

# 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

Greetings GCTC Members!

Enough is enough already with this rain! It may have deterred some plans but we do press on. Looking to the brighter side, spring flowers are in abundance, the dogwoods are starting their floral extravaganza and the lilies are prolific. This is the time to get out on the trails and experience nature's beautiful display.

We have a busy and fun filled calendar ahead of us out on the trails. For new and long term members remember that work days, trail rides and camp outs are opportunities to become familiar with the local trails system.

Starting off the month, May 3 is the twice re-scheduled work day at Lone Grave. We need a strong turn out of members for the work day. May 6 is celebration of the Horse at Simply Country feed store in Penn Valley. GCTC will have an informational table set up and members are welcome to volunteer. May 9 is our general meeting. Mary Johnson and Mary Lundin will have a horse camping demonstration starting at 6 pm. This is always a great event for both new and experienced campers.

May 24 is our long awaited work day at Skillman to get the campground up and running for our June 3 poker ride fundraiser. Also, June 3 is trails celebration day and GCTC will have a table set up to share information with the community. Board member Helen Crawford is heading up that event and if you can volunteer please contact her.

In closing, I would like to recognize Wille and Sue Brusin and Suzanne Vaccaro for their continued hard work keeping the trails open and signed so that all of us can safely use the trails.

Also, a special thank you to Jaede Miloslavich and Lynn Mangel for keeping us informed and connected in our mission. And lastly, another special thank you to Jeff Foltz and committee for developing GCTC strategic Plan. With their time and effort and most importantly yours we become a better and stronger organization.

I look forward to seeing all of you out on the trails.

Laura Duncan, GCTC President

**Tuesday, May 9, 2017  
at 7:00 P.M.**

**Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse  
10600 Bubbling Wells  
Grass Valley, CA**

Speaker: Clair Thunes will be giving a presentation on laminitis prevention and pasture management.

**Horse Camping Demonstration  
May 9, 2017 GCTC General Meeting  
Nevada County Horsemen Grounds  
Starts at 6:00 PM**

See, listen, learn, share tips for camping with your horse. Options for camping, what to bring, how to store it, the horse's needs, portable horse housing, high line demonstration, traveling first aid kit, necessary documents, feed, hand outs, camping resources, question & answer time, and more! Learn some of the basics if you are new to horse camping. Bring your own tips if you are a seasoned camper. Enjoy an hour of information sharing for a fun activity to enjoy with your horse!



### Relief for all at Empire Mine, Penn Gate staging area

On May 5 a Handicap sized Porta Potty will be installed at the Penn Gate staging area for Riders, Hikers, Dog walkers, etc. "I ride here often" says Laura Berman, Broker at United Country-Great West Real Estate and I have missed the Porta Potty that in the past was sponsored by Grass Valley Hay and Feed and also Gold Country Trails Council. "I really missed not having it there, so I decided that I would take up the sponsorship of it. It is scheduled to be there from May 5 to October 5, 2017. "I hope everyone that uses these great trails enjoys using it".



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### Gold Country Trails Council - 2017 Events Calendar

- MAY**
- May 9 General Meeting - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
  - May 20 Penn Valley Parade
  - May 24 Work Day - Skillman  
Leader: Melissa & Robert Ribley
- JUNE**
- June 3 GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser  
Leader: Jeff Foltz
  - 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 17 Constitution Day Parade - Nevada City
  - 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: Ivr 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. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

**SIMPLY COUNTRY HORSE DAY EVENT**

We are having a booth at the Horse Day at the Simply Country Store in Grass Valley. We need one more volunteer for this fun event!

10110 Harvest Lane Store, Penn Valley  
 May 6, 2017  
 Event 3 pm - 6 pm

Speakers, Demos, FREE stuff!, Raffles, prizes, demonstrations and store sale.

If you are available to help staff table please let me know.  
 Laura Duncan <ldhorses@sbbmail.com>  
 (530) 788-2363



## STELLA

On February 28, I lost my beloved long-eared friend Stella, to suspected botulism. We found a decomposing rodent at the bottom of one of our water troughs, and this is the suspected cause. We will never be certain that this is why she died, but I just wanted to remind everyone to avoid such potential heartbreak by regularly inspecting, emptying and cleaning out their water troughs. This mouse was way down at the bottom of the trough and not visible - it was only found by emptying the trough.

