



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

We just completed our first workday of the year at Lone Grave. We had a wonderful turnout and the weather was perfect, especially considering the amount of snow that was on the ground the previous week. I saw some new members, and people that I haven't seen before at work days. I really appreciate the turnout, and the stuffed potatoes for lunch were delicious. We had four groups working on clearing the trail from the Lone Grave Trailhead to the Harmony Ridge Market. The consensus in our group was the group starting at the Market had the best deal, since they could theoretically start with coffee and pastries from the Market before starting to clear the trail. The next workday will be Wednesday, May 23 at Skillman. Since the camp host is opening the campground at the end of April, we should be able to work on the trails instead of having to clean up the campground.

The board has started working on another 5-year plan. The majority of the projects on the previous 5-year plan have been completed or sidelined due to issues with Tahoe National Forest regulations. The newsletter includes a list of possible projects, with some information about their feasibility and cost. We're soliciting input from members both for additional projects and for which projects they believe are the highest priorities for the club.

I'm looking forward to the May 8 meeting when Susan and David Hartje from Saddles that Fit will be giving a presentation on saddle fit. I know some of you have had Susan and David help with saddles for your horses, so you know how informative their presentation is. Mary Johnson is bringing her exemplary horse to be the demonstration horse for the saddle fit presentation. We'll have the saddle fit presentation before the general meeting to take advantage of the daylight.

See you on the trails!

Helen Harvey



Gold Country Trail Council Board

Jeff Foltz, Karen Schwartz, Melissa Ribley, John Connelly, Helen Harvey, Kathy Southgate and Vicki Tessa

GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Susan and David Hartje, owners of Saddles That Fit, will be the guest speakers. They will be addressing how to properly fit your horse with a saddle and will do a live demonstration. Don't miss this informative opportunity. Their website is: www.saddlesthatfit.com



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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To the Good Folks at GCTC,


Thank you from the bottom of my heart for setting up the Hay Bank and Sponsorship Program. The last year has been very hard after losing my ranch and my job. If it wasn't for the love of my friends and the thoughtfulness of those at GCTC, I would be on the street and not have my animals for comfort. It is said that it is the darkest before the dawn and I truly believe that. This last week a full time position opened up for me and I am on the road to being self sufficient again.

It just took a little help to get over the hump. Again, Thank you very much and I am looking forward to repaying every cent.

Respectfully Yours.....

Tevis, From The Back Of My Horse

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Sharma Lynn Gaponoff



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SharmaGaponoff.com

Proceeds donated by the author to the
Western States Trail Foundation, organizers of the Tevis Cup Ride

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 July/August 2012 Newsletter will be Thursday, June 28. Articles/pictures should be sent to Lynn Mangel, Editor (quailhollowpv@me.com)

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

V.P.: Melissa Ribley 268-1378

mmribley@gmail.com

Secretary: Karen Schwartz 470-8790

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Past President: Teri Personeni 273-9144

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Board Member: Vicki Testa 273-1735

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Board Member: John Connelly 530-432-7028

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Board Member: Jeff Foltz 916-625-1524

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2012 CALENDAR

MAY

- 6 Cronan Ranch Day Ride
- 8 General Membership Meeting
- 16-20 Pt. Reyes camp/ride
- 21 Work Day, Skillman

JUNE

- 2 National Trail Day (non GCTC event)
- 8-10 Western States Horse Expo (non GCTC event)
- 10 Board Meeting**
- 16 Work Day, Skillman
- 22-24 Wild West Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)
- 29-30 Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride
- July 1

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
- 25 Trail Work Day (TBA)

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 (April, August, October and December) will be held at the Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty office at 855 Sutton Way, Grass Valley.
- ** BOD Meeting in June will be held at Laura Berman's Office at 226 Mill Street, Grass Valley

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 Fax: 530-432-3458



2012 GCTC POKER RIDE Saturday, July 7th



Hi Members. The Poker Ride is on track and so many of you have signed up to help... thanks! So far we have the following volunteers:

Trail Marking - Sue Brusin in charge with help from Gigi Lawton, Lisa Swerdlow and Ginny Dix. They'll make sure you don't get lost!

Food - Merrill Kagan-Weston has graciously agreed to procure and prep the meat and Helen Harvey will be your head chef. We could probably use more help cooking and we'll let you know if we need extra grills. Of course, we hope many of you will bring the usual and delicious side dishes, appetizers and desserts.

