

Trail Times



www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is membership renewal month. Our membership chair, Cathy Chase, has an article in the newsletter touting the many benefits of Gold Country Trails Council membership. Note, there are a few changes on the membership form this year. There is a box to check if your information hasn't changed in the last year. Checking the box makes it far easier to put together the membership list. There is also an additional line in the release form to allow photos taken at GCTC events to be used for publicity purposes. We often put photos of members from work days and the poker ride on our email list and Facebook page, and wanted to formalize the release procedure. The other addition is an electronic signature for the liability release, so no one who renews a membership online needs to be concerned about mailing a release form.

The Loney Meadow campout and work day was wonderful as always. One of the major benefits of membership is the opportunity to camp, ride, and do trail work at Loney Meadow and Little Lasier Meadow.

One of the things we've initiated this year is a guided ride for United Trails Day, and guided rides in July and August at Skillman. All the rides were very successful. The campground at Skillman was full both weekends we had guided rides. Upping the equestrian usage at Skillman helps the Forest Service justify the value of Skillman as an equestrian campground. The efforts GCTC volunteers made to guide and organize the rides was a huge benefit. The guided rides were excellent publicity for the club and gave equestrians a chance to ride in and appreciate new areas of Tahoe National Forest. We will continue the guided rides next year, but will have a ride

coordinator so folks guiding the rides don't have to do all the organization for the rides. I know it was a substantial effort.

We have added an info@GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org email address to the website under the contact tab. Currently, Jaede and I see the emails, but we can add anyone we want. This makes it easier to monitor and respond to emails coming from the website.

See you at the meeting in September on the 11th!

Helen Harvey, President

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Mary Ann Bacon
Amanda & Branden Ezell
Jesse Golden
Pam Higgins
Cherryl & Jim Holbrook
Jennie & Matt Leatherman
Monica Martinez
Barbara McNary
Celeste & Evan & Lily Neiser
Regina Lynn Preciado & Scott Eldridge
Dana Stone
Cindy Twyman

GCTC GENERAL MEETING*(Everyone's Invited!)*

TUESDAY, September 11 @ 7 p.m.
 Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse
 10600 Bubbling Wells, Grass Valley, CA

*Join the fun!
 Stay for the refreshments
 and great company!*

Advertising Space Available 2018 Newsletter & Phonebook Advertisement

Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC Newsletter for just \$5 per issue.(members only).

The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on GCTC Web site.

To place your ad contact GCTC Newsletter Editor.

United Trails Day • Oct. 13

We will meet at Skillman Campground at 8:30 AM and break into groups between 8:30 - 9:00. We will be working on the Towle Mill Loop Trail. This year, GCTC will provide the food for the group.



September

Sept 11	General Meeting - 7 p.m.
Sept 19	Nevada City Constitution Parade (non-GCTC event)
Sept 20-23	Draft Horse Classic (non-GCTC event)

October

Oct 9	Board meeting - 7 p.m.
Oct 13	United Trails Day/Work Day
Oct 20	Lone Grave Membership Appreciation Ride/BBQ
Oct 27	RAIN DATE Lone Grave Membership Appreciation Ride/BBQ

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

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Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2018 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website
www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

September is renewal month for GCTC members. Have you ever wondered why we renew in September instead of on a calendar year (January-December) basis? The answer: according to the Bylaws of Gold Country Trails Council, GCTC was organized as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in the month of August. As a result, the membership period runs from September 1 to August 31 (of the following year).

GCTC's mission is to build and maintain safe trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users. Membership in GCTC has many benefits. We enjoy work days with great lunches, fun trail rides, an interesting speaker program at our meetings, social gatherings, an informative newsletter, postings via email of trail updates, activities, and items for sale, and opportunities to ride and camp with an engaged group of dedicated, fun-loving, hard-working riders and hikers.

The membership fee is \$25 for an individual. A household/family membership is also only \$25. Per the Bylaws a household/family membership is defined as: "One or two persons over the age of 18 and children up to the age of 18 sharing one address."

If you joined GCTC in 2018 on or after June 1, your membership extends through September 2019 and you do not need to renew now. If any of your contact information has changed, however, please fill out a new GCTC membership form or email changes to chasehc@gmail.com.

There were some extra-conscientious members who renewed twice in 2018 and elected to have

the duplicate payment applied to 2019 membership. You will be reminded of this email.

Please send in your 2019 renewal as soon as possible. Don't miss out on the benefits, fun, and camaraderie of membership. Go to www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org and click on the "JOIN US" tab. You can pay online or download and print a membership form which can be mailed in if you prefer to pay by check. **If your renewal is not received by December 31, 2018, you will no longer receive GCTC benefits – among them the member-only email notifications since you will be removed from that list.**

If you have questions about the status of your membership or anything else related to membership, do not hesitate to contact Cathy Chase at 530-205-0900 or chasehc@gmail.com.



MEMBERS PERFORM AT NEVADA COUNTY FAIR

Members of GCTC performed at the 2018 Nevada County Fair with Nicole Schoppe's "Gait Squad Drill Team." Nicole Schoppe, Cindy Burd, Fran Cole, Krista Erickson, Laura Lester, Mary Lundin, Bill and Anna Trabucco. Also performing were Marie Chance, Claudia Booth, and Peggy.