I am now watching my other critters like a hawk for signs of botulism.

From an Equisearch article: "The earliest obvious symptoms of botulism involve the nerves that control the horse's ability to swallow and move his tongue. He may have trouble holding his head up, and anal and tail tone are often decreased. These early symptoms are easily mistaken for encephalitis or viral nervous system infections, or even rabies. As the disease advances, the horse gets progressively weaker and has trouble supporting his weight. Eventually the horse goes down, is unable to rise on his own, and paralysis spreads to the muscles he uses to breathe-the diaphragm and muscles between the ribs (intercostals). If the disease runs its natural course, the horse will die either of suffocation or when the heart muscle fails."

Submitted by Fran Brogel

**Some possible solutions:**

So opossums, skunks, mice, rats, squirrels can get out of your water troughs, put a board or lath or rope or tree limb in it so critters can climb out. Some people float a 2 x 4, but some horses pull it out and play with it. The rope tied to the fence is a good idea, too.



<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

**Leaders**

Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy  
 Communications, Web Site and Social Media:  
 Jaede Miloslavich 530 277-7765  
[jaede@sbbmail.com](mailto:jaede@sbbmail.com)  
 Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin  
 Historian: OPEN  
 Hospitality: Gail Plakos and Maryann Jorgenson  
 Little Lasier Meadow: Mary Johnson  
 Membership: Mary Johnson 530-477-8501  
[mjshasta@aol.com](mailto:mjshasta@aol.com)  
 Newsletter Editor: Lynn Mangel 530-432-6979  
[quailhollowpv@me.com](mailto:quailhollowpv@me.com)  
 Poker Ride Fundraiser: Jeff Foltz 916-625-1524  
[JGF4oaks@yahoo.com](mailto:JGF4oaks@yahoo.com)  
 Program Director: Melissa Ribley  
 Publicity: Teresa Dietrich  
 Sunshine: Charlotte Chapman 530-268-1145  
[charlottechapman2@aol.com](mailto:charlottechapman2@aol.com)  
 Tool Storage & Maintenance: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro  
 Trail Rides: Jamie Canon  
 Trail Workday Coordinator: Susan Donnelly  
 United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

**Gold Country Trails - Council Officers**

President: Laura Duncan 268-1219  
[ldhorses@sbbmail.com](mailto:ldhorses@sbbmail.com)  
 V.P.: Melissa Ribley 268-1378  
[mmribley@gmail.com](mailto:mmribley@gmail.com)  
 Secretary: Mary Lundin 272-5813  
[charkrider16@hotmail.com](mailto:charkrider16@hotmail.com)  
 Treasurer: Teri Personeni 273-9144  
[teri@terobmorgans.com](mailto:teri@terobmorgans.com)  
 Past President: Karen Schwartz  
 Board Member:  
 Helen McDermott 530-478-0545  
[sugarpine1996@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sugarpine1996@sbcglobal.net)  
 Board Member: Fran Cole 530-272-6363  
[moondancewalk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moondancewalk@sbcglobal.net)  
 Board Member: Charles Green 530-268-3905  
[cgreen4564@gmail.com](mailto:cgreen4564@gmail.com)

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**Little Lasier Meadow weekend  
June 23-25, 2017**

Many hands needed to ready this camp for 2017 horse camping adventures! With the extended rain/snow season this year it is difficult to imagine camping in the mountains in just two months! But if all goes as planned we will be camping, working, and riding in the scenic Tahoe National Forest near Jackson Meadow Reservoir at the GCTC annual outing at Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. The stream will be running through the meadow with wild flowers in abundance! The forest service reserves the camp for GCTC members at no charge in exchange for the short four hours of work that GCTC does on Saturday morning. The duties will include tidying up the camp, building a new corral, repairs to existing corrals, and clearing trails. There is a good chance that the weather has created more damage than in the last couple of years, so it will be beneficial to have a large turnout of volunteers this year! Come and enjoy the trails, the friends and the food at the Saturday night potluck dinner. You are welcome to extend your camping stay (at your own expense) into the week before after the weekend event. (And since the weather may give us incentive to delay this outing it would be nice if you have flexibility built in to your calendar for a possible change to June 30-July 1-2). LLM is a lovely horse camp, with several loop trails and the near by Pacific Crest Trail with outstanding vistas. The camp includes corrals, vault restrooms, (no showers), a hand pump well for horse water in camp, and campsites with tables and fire rings. If you can't bring your horse, come and enjoy hiking, boating, fishing and sight seeing! Contact Mary Johnson, [mjshasta@aol.com](mailto:mjshasta@aol.com) or 477-8501 if you have questions, if you are interested in or planning to attend.




