

We watch and admire from afar, but in fact, we can all stand to learn from their regular habits and "way of being" in order to develop our own horse riding mantra.

What do great riders have in common that makes them appealing to watch, steadily develop their riding skills and become role models for others to aspire to emulate?

- 1. Persistence:** Good riders are willing to try, try again. They know that there will be more rides, more days, and the slow and steady approach always wins the "race".
- 2. Open-mindedness:** Good riders know there is something to be learned from everyone, even if to see proof of why NOT to do something. These riders are not discipline exclusive, and are always aware that good riding is good riding is good riding, regardless of the saddle or style.
- 3. Patience:** Good riders are willing to wait to reap the rewards. They know that even if something falls apart today, there will be more days to come and small steps even backward are more beneficial than quick fixes or shortcuts.
- 4. Quitting:** This may seem counter-intuitive, but good riders quit while they're ahead. They ride for short periods of time to their highest ability and then call it a day. They seem to intuitively know when enough is enough.
- 5. Effectiveness:** Good riders seek maximum effectiveness with minimum harm. They make every step count, and they resist overriding the horse for the sake of performance.
- 6. Self-Improvement:** Good riders regularly seek to upgrade their riding skills and general horse education. They are willing to spend time, money and humility in the quest for constant self-improvement.
- 7. Seeing the Big Picture:** Good riders enjoy the "work" and the path as much as they do the goal achievement. They know that each day and each step is as important as the other and is a natural progression in development.
- 8. Role Models:** Good riders know good riding when they see it and seek to surround themselves with those who will not only help them improve on a riding level, but also on a more personal and inspirational level as well.

**9. Problem Solving:** Good riders can trouble-shoot through problems to come to gratifying solutions. They have many tools in their "tool-boxes" and know there is more than one way to approach a situation. They are always willing to try new things.

**10. Horse Listeners:** Good riders are expert horse listeners! They are sensitive to the feedback from their horses and adjust their responses accordingly.

It's as simple as that! :-)

Posted by Horse Listening, April 1, 2012

## Spenceville Ridge

Our Spenceville ride was a great success! It was a beautiful spring day, so green it was like a magical fairytale land. We had a wonderful group of members riding, including Sharon Haennelt, Terri Personeni, Tom Wilson, Diane Hastie, Suzanne Vacarro, Karen Schwartz, Jamie Canon, Kathy Cahouette, Don Desoto, and Warren Thorsen on his mule.

We met at the "Far Camp Ground" and rode out from the trailers promptly at 10:00, fording Dry Creek (which wasn't so dry). Then we headed out, passing Pittman Pond and into the heart of Fairy Tale Land. Several riders spotted a green Leprechaun. I myself am pretty sure that maybe I saw the Easter Bunny, but I could be mistaken, as the green scenery was so vibrant, I was somewhat blinded by the greenery.

After the ride we sat down together for lunch back at the trailers, swapping tales about the delightful experience of our spring Fairy Tale ride at Spenceville.



You should have been there!

Submitted by, Jamie Canon



**LONE GRAVE WORK DAY APRIL 27, 2014**

Sunday was the first official workday scheduled for trail maintenance and the early morning weather did not appear to be cooperating. However, with an abundant sense of optimism 17 brave GCTC members showed up to work.

Our workday group included Sue and Willie Brusin, Tom Wilson, Nikki Julian Vasquez, Laura Duncan, Kurt Sorenson, Irv Mazur, Barbara Simmons, CJ La Curta, Harry Wyeth, Ginny Dix, Mary Margaretich, Don Soto, Tom Soto, Vicki Testa, Jeff Foltz, and Merrill Kagan Weston.



A hearty welcome and special thank you to Barbara, CJ and Mary our newest GCTC members. We appreciate your willingness to get involved and work on the trails.

Helen Harvey our past president surprised us all by showing up with the new hedge trimmer in spite of being sick. We thanked her heartily and then sent her back home.

Willie divided the group into two crews. Vicki headed up the lopping crew and the rest were assigned trail building.



The work was made easy with all the capable hands joining in to complete the jobs.

At the end of the trail, Merrill treated us to a deliciously healthy salad and potato bar luncheon. It was a perfect reward for a day of work and camaraderie in our beautiful Tahoe National Forest.

Reminder! May 14 is next workday at Skillman. We need all of you to show up and get the job done.

**Submitted by, Laura Duncan  
Photos by Nikki Julian Vasquez and Laura Duncan**



Horse Sculpture in the Sand

**YOUR AD COULD BE HERE**

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 753  
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Next Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13  
7 p.m.