

# 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!

2016 is fast coming to a close. However, before we rush to say good bye until 2017 one of our most popular meetings is coming up. November 15 is the date for our legendary holiday turkey pot luck dinner and election of new officers for GCTC. Watch your emails for more information, Debbie Molloy our camp cook will be in charge of getting this feast on the table.

Remember to bring your checkbook. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you may do so at the meeting and save the cost of a postage stamp. Find Mary Johnson and she will be happy to get you back in good standing.

Linda Lanzoni will have an assortment of the long awaited GCTC logo new t-shirts for sale. Also, rumor has it that there will be some raffle tickets for sale with some great items. This is your chance to get an early jump on buying some Christmas presents.

As the holiday season approaches and the days become shorter, there may be some members who are not welcoming the change due to injuries, surgeries or loss. Please remember that we have a special sunshine person Charlotte Chapman who will send a thoughtful card to help brighten their day. If you are aware of someone that could benefit, do send a request to Charlotte. And when you do contact her give her some sunshine in return as she is still recovering from knee surgery.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our November meeting.

Laura Duncan  
GCTC President



### THANKSGIVING DINNER

Come and enjoy great food and visit with fellow GCTC Members.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

DINNER 6:30

NCHI clubhouse

10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.

Grass Valley Valley

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to give everyone time to deliver their dishes and to socialize.

#### Program will include:

Election of 2017 board members

Members will have an opportunity to vote on candidates nominated for 2017 Officers.

#### Turkey Feast!



Happy Thanksgiving



Jeff Foltz and Rodeo in Loomis Basin horse show, October 9, walk-jog, in their first show. They came away with a few ribbons. Looking good Jeff.

### Our Remarkable VP, Melissa Ribley

In the latest issues of Endurance News, published by the American Endurance Ride Conference, there are several articles which mention the outstanding accomplishments of our GCTC vice president, Melissa Ribley. Even those of us who serve on the GCTC board with Melissa were unaware of this because Melissa is never one to sing her own praises.

Melissa participated in the AERC National Championship Ride held in Utah in early September this year and finished 7th in a field of 17 top riders. Congratulations, Melissa!

But winning awards and honors over the many years she has been participating in endurance riding is nothing new to Melissa.

What is even more remarkable is that the National Championship ride marked her 53rd successful completion of a 100-mile endurance ride. Any of you who have ridden even one 100-mile endurance ride know what it takes to accomplish this feat, which requires not only mastery of the science of horsemanship but also the art of sensitively communicating with your horse. Melissa is quoted in one of the Endurance News articles as saying, "Preparing a horse for a 100-mile ride is not a short-term process with immediate results and rewards. It takes over a couple of years of conditioning and participating in 50-mile rides to get a horse fit for a 100. So the gratification of completing a 100 is not immediate, but the rewards and satisfaction of completing a 100 is beyond what is difficult to imagine and more than worth the time and dedication."

So next time you see Melissa be sure to congratulate her on her outstanding accomplishments. Don't be surprised if she looks surprised and acts as if her riding accomplishments are nothing unusual. Be sure to remind her she is truly a star in the endurance world - and in our GCTC trail riding world as well.

Ditto her husband Robert, who is also a star - with 96 100-mile rides completed!. What a remarkable pair.

Submitted by Karen Schwartz, Past President



#### Trail Work Day Coordinator

Susan Donnelly has accepted the trail workday coordinator position. The GCTC board is grateful that she agreed to take on this very important job. You will be hearing more from her next year before the start of our 2017 trail workdays.

<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)  
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 Historian: Sandy Dent  
 Hospitality: Gail Plakos and Maryann Jorgenson  
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 Skillman: Linda Lanzoni  
 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 Trail Council :**

**Trail Workdays Working together to improve the trails for everyone**

While improving the trails is a year around process that involves interface with USFS and other groups like BONC (Bicyclists Of Nevada County), much of the heavy lifting is done by the GCTC membership. Throughout the warmer months of the spring, summer, and fall, the GCTC stages workdays. These get together are to clean, improve, repair, and sometimes even re-route the trails, mostly on the Hwy 20 corridor in the Tahoe National Forest. If it were not for the hard work of the GCTC members during the spring and summer, these trails would soon become unusable in many places.