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Evelyn Soltero, MS  
Geoscientist

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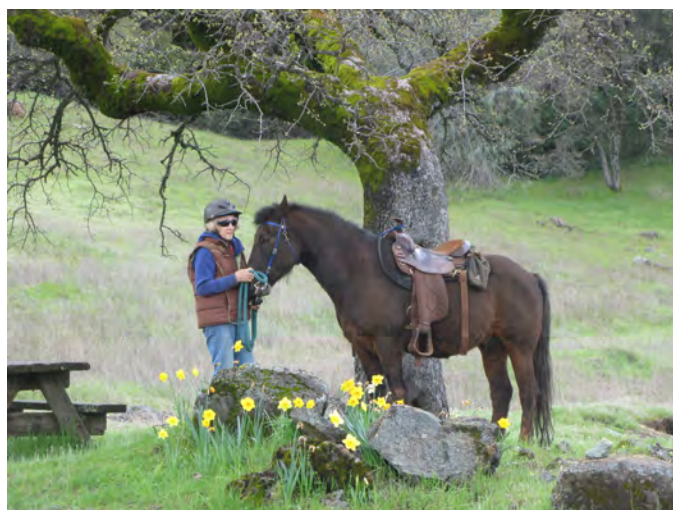
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This photo is shared by Stephanie Williams/Collins. An anonymous person planted some daffodil bulbs last fall at a rest stop on the trail she rides. It was quite a treat to come upon these flowers on a recent ride!! Happy Spring Trails.



**GCTC Poker Ride  
Saturday, June 3rd, 2017,  
Skillman, Horse Camp**



The Poker Ride is just around the corner, time to get those horses cleaned up, tack oiled and the mud off those boots - spring is here. The campgrounds will be cleaned up and the trails marked and ready to ride. The horses will thank you. You can sign up on line at GCTC web site and tell a friend. If you don't plan on riding we can always use everyone's help the day of the ride, set up, registration, parking, card stations, poker hand card readers, food prep, guitar player, help with the prizes, drag riders and of course clean up. What makes the poker ride a success and tasty are the homemade dishes from our members that go along with the meat and beans. This year if your last name falls between A and L please bring a salad or appetizer, last names M to Z, please bring a dessert. We are still in need of prizes for the poker hands, raffle and silent auction, check around the house or barn for new horsey items or gently used items that might make a great prize that you no longer have a need for. One women's junk is another women's treasurer. Homemade crafts are always welcomed and treasured. If you don't have an item you would like to donate seek a donation from your favorite vender most are willing to donate to a good cause, just have to ask. GCTC Prize Chair - Rose Massara, phone 530-263-5558

Registrations are coming in, last year we sold out so get your registrations in early, and besides you can save a little money on early registration. Who knows you maybe the big winner of the top poker hand, or win a raffle prize, or bid on that favorite item from the silent auction. We plan on having live music for our ranch lunch, don't forget to bring a chair, extra poker hands and raffle tickets will be sold the day of the ride. Come support your GCTC, the money raised goes to build and maintain the trails we all enjoy. Registration is available on line at the GCTC website site: [goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org](http://goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org), along with the ability to pay on line through Pay Pal or by credit card, you can also down load an application and mail in a check. Ride out at 10am Saturday June 3rd, 8 mile loop, lunch is served at 1pm, poker prizes and raffle prizes are awarded after lunch, come early parking is always at a premium, unfortunately no valet parking. Your poker ride manager, Jeff Foltz, [jgf4oaks@yahoo.com](mailto:jgf4oaks@yahoo.com), phone 530-329-3097.



**PIONEER TRAIL WORK/CAMP/RIDE  
CANCELLED  
But May Be Rescheduled**

The GCTC board has cancelled the GCTC Pioneer Trail Work/Camp Ride event scheduled for mid May, but the event may be rescheduled to later this summer.

Due to the severity of this past winter's weather, Skillman campground will require considerable work to make the campground usable for horse camping.

Our GCTC board is working with Forest Service staff to accomplish the necessary cleanup (please see the Minutes of the April board meeting).