Parking - Willie Brusin, Don Soto and Mike Curry will, once again, provide excellent direction to get all our rigs in place. We could use one more volunteer here.

Prizes - Laura Duncan has agreed to head up the prizes committee and Ann Driver has also volunteered. Laura says she has other help as well so check with her if you have prizes to donate or want to help solicit.

Registration - Lori Monitz and Sharon Silver will be there to greet you and get you all signed up. If anyone else wants to help them, I'm sure they would be grateful.

Set-Up - Linda Lanzoni will be the primary candidate here but I could sure use some help.

Ice - open

Cards - Joan Fowle already has 14 DECKS packaged and ready to go! Fabulous!

Card Stations - Still looking for help here... anyone not riding this year?

Photography - Our wonderful photographer, Cal McKittrick, has agreed to take the photos again this year.

Poker Hands - Jeff Foltz will head up collecting and figuring out the winners and Larry Schwartz and Teri Personeni will be at his side.

Clean-up - Guess Linda will be primary here as well and I *know* I will be needing your help...PLEASE!

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

To re-cap: we still need some help in the following areas:



Cooking
Parking
Registration
Set-up
Card Stations
Clean-up



This is terrific! If anyone else wants to join in, please email me at Linda@MtnEquestrian.com or call me on (530) 273-6346.

See you all at the May meeting.
Linda Lanzoni

Harmony In Motion



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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.

NEIGHborhood Rider's Adventure

Before the rains hit, a small group of west county horsemen - including a few GCTC regulars - made a rather epic ride from Bitney Springs Road to The Tack Room in Penn Valley for lunch. Our group, the self-titled NEIGHborhood Riders, includes GCTC members Betsy Wobus and myself, "regulars" Bill & Anna Trabucco and Allen Appel, and others. We are not



only neighbors but share the common goal of perpetuating local riding trails by encouraging landowners to open their hearts - and gates - to responsible trail riders. We had to traverse some varied terrain -- crossing Deer Creek, several private properties, back roads and ultimately Highway 20 -- to reach the Tack Room for a photo op. Our route passed through private property, but the landowners generously allowed us to ride through! Penn Valley Community Rodeo Association board members greeted us at the rodeo grounds across the street where we tied the horses.

Burgers and hot soup were very welcome menu items at The Tack Room after about 3 hours in the saddle. The



horses were sure ready to head home after lunch, as we made the return leg in only 2 hours!

We all enjoyed our adventure winding our way through Penn Valley and Rough and Ready, and were happy to prove that our community doesn't have so many fences that a group of good folks can't ride their horses to lunch, just like in the wild west.

Submitted by, Amy Umpleby

Five Year Plan

We're generating a list for a new 5 year plan. A couple of the projects at the top of the list are from the previous 5 year plan, so I'm including the reason they haven't yet been completed. I'd love to know if people have projects they'd like to add to the list, and which projects they believe are the most important.

- Cable trail: This project has been in the planning stage for 3 years. We're waiting for a NEPA report from the Forest Service before we can proceed.
- Trailhead on Bowman Road: This is on PG&E land. They want a flush toilet, but would only give us a 5 year lease. If we can get an easement, it would be feasible.
- Manure collection bunker at Skillman
- Corrals at each campsite at Skillman
- Improve the staging area at Upper Burlington Road, possibly adding gravel
- Improve the Loney Meadows campsite - the Forest Service does have a planned area
- Permanent funding for porta potty at Empire Mine (\$85.00 a month)
- Permanent funding for porta potty at Lone Grave from after the Wild Wild West Ride until winter (\$85.00 a month)
- We discussed new bathrooms for Skillman, but they would cost \$50,000 per bathroom, which doesn't seem feasible.

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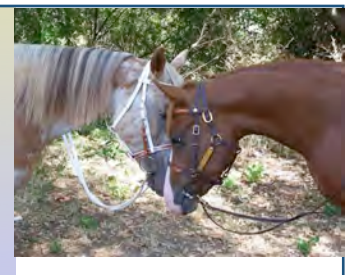
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Loafer Creek Horse Camp, Lake Oroville

Spring is a wonderful time to enjoy the trails at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. Four members of Gold Country Trails Council spent 3 days camping, riding their horses, and enjoying the well-maintained and accommodating horse camp at Loafer Creek. Although the spring weather was more summer like on April 20th to 22nd, Lori Moniz-Waddell, Gigi Lawton, Mary Johnson and Mary Lundin enjoyed riding the mostly shaded, well marked trails.