While my wife and I were getting the lunch ready for the crew at the last (9-17) workday on the Hallelujah trail, we had several groups using the trail system approach us. One was a group of Horsewomen (not affiliated with the GCTC) who came from both Elk Grove California and Sparks Nevada. They commented how well kept the trail system was, and what a wonderful job we did maintaining it. They said they use our trails to meet in the middle once a year and ride together. Another group that came by us as we were setting up was comprised of bicyclists from the Sacramento area who also commented on the wonderful trails. They too thanked us for the great job we do on the trails.

We are stewards of these portals to nature in the Sierras that are enjoyed by many who are not fortunate to live here full time as most of us do. We are helping spread appreciation of the wonders of nature that surrounds us daily. If the very small sampling of users from that one day are any indication, we are very much appreciated by those who use these trails.

**Submitted By Bernard Molloy  
With Irv Mazur**



**NEW GCTC T-SHIRTS!**

Come to the Thanksgiving Feast prepared to buy a new T-shirt or Ball Cap.

We have new Ladies' V-neck 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.

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

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR GCTC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017**


If you have not done so already, please renew your GCTC membership today. Your renewal and participation keeps our wonderful area trails open. Members enjoy trail rides, camping adventures, trail work opportunities with lunch provided, a great newsletter, general meetings with informative speakers, an outstanding network of information through the web site and communications, and much more.

Renew through [www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org](http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org) using Pay Pal or use the fill in form that you can print and mail, or contact membership chairperson Mary Johnson, 530-477-8501, [mjshasta@aol.com](mailto:mjshasta@aol.com)

Membership fee: individual/family \$25.00

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### Draft Horse Classic BarnTour

The tour that Allyn Carman gave us at the Draft Horse Classic was fantastic. We all were both entertained and informed. We learned a ton of great information about these gentle giants and got a chance to get "up close and personal" with some of them. She explained the difference between how "farm" or working Draft Horses are shown vs. the horses that are shown in the fancy harnesses and vehicles (main difference being how they are shod [or not], the type of tack they use, and of course the vehicles). She also explained how the reins are configured when there is a team of horses, how heavy these reins can be when there are 8 horses pulling a rig (e.g. the Budweiser Clydesdales where the reins total 75 pounds in the hands of the driver [teamster]), etc., etc., etc. Allyn was her amazing self. We all had a delightful time during her presentation/tour.

Submitted by Sharma Gaponoff



### Gold Country Trails Council

#### NOVEMBER

November 15 General Mtg. Thanksgiving Feast  
5:30 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass  
Valley

#### DECEMBER

December 13 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley



### Welcome to GCTC New Members:

Keith & Stephanie Collins  
Alice Chopson  
Dawa Fitzmaurice  
Lynn Griffin  
Jeff & Michele Harter (returning)  
Anni Herborn  
Cindi Leisure/Carl Fickling  
Susan Mason  
Greg Zaller/Laurie Porter

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

Gail Anderson/King McPherson  
Laura Berman/James Greenwood  
Cathy Blake/Michael Brook  
Cathy & Bob Chase  
Keith & Stephanie Collins  
Susan Donnelly/Lea Zivic  
Patricia Gibbs  
Mark Heuser/Plaza Tire & Auto Service  
Arlene McCallum  
Bev & Jim Milke-Hillar  
Sharon Silver  
Karen & Harry Wyeth

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.

### Laura Berman

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**UNITED TRAILS DAY**

Saturday, October 8, 2016 was the 14th year that "the Gold Country Trails Council, the Woods Riders of Nevada County and the Bicyclists of Nevada County have participated in a joint venture along with personnel from the Tahoe National Forest to reroute a part of the Pioneer Trail. Due to years of use and due to inclement weather, this part of the trail was pretty much washed out.

I am happy to say that the job was completed even though we did not have a "great" turn out of volunteers. As usual, Gold Country supplied the majority of workers (28) Bonc had (2) and Woods Riders had (4).

Every Year, a club provides lunch and this year it was the "Woods Riders" turn however, each club shares the cost of the lunch. Great job Woods Riders!!!

The following are the Gold Country members that participated in this workday. Too bad that many of our members didn't make it. If more of you would have participated!!!! Next year, we will need all of you!! Next year, the United Trails Day will be held on Saturday, October 14th so please mark that date on your calendar and make sure that you put that day aside for our trails.