GCTC members will be informed if we are able to re-schedule this event, and those members with reservations for the cancelled May event will have preferential choice in the order that they signed up.

Karen Schwartz, Leader  
Pioneer Trail Work/Camp/Ride



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**COME RIDE IN THE PARADES!**

This year our GCTC Board has voted to sanction and include 3 parades under our insurance:

- Penn Valley Rodeo - May 20th
- 4th of July in Grass Valley
- Constitution Day in Nevada City - Sept 17th

The first parade will be a good first one on level ground in Penn Valley.

For each parade we need 12 member RIDERS!

And 2 members to walk in front with our GCTC Banner! And a couple of pooper-scoopers to bring up the rear!

The parade will assemble at the Park, ride down Penn Valley Drive to the Rodeo Grounds and then double back to the Park after the parade is finished. It's a fairly short parade and about a mile ride each way.

Our Banner is orange so we all need to wear our orange GCTC T-shirts. Short or long-sleeved whichever you'd prefer but ORANGE only. So if you want to ride and do not have an orange t-shirt, please let me know what size/style so I can make sure I have one for you or get you one in time. Blue-jeans and helmets (preferred), GCTC ball caps or cowboy hats make up the rest of the "uniform" and we should look like an impressive trail group. Obviously, your horse needs to be able to ride on pavement in a group without spooking... too much

So let me know as soon as possible if you want to JOIN THE PARADE... we are limiting the number of riders to 12 for starters.

Linda Lanzoni  
[Linda@MtnEquestrian.com](mailto:Linda@MtnEquestrian.com)  
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GCTC Group that rode in the 4th of July parade last year.



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

Inger & Robert Avery  
 Kathy Cahouette  
 Sharon Miles  
 Kim Nunes  
 Karen Schwartz  
 Doug & Marina Tweed

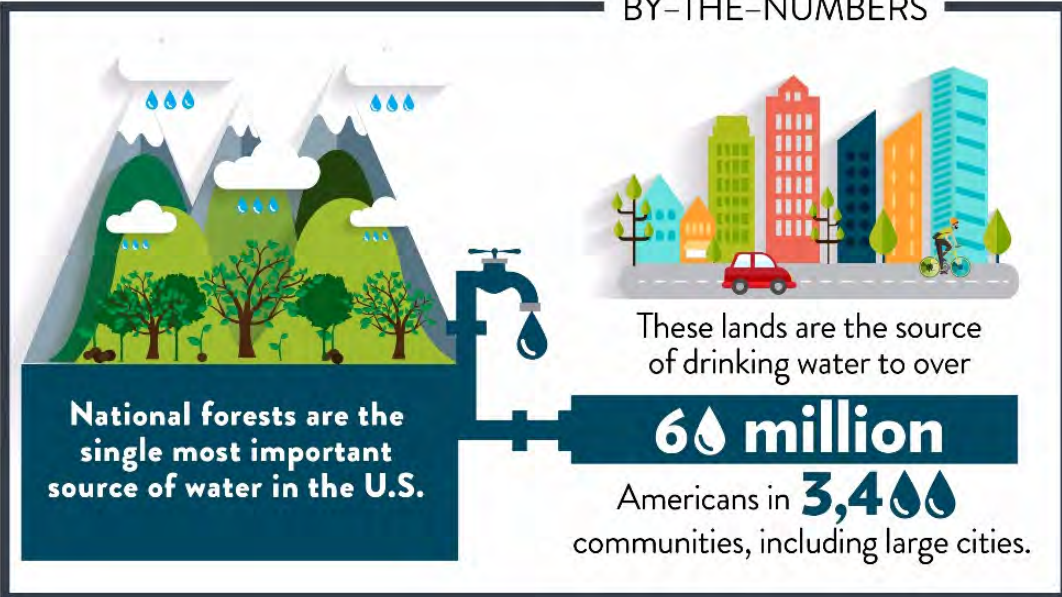
GCTC members are not always able to participate in workdays or other activities but want to contribute to the support of the important work that the Gold Country Trail Council does throughout the year. We appreciate their donations and support.

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Peggy Christensen  
 Sabrina & Tania Desha  
 Monique Hanson  
 Anita Myers  
 Carol Richey  
 Sue Winthers

**BY-THE-NUMBERS**



National forests are the single most important source of water in the U.S.

These lands are the source of drinking water to over **6 million** Americans in **3,400** communities, including large cities.