The weather was so beautiful that Gigi took a swim in the lake! Included in the many hours of riding the groomed trails, the group stopped at the Visitor Center that provided tie rails and water for horses. Many interesting displays of local history including the construction of the dam and the native Maidu were enjoyed while the horses rested. The rooftop-viewing tower provided a 360-degree vista with informational plaques. Great evenings with delicious meals and shared stories around the campfire completed the wonderful camping experience.



Loafer Creek Horse Camp is a gem, with 15 nice sites in a mix of sun and shade, water spigots, double corrals, picnic tables and fire rings. Added bonuses are the wash racks, round pen arena, flush toilets and hot showers. Camping is available year round, although summer is hot in Oroville. It was learned from another camper that "winter" camping is quite enjoyable as

the trails dry out quickly. The trip to Lake Oroville on Hwy 20 and 70 takes about 1 1/2 hours from Grass Valley. In addition to the campground there is a day use parking area outside the park, with access to the trails. This is another example of the beautiful choices we have available in our local area to enjoy with our horses.

For more information, directions, maps, etc. you are welcome to contact GCTC members Mary Lundin or Mary Johnson or check out www.parks.ca.gov Reservations for the camp can be made on line or for a "spur of the moment" trip, check online reservations to see if the camp has available sites, then drive up and pay at the gate.



Submitted by Mary Lundin and Mary Johnson

Check out the following websites:
www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org
www.parkwatchreport.org
www.coolhorsetrails.com

THANK YOU! LONE GRAVE WORKDAY CREW

The Lone Grave workday trail bosses, Sue and Willie Brusin, would like to express their appreciation to all of the participants at the workday on Sunday April 22. The work crew consisted of 25 volunteers plus Melissa Ribley who coordinated the event and Merrill Kagan-Weston who provided a delicious lunch. The GCTC crew cleared brush on the Harmony trail and our TNF certified chainsaw operator cleared several downed trees on the Dascomb trail.

Thanks to a great effort by the volunteers the Lone Grave Trails are in tip top shape.



Special "Thanks" for Our Horses

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new

ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people - which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language.

Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our oversaturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

- Author Unknown -

Join GCTC Members at



Mark your calendars for the Camp Trip to Little Lasier Meadow on **June 28-30, 2012!** N Yuba Operations Manager, William Carter of California Land Management for our play/work weekend, has reserved this beautiful campground exclusively for GCTC members. That means there is no charge for your stay Friday and Saturday night! The work project is scheduled for Saturday morning from 9 to 1 and will include corral and tie rail repair (as needed), leveling tables, general camp clean up and trail clearing (trimming). Please bring handsaws, loppers and clippers for the trail work. Maintenance tools will be available, but you are welcome to bring your favorite toolbox too.

GCTC members can arrive any time on Friday and stay through Sunday at no cost. Some GCTC members will be arriving earlier that week (paying the regular fees). Reservations can be made at www.recreation.gov or check the reservations for availability. More than likely there will be openings and fees can be paid on site if you can spend an extra day or two. The campground provides 9 corrals, many areas for high lining, areas for portable corrals or electric corrals.

Enjoy the many miles of great trails on your trusty equine. Non-riding members can hike, or fish in near by Jackson Meadow Res. There will be a potluck



dinner and group campfire on Saturday night. Bring your favorite food dish and your fun stories to tell for a relaxing evening under the stars.

Please contact Mary Johnson at 477-8501 or mjshasta@aol.com to RSVP or if you need more information.

Lets show our support of Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp with a great turn out for this fun event!



DIRECTIONS: Travel time from Grass Valley is approximately 2 1/2 hours. Take I 80 east (towards Reno). At Truckee take the Hwy 89 exit towards Sierraville. (Exit #188B) then left at the stoplight. Travel approximately 15 miles to the (left) turn to Jackson Meadows Res. The sign on the right reads: Independence Lake, Weber Lake, Jackson Meadows Res.

This left turn is at the crest of an incline and can come up suddenly. Within a mile of the turn you will cross a bridge and see a sign for Kyburz Flat wildlife viewing on the right. The highway continues to climb, curves left then right with a 40 mph sign. At the crest of the hill is the left turn lane for Jackson Meadows Res. After the turn, in a short distance on the right, is a nice parking lot and rest room.