List of our peeps: Irv Mazur, Karen & Harry Wyeth, Cathy Scott, Dee Dee & Pat Carlini, Willie & Sue Brusin, Marty Mossman, Helen McDermott, Lea Zivic, Elizabeth Hennin, Susan Donnelly, Ginny Pashke, Vicki Testa, Tom Fletcher, Lori Moniz, Nikki Valezquez, Stephanie Hensey, Barry & Sue Vaccaro, Mary Johnson, Charles Green, Jaqueline Debets, Laura Duncan, Dawa Fitzmauris

**Submitted by Irv Mazur**



*Mary Margaretich*  
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### Annual Lone Grave Ride and BBQ October 22, 2016



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### Hallelujah Trail Workday September 17

Twenty-two members of our club came out to work on the Hallelujah Trail. The group worked hard and got a lot of work done. There were two groups, each with a power hedge cutter & loppers. Starting from opposite ends of the Hallelujah trail, they worked toward the middle. The work went from just after 9:00 in the morning when they first arrived, continuing until 12:30, when we wrapped it up, and enjoyed lunch at the equestrian staging area west of Skillman Horse Camp off Hwy 20. Those of you that didn't make it, you missed a "truly enjoyable" day!!

The following are the people that made this day so successful:

Susan Van Steenkiste, Debbie & Bernie Malloy, Willie & Sue Brusin, Charles Green, Susan Donnelly, Gail & Jim Plakos, Gail Lear, Adam White, Jeff Foltz, Teri Personeni, Lea Zivic, Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro, Lisa Mahon, Vicki Testa, Laura Duncan, Jeff Harter, Tom Fletcher

### Upper Pioneer Trail Workday August 24

A total of 27 people showed up on the Lone Grave workday August 24. The task at hand that day was to work on Dashcom trail near "Rock Creek Road". The trail had to be re-routed because rain water was spilling on the trail from the road, and eroding it. The work crew moved the trail quite a bit away so that the rain water would no longer erode it.


The following are the people that showed up and made this day so successful:

Virginia Lewis, Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro, Teri Personeni, Mary Johnson, Gail & Jim Plakos, John & Lori Sobey, Irv Mazur, Willie & Sue Brusin, Charles Green, Laura Duncan, Debbie & Bernie Molloy, Cathy Chase, Cathy Scott, Ann Perozzi, Barbara Hobbs, Lori Moniz, Susan Van Steenkiste, David & Susan Pinsker, Vicki Testa, Jeff Foltz

Submitted by Bernie Molloy



#### Sunshine Person

Charlotte Chapman is our sunshine person.  She has been kept busy this year bringing some cheer into our members lives. Thanks you from GCTC for this important task that you perform.



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### White Oak Flat

Hi, we recently joined because your organization has been so supportive in our efforts to save access to White Oak Flat, which is near to a piece of the Tevis Trail and ASRA Gate 102 near Foresthill. People have been using White Oak Flat as an informal staging area on BOR/BLM public land for over 50 years but this spring people were being harassed and told by a few property owners that access was no longer allowed. Our community, under its Municipal Advisory Committee, has been working to get the matter resolved, and a number of us are continuing to use White Oak Flat in the interim. Attached are a couple of photos at White Oak Flat: a recent photo of 2 of our Morgan horses getting ready to ride out, and a photo of the national trails marker embedded in a tree there.

Stephanie & Keith  
 Bayrose Morgans  
 Foresthill, CA [kcsww4br@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:kcsww4br@sebastiancorp.net)



### Filling In

Thank you to Pam Warmack for stepping up and volunteering to take on the communications/ media position while Jaede Miloslavich was recuperating from surgery. Pam is a very generous and talented person. A million thank you from GCTC.




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### THE POKER RIDE - 2017

Date is set for June 3, 2017 , at Skillman camp ground, no rain date. As always we will be looking for help from the membership to support our annual fund raiser. So please mark your calendars and think about signing up to help. Poker ride manager , Jeff Foltz



## MONUMENT TASK

Many members of GCTC are unaware that there is a beautiful monument commemorating the Pioneer Trail, which was unveiled at the dedication ceremony in the summer of 2003. The plaque is mounted on a large boulder adjacent to a wooden equestrian/bicycle/foot bridge over the Bear River in Bear Valley near Bowman Road. The banks of the water cut chasm under the bridge are shored up with native stones placed by past generations of pioneers and woodsmen. The Pioneer Trail of today roughly follows the historic Nevada City cutoff from the 1844 California Trail. The west end of the today's trail starts near Harmony Market, 5 miles East of Nevada City and travels the length of Highway 20 to Bear Valley. But it doesn't stop there. The National Scenic Trail crosses the highway at Zebright Road, follows a section of the original Highway 20, crosses the Bear River and continues along Bowman Road to Lang Crossing and then on to near Fuller Lake and Lake Spaulding. The section of the trail between Zebright Rd and Lang Crossing was the last part of the trail to be completed because of its difficulty and also due to obtaining approval from PG&E to give right of way for the trail.