# Gold Country Trails Council ANNUAL BENEFIT POKER RIDE

Saturday, JUNE 3, 2017

*In the beautiful Tahoe National Forest*



Our 26<sup>th</sup>  
year

## GREAT PRIZES!

**Huge Raffle!! Amazing Food! LIVE music!!**

**OVERNIGHT** camping in the  
famous SKILLMAN HORSE CAMP!!

Ride approx. 8 miles of easy to moderate marked trails.

Sign up at 8:30 am  
Ride out at 10:00 am

LIMITED Skillman Horse Camping,  
first come, first served!! Get your  
entry in NOW!

### RIDE INFORMATION

Pre-entry by May 22 only \$30,  
includes BBQ, one poker hand,  
extra raffle ticket! \$35 at ride.

**Low Price** only \$15 for Juniors.  
Non-riders are only \$10 for BBQ  
and 2 raffle tickets

### FOR ENTRY FORMS:

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

### MORE INFO

EMAIL RIDE MANAGER, JEFF FOLTZ:  
[PokerRideGCTC@gmail.com](mailto:PokerRideGCTC@gmail.com)



### THE GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL ANNUAL POKER RIDE

benefits the building and maintenance of local trails, staging and parking areas,  
Skillman and Little Lasier Meadow horse camps and equestrian trail advocacy.

Event by NFS Special Use Permit; US. Dept. of Agriculture. Please feed weed and seed free hay. The Forest Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



**Board of Directors Minutes  
Gold Country Trails Council, Inc.  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse  
10600 Bubbling Wells Road  
Grass Valley, CA**

**Officers:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Laura Duncan</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Melissa Ribley</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Lundin</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Teri Personeni, absent</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Karen Schwartz, absent</b>
<b>Forest Service Liaison</b>	<b>Willie Brusin</b>
<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Mary Johnson</b>
<b>Other members attending</b>	<b>Sue Brusin, Gail Plakos, Jeff Foltz</b>

**Board Members:**

**Fran Cole  
Charles Green  
Helen Crawford**

A. Call to order and welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Laura Duncan.

B. Additions or changes to agenda

YBONC rides and Insurance Liaison position added to New Business

C. Approval of Minutes of previous meetings

Fran Cole motioned and Charles Green seconded that February minutes be approved as submitted.

Melissa Ribley motioned and Charles Green seconded that March minutes be approved as submitted.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report reviewed by President Laura in Teri's absence. Bank balance as of 4/6/17 was \$30,285.11. Motion to approve made by Mary Lundin and seconded by Helen Crawford.

E. Forest Service Report

1. A large amount of vandalism has taken place on the Highway 20 corridor, including the Skillman gate lock being removed. Willie gave the code for the new lock to the board.
2. Work on Lone Grave area map is continuing. Waiting on FS Regional office for final map. Sue will re-sign Lone Grave trails with existing trail colors, including adding brown as the color for the new Cable Trail, if approved by FS. The FS will provide signs for the Cable Trail.
3. The April 19<sup>th</sup> Lone Grave workday will be changed to the rain date of April 26<sup>th</sup>. A minimum of 20 people will be needed to relocate portions of the Dascombe to Harmony connector trail. This will be a roughed out hand trail, rather than be done by a trail machine.
4. The Cable Trail will officially open April 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. The Dascombe Trail reroute under the power lines will take place after April 15<sup>th</sup>. One week of dry weather is needed before work will be done.
6. Weather permitting, David Higbee will begin tractor work the week of April 24<sup>th</sup>. This will include spreading a load of gravel provided by TNF for the Skillman driveway. He will also grade the road and parking area at the Overlook Staging Area and spread a load of gravel to be provided by GCTC. The Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead will have the existing gravel spread in the driveway and parking areas. He will also create 2 water breaks on the Meyer/Dascombe trail. A portion of the Pioneer Trail with severe ruts will be rerouted to the existing logging road to move it away from Highway 20. Paul Hart of TNF will re-sign this rerouted area.
7. Don Soto has the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead kiosk sign nearly completed. The maps are still not completed by the FS Regional office in Vallejo.
8. Melissa Ribley will confer with Cecelia at the FS regarding the Skillman Campground workday on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Cecilia said she would provide some of her crew to help. GCTC will provide the chipper and crew to drag the large brush to the chipper. Crews will also rake each campsite. The tie rails will be removed and replaced with high line posts. The entrance sign on Hwy. 20 was broken in half by the hard winter.

Willie requests funding of \$1000-\$1500 to replace the sign. GCTC funds have stipulation that the sign must read "Skillman Horse Camp", not "Skillman Group Camp".

9. Downed trees on the trails are being removed. TNF crew will remove fallen trees on the Pioneer Trail above Skillman utilizing motorcycles. Wood Riders Motorcycle Club and TNF crews have removed downed trees on multi-use trails behind Skillman.
10. The Overlook kiosk is down and TNF will replace it. Paul Hart will survey bad roads including ruts on the lower part of Hallelujah Trail and Pioneer Trail below Skillman. Two signs on the Hallelujah Trail need to be cemented in. Willie has asked Jet Lowe to cut into the Hallelujah Trail to cover exposed rocks to improve the trail for bicyclists.
11. Draft decision notice from TNF on Mexican Mine Trail Project shows no significant environmental damage. This multi-use trail will be built either by the FS or prisoners.
12. TNF will participate in the United States Youth Conservation Corp outreach. Cecilia will contact teenagers between 15 – 18 years old to teach them how the FS works.

#### F. Old Business

##### 1. Pioneer Trail event change-Melissa Ribley

Due to the large amount of work required at Skillman Campground, the planned work/ride/camp event is postponed until further notice.

##### 2. Strategic Plan

Helen Crawford made a motion to adopt the plan and review it annually. Charles Green seconded and motion carried. Mary Johnson and Willie Brusin suggested that the Board meet one hour prior to the June BOD meeting to discuss and prioritize the items presented in the plan.

##### 3. Celebration of Trails participation

Helen Crawford has volunteered to represent GCTC at the annual event. Fran Cole motioned and Melissa Ribley seconded that the club pay the \$30 entry fee. It is held at the TNF Coyote Street parking lot. Mary Johnson has the club banner to display. There will be information about GCTC, and t-shirts, etc. for sale.

##### 4. Renewal of ACE membership

Fran Cole motioned and Melissa Ribley seconded that the club pay the \$100 membership renewal. ACE advocates for California horse trails.

##### 5. Update insurance status

Information received from Teri Personeni states that the insurance covers up to 10 events for one fee. This includes the Poker Ride as well as the 3 current parades the club will participate in.

#### G. New Business

##### 1. Resignation and replacement of Secretary

Melissa Ribley received the resignation of the current secretary, Susan Van Steenkiste. Mary Lundin has agreed to take over the position.

##### 2. Skillman work costs-Willie Brusin

Willie requested approval to pay: \$200 for 24 hr. rental of 12" Chipper for Skillman, David Higbee tractor services, up to \$1000 which was previously approved, \$700 for transfer load of gravel for Overlook driveway, and \$1000-\$1500 for Skillman entrance sign replacement. Helen Crawford motioned and Charles Green seconded. Motion carried.

##### 3. Approval of costs for David Higbee services-Willie Brusin

Included in #2 above.

##### 4. Internal audit of books/finances

Melissa Ribley has asked Cathy Scott, a GCTC member, to audit the treasurer's records. This audit is done every 2 to 3 years. Mary Lundin has volunteered to assist. Melissa made a motion to authorize this process. Helen Crawford seconded.



5. Poker Ride

All campsites are booked. There was discussion of purchasing another pop up shade cover imprinted with the GCTC logo. Jeff Foltz and Mary Johnson will research costs of new and ways to add the name to our existing structure.

6. Simply Country Horse Day-May 6<sup>th</sup>

Member Lisa Calder is involved with this event which has speakers, give aways, etc. and has no fee to participate. Melissa Ribley motioned and Charles Green seconded that the club would authorize a volunteer to represent GCTC.

7. YBONC Competition on Cable Trail

The Youth bicycle club has posted their calendar of races, including one on the newly opened Cable Trail, as authorized by TNF.

8. Create Insurance Liaison person

Mary Johnson suggested that we have an Insurance Liaison person who would read policies, converse with agents as needed and report to the Board. Mary Lundin motioned and Helen Crawford seconded. Motion approved.

Laura informed the board that Jaede will limit her computer activities while she recovers from an injury.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary



Minutes of the Tuesday, April 11, GCTC Board Meeting can be accessed on the GCTC Website [www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)