From there it is about 14 scenic miles to the East Meadow turn (left). There are several mileage signs as you travel along, giving the distance to Jackson Meadows. Turn left at the East Meadow sign (also a "Horse Camp" sign). After a short distance the road crosses a metal bridge. Just after the bridge turn left on the gravel road (Pass Creek Loop). Continue 1.5 miles to the cattle guard and Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. There are two entrances into camp. Left after crossing the cattle guard or stay right and continue past the rest room on the main road and then left into camp.

Submitted by, Mary Johnson

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL INC.	
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 1/31/12	
BALANCE SHEET	
Assets:	
Cash (Bank Balance)	13,231.66
Prepaid Expenses	639.58
Total Assets	<u>13,871.24</u>
Liabilities & Fund Balance:	
Beginning Fund Balance 9/1/11	13,531.10
Change in Fund balance	340.14
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	<u>13,871.24</u>
STATEMENT OF INCOME (CONTRIBUTIONS)	
Contributions:	
Membership Dues	2,486.00
Donations Received	347.00
Poker Ride	0.00
Newsletter Advertising	301.00
T-Shirts, Decals, Raffles	276.00
Total Contributions	<u>3,410.00</u>
Expenses:	
Poker Ride	0.00
Trails / Campground Maintenance	1,222.18
Equipment purchase & repair	50.00
Food, Trail Workdays	219.33
Education (club projector, speaker supplies, etc.)	782.55
Trails Promotion (maps)	0.00
Membership Expenses	118.10
Newsletter	214.82
Membership Directory	0.00
Refreshments - General Meetings	92.11
Donations made	25.00
Post Office Box (\$56 per yr)	18.67
Grange Hall - Annual Rent (\$300 per yr)	150.00
Liability Insurance - Annual Premium (\$425 per yr)	177.10
Website	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>3,069.86</u>
NET CONTRIBUTIONS	<u>340.14</u>

**Advertising Space Available
2012 Newsletter**

There are 3 issues left of the 2012 GCTC Newsletter (July/ Aug, Sept/Oct and Nov/Dec). You can place your business size card advertisement in any one issue for just \$5.

To place your ad contact GCTC treasurer, Kathy Southgate, at kathysouthgate@msn.com

**SUPPORT GCTC AND BE SEEN
AT GCTC FUNCTIONS**

GCTC logo T-Shirts are available in sizes S-XL for the reasonable price of \$10.00 each. The bright beautiful yellow/gold color shows the presence of GCTC members on work days as well as help with safety visibility.

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



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The Newsletter is happy to print **For Sale** ads from GCTC members. Please send them single spaced, not more than 40 words to : Lynn Mangel at quailhollowpv@me.com

Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 10, 2012

Coldwell Banker Realty Building
855 Sutton Way
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:06.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: John Connelly, Jeff Foltz

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Mary Johnson (Membership Chair)

Absent: Board Member Vicki Testa, Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen inquired about approval of the March minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz responded that revisions to the minutes had been received from the board members and were thus approved. The revised minutes have been sent to board members via email. No correspondence has been received.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate distributed several reports on the status of GCTC finances. Kathy reported that the bank balance as of 3/31/12 was \$13,898.62, with expenses in the last month for Empire Mine Porta Potty, printing the membership directory, and various office supplies. Unpaid expenses include an estimated \$1500 for a NEPA report on proposed trail work. She noted GCTC has had several extraordinary expenses, e.g., the Skillman water tank and the projector. Year-end tax returns have been filed for 8/31/11, and \$20.00 paid to the California Secretary of State. She announced that there are currently 155 paid memberships. She also provided a checkbook register summary of activity between 9/08/11 to 3/15/12, an analysis of prior income and expenses in comparison to 2012 YTD, and a balance sheet summary for the YTD through 3/31/12.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin distributed a report dated 4/10/12 and provided an update on trails issues and concerns comprised of the following items:

Empire Mine: Helen reported that Patty Bridges has donated a plastic box to hold fliers to inform the public regarding donations for maintaining the PortaPotty at the trailhead. There was discussion of how best to display and affix the box. Permission would be needed from the Porta Potty company to attach the box.