Early GCTC members envisioned the trail, negotiated for the trail, worked on the trail and ultimately were involved in the design, creation and orchestrating placement of the plaque for the dedication ceremony. The black granite plaque was donated by DalTile of Auburn and installed by Dave Fluti of DalTile, an equestrian and packer. Mark Hicks and Willie Brusin worked with Dave in the application of the marker to the boulder, which was put in place by excavator operator Roger Elliott. The cost of engraving the granite marker was shared by BONC, FATRAC and GCTC.

Fast forward to July 2016. GCTC members Suzanne Vaccaro and Mary Johnson were riding the Pioneer Trail and discovered that the plaque had become dislodged from the rock. Tahoe National Forest liaison, Willie Brusin, was contacted regarding the plaque, who informed Paul Hart of TNF about the need for repair. Paul requested that GCTC take care of needed repairs, which started a series of trips to plan and execute the needed steps of repair. Over several weeks, the plaque was "glued" back on the rock, a type of cement was used to fill in the gaps between the boulder and the plaque, and finally a sealer caulking was applied to prevent moisture from being trapped behind the plaque. The repair crew of Willie, Sue, Barry, Suzanne and Mary also cleared branches and debris from that section of the trail and replaced missing signs. All of that was accomplished via hiking to the work area, carrying tools, cement, chain saw, loppers and the like. Although the repair crew was aware of a locked gate, which would have made access to the monument by vehicle possible, it was unknown who owned the lock. On one of the trips a GCTC business card was left at the lock requesting help to access the area for repairs to the monument. A quick response with an offer to assist was delightfully received from local landowner, Jim Brann, who not only offered access but also gave us the history of the plaque's accident.

Jim informed us that in July 2015 an oak tree fell near the boulder. One of the branches as it fell, literally scraped the monument off the rock leaving it, remarkably, undamaged. He reported the incident to the TNF office in Nevada City shortly there after and two other times, but unfortunately with no response from TNF. When Jim learned that GCTC was making the needed repairs he was eager to assist. The final repair trip to the monument was happily made by vehicle because of the generosity of Jim.

Many thanks to the dedicated GCTC repair crew and a BIG thank you to Jim for responding to the note and coordinating the opening of the locked gate. It was a delight to correspond with him and learn a smidgen of his family's history of land ownership in the area since 1957. Sometimes help is only a note away ... all you need to do is ask.



## BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES

### GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL Tuesday, October 11, 2016 7 PM Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse 10600 Bubbling Wells Road Grass Valley, CA

Officers:		Board Members:
President	Laura Duncan	Fran Cole
Vice President	Melissa Ribley	Charles Green
Secretary	Mary Lundin	Merv Kril
Treasurer	Teri Personeni	
Past President	Karen Schwartz	
Members:	Mary Johnson, Willie and Sue Brusin, Linda Lanzoni	

1. Call to Order and Welcome  
Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by Vice President Melissa Ribley. President Laura Duncan presided shortly after.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting  
Motion was made by Merv Kril and seconded by Charles Green. Minutes were approved.
3. Approval of the Treasurer's Report  
Teri Personeni reported the bank balance on October 11, 2016 to be \$28,409.23. A donation of \$500 was received and a Thank You note will be sent to the donor. A discussion of incumberances, such as the \$1000.00 for the Cable Trail, were briefly reviewed. Mary Lundin moved and Merv Kril seconded, and Treasurer's Report was approved.
4. Forest Service Report  
See attached report
  - A. Sue and Willie and Jeff Harter will ride the Bowman Lake Trail tomorrow to make decisions for the 2017 workday on that trail. Jeff will be bringing his horse to carry equipment to the work site. Use of the FS jackhammer is planned, and a crew supplied by Paul Hart.
  - B. Willie suggested members have business cards to hand out to interested parties, similar to one he received from another trail club. Mary Johnson handed out our existing cards which display our name, address, web address, Mission Statement, and a place for the member to write in their own name. They will be available at general meetings.
  - C. The Pioneer Trail plaque at the Bear Valley Bridge was reattached by Willie, Barry and Suzanne Vacarro, and Mary Johnson. The trail was also cleared and re-marked.
  - D. Don Soto is working on the Gold Country Trailhead map board frame. Jet Lowe will email the FS logo to use on it.
  - E. Willie will get the tractor to the Cable Trail worksite after it rains. That trail and a portion of the Dascombe Trail by the power lines will be finished but cannot be used until the 2017 season.

- F. Paul Hart and Willie would like to see a committee formed that would have face to face meetings involving GCTC, TNF, BONC, Woods Riders, and BYLT for the purpose of keeping all groups appraised of trail work. Fran Cole expressed concern that the groups would not necessarily be kept up to date on all issues. Willie explained that this is the sole purpose of this proposal.
- G. The crew from TNF worked on their day off to help make the United Trails Day 2016 a success. Willie suggested that they be invited to the November Thanksgiving dinner meeting, along with BONC and Woods Riders. He also suggested that GCTC write an official letter of thanks to the TNF workers that they could use as a reference in future pursuits.
- H. Order more green arrows as well as stickers for the Cable Trail.
- I. A proposal for the Mexican Mine Trail Project has been received. This trail is non-motorized, from Forest City/Alleghany to Downieville.

#### 5. Old Business

- A. Poker Ride review/Laura Duncan  
The date for Poker Ride will be June 3, 2017. The cleanup workday will be Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Three year strategic plan/Fran Cole  
No new activity recently.
- C. GCTC T-shirt purchase/Linda Lanzoni  
Linda is now in charge of the club t-shirt orders and supplies. She found the best source to be the one we currently use. Ladies styles, including tank tops, are available in our colors. Ball caps might be considered in the future. A motion to authorize up to \$1100 to purchase shirts was made by Teri Personeni and seconded by Melissa Ribley. Motion carried.
- D. Trail Coordinator position  
This position is best for someone who does not work on the trail workdays but is able to coordinate with the leaders who do, including Heather at the FS. The pre-work safety talk notice needs to be added to the position description. Mary Johnson will give a list of members who indicated an interest on their membership form. Willie pointed out that BONC and Woods Riders are not FS volunteers, therefore not covered the same way by the FS.
- E. Frank Smith ride fundraiser  
Laura spoke to Frank Smith who is agreeable to the fundraiser on his ranch. It was decided that April is a good month for this ride. Discussion about opening this event to the public to increase revenues was discussed. Due to the small parking area, it was decided that this first ride would be open only to GCTC members. Funds raised will go toward the Mines to Pines project as the participation contribution from GCTC. It may be necessary to "pay with registration" to limit the number of participants. Fran Cole has experience with running fundraiser rides and will help with planning.
- F. 2017 Officer nominations update-Karen Schwartz  
Susan VanSteenkiste has expressed an interest in being on the board. Other than Mary Lundin wishing to stay on the Board but giving someone else the opportunity to be Secretary, no other members have stepped forward. Fran looked up term limit rules for board members and found that as long as an election is held each year, members can be re-elected. Our bylaws state that the President can only hold 2 consecutive terms.

- G. Insurance coverage for additional activities update  
Teri is researching coverage options, and possible changes in carrier.  
The Directors and Officers coverage needs to be renewed in January. Teri will give an update in December.
6. New Business
- A. Speaker Schedule/Melissa Ribley  
Melissa asked for guidance regarding the type of speakers/presentations wanted at the general meetings. She tries to limit them to those that benefit members' education and not for sales pitches. She was advised to continue this way. No speaker will be included in the November Thanksgiving meeting. The meal will be served at 6:00.
- B. Raffle item-member ride/Teri Personeni  
A member would like to donate a hand made horse item to raffle at the November meeting. It was suggested that the members be notified that they are welcome to donate new items for the raffle.
- C. New logo offering-Nicole Schoppe  
Nicole was unable to attend tonight. Her offering will be placed on the December agenda. It was decided that the t-shirt order would go ahead as planned with the current logo.
- D. Skillman corral donation-Linda Lanzoni  
Linda met 2 ladies who would like to donate money for a new corral at Skillman Campground. Since Skillman is an ongoing project regarding new corrals, Linda will let them know that she will contact them when the new corral situation is sorted out.
- E. Rent increase for use of NCH clubhouse-Charles Green  
Due to the rent for GCTC being less than that charged to NCH members for use of the clubhouse, effective January 1, 2017 the rent will increase from \$30 to \$50. Teri will look into whether we currently pay only for the general meetings, or general and directors' meetings.
- Jaede is recovering from surgery and will be back in one to two weeks. Currently Pam Warmack is handling the email notifications. Laura also reminded us to contact the Sunshine Person if we know of any members needing a "bit of sunshine."
7. Adjourn  
Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

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

**Next Meeting  
Tuesday, November 15  
6:30 p.m**