LITTLE LASIER MEADOW CAMP WEEKEND**June 29 – July 1, 2018**

Majestic mountains, green lush meadows, meandering rivers, bubbling streams, colorful wildflowers, blue skies, magnificent views, miles of clear trails..... GCTC members enjoyed all of that and more on the annual camp/ride/work weekend near Jackson Meadow Reservoir. Several members arrived earlier in the week to enjoy riding and scouting out the trails, with the majority of members arriving nearer the weekend. Everyone slipped into camping spots, sharing a few of the sites to accommodate everyone who signed up for this popular event. It was delightful to have so many enthusiastic campers...returnees as well as new comers!

Saturday dawned bright and beautiful with campers fulfilling their morning chores early in anticipation of the work day. After a brief explanation of work to be done and safety talk, everyone split into two groups and got right to work.

Under the expert supervision of Willie and Sue, the trail crew headed up the connector trail to repair erosion issues. The industrious crew placed rocks to create water breaks before filling in two large sections of erosion, to reclaim the trail bed. A small crew of ladies was enticed up the trail by crew leader Mary J. to repair another section, only to hear "oh, there is one more" each time they successfully completed a trail repair! But the intrepid crew managed to press on each time and didn't lynch the crew leader.

The campground crew divided up to work on various sections. Barry guided the wooden corral repairs, with Pat and Tom supplying the digging/tamping power for installing two new posts and gates. Broken boards were expertly replaced by Worth. Other camp duties were replacing pavers under picnic tables, minor repairs to the other corrals, trimming back low hanging branches, cleaning fire pits and moving rock to fill in erosion in camp site parking spots...ask Teri about her road grading skills! All of the work was recorded by diligent photographer Mary L. who seemed to be everywhere.

Thanks to Ed from TNF Sierraville District and Timmy, LLM camp host, for cutting two large trees crossing the Pacific Crest Trail. And thanks also to Winston, TNF, and the camp hosts for maintaining the campground in a clean and tidy condition for everyone to enjoy.

The Saturday night pot luck was a huge success with Barry's BBQ chicken and a delicious variety of salads, side dishes and desserts. This group really knows how to cook! We enjoyed the company of camp hosts Timmy and Candy and entertainment was provided by Pebbles Vaccaro, the beagle puppy. What a trooper on her first camping trip at 7 weeks old. Before the evening was over the group picture was accomplished amid much laughter and teasing. Thank you all for the fun and the work! Inger Avery, Willie & Sue Brusin, Jamie Canon, Kathy Cahouette, Lori Codey, Bill Dryden, Tom Fletcher, Stacy and Phil Graham, Dee Dee & Pat Hardy, Stephanie Hensey, Mary Johnson, Greg King, Mary & Worth Lundin, Teri Personeni, Cathy Scott, Barry & Suzanne Vaccaro, Pamela & Carl Warmack

Everyone enjoyed long and short rides in a wide variety of directions and terrains. The Pacific Crest Trail was explored north and south with riders enjoying fabulous vistas. Other popular trails were the Blue trail connecting to Road 70-60 and Road 70-50. Road 70-40 and the "Green gate" road provided loop connections to the PCT, with one group riding to Moscové Meadow. Another group rode all three sections of Pass Trail on the return trip of riding the PCT north. The many trail options enhance the camping experience at Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. If you enjoy camping and haven't been to Little Lasier Meadow you are missing a great experience. See you next year!

~ Mary Johnson



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Little Antelope WANAC Ride

Majestic, magnificent, breathtaking, pristine, beautiful; all words that attempt to describe the gorgeous setting of the Little Antelope WANAC (We Are Not A Club) Ride and camp location we experienced in July. Basecamp was at the 8000' elevation in the Toiyabe National Forest.

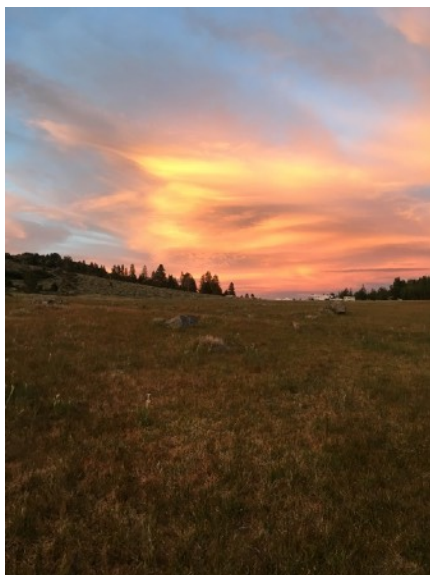
Several GCTC members signed up for the catered campout, and all were seasoned veterans with WANAC except me. I was very impressed with the location, food, bathroom and shower facilities and camp friendliness.

The riding was breathtaking and challenging. Various trails led us thorough ancient sequoia groves, aspen forests and huge lodgepole stands. Wildflowers were abundant, and there was plenty of water and grass available along the trails for the horses.

I highly recommended this trip