Lone Grave: Copies of the 100 maps printed in color, donated by Board member John Connelly, will be made available at the Gold Country Trails Council trailhead during the 4/15/12 workday, which will target clearing brush from nearby trails. Willie and Sue will lead the trail work efforts and plan to divide the volunteers into parties of four to be assigned to different projects. Willie suggested paying David Higbee up to \$350.00 to grade the gravel in the parking and access road area.

Pioneer Trail: The application for an AERC trails grant has been completed, and Helen has signed it. Vice president Melissa Ribley will deliver it to the AERC office in Auburn.

Skillman Area: Willie, Sue, Melissa and Board Member Jeff Foltz will set up the horse tanks at Skillman Campground on Sunday, 4/15/12. Melissa reported that California Land Management (CLM), the concessionaire at the campground, will open the campground to the public on 4/27/12. CLM has been informed of the GCTC Poker Ride reservation for the weekend of 7/7/12. Sue asked if member Robert Ribley would cut up a large tree encroaching on the Hallelujah Trail. Potholes in the access road need to be filled with gravel. Board member John Connelly offered to donate two yards of gravel to fill the holes. Willie suggested paying David Higbee to grade the access road area.

Helen asked John to describe his review of GCTC's current insurance coverage and his contact with our insurance agent. Larry Viegas, who is a specialist in ranch and horse-related activities. John found the insurance provides modest personal liability coverage for the public (visitors and guests, not GCTC members) of one million dollars, and covers negligence of the board of directors, for a cost of about \$400.00 per year. This coverage does not include medical expenses. The exact date of covered events, e.g., Poker Ride, must be specified. Willie stated that volunteers who are involved in GCTC work days in the Tahoe National Forest are covered by Forest Service liability insurance. Sue noted that our current policy is probably based on trail work activities, not horseback rides. A discussion of GCTC's insurance coverage ensued, and board members had many questions. Melissa suggested that Larry Viegas be invited to attend a board meeting to address these questions, and John agreed to contact him regarding appearing at the June board meeting, possibly by speaker phone.

Helen announced that National Trails Day will be celebrated 6/2/12.

Helen reported that she has located a list of GCTC's affiliate clubs and will make it available to Karen and Mary for inclusion in the Policies and Procedures manual.

Helen stated that Email Notifications Chair Jaede Maloslavich has volunteered to represent GCTC on the Deer Creek Tribute trail committee.

Karen suggested that a blood-clotting product, Vet Clot Trauma Gauze, might be added to the GCTC first aid kit. The Gauze speeds up clotting time to three minutes and stops bleeding for 24 hours. The product, however, is designed for veterinary use, while the first aid kit contains items for human use only.

New Business:

Helen announced that trail project funding grants are available through the American Quarter Horse Association's STEP program. The possibility of obtaining monies for repair of the Cable trail was raised, and Membership Chair Mary Johnson will provide a list of GCTC members who have grant writing skills.

Jeff raised the issue of fund raising and questioned whether raffles or events in addition to the annual Poker Ride fundraiser might be needed. He wondered if additional funds may be needed in the future to finance trail projects, especially as our membership ages. Mary noted that the Poker Ride has raised an average of \$1500.00 annually for the past five years, as well as providing excellent publicity for GCTC and attracting new members. Willie stated that current trail projects primarily involve maintenance and that new projects would likely require large sums of money and five years for planning. It was agreed that board members who would like to suggest new projects should send their ideas to Helen, who will summarize them and send them to the membership before the May meeting, when a 5-year plan can be discussed and voted on. Jeff also suggested that GCTC might want to print bandanas with the Lone Grave trail system, which could then be sold at the GCTC booth at various horse-related venues, e.g., Horse Expo.

Helen reported that Jaede is working on a GCTC projector presentation that could be used to inform the public and publicize GCTC sponsored activities.

Helen announced that she plans to attend the Sunshine Valley meeting on the status of the Emigrant Trail.

Helen reported that a company called Canogle is working on cell phone accessible trail descriptions.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements, and Melissa responded with several scenarios for trail work between 4/27/12 when Skillman Campground opens and 5/23/12 when GCTC's Skillman workday is scheduled. Mary recommended coordinating efforts with the concessionaire so they are aware of GCTC's history in maintaining the campground and able to assist, e.g., removal of deadwood, etc. The 5/23 date could be used to spread the gravel John is donating, and another group could work on trimming brush on the Hallelujah and Dogwood trails. Willie recommended that Robert Ribley check the condition of other trails.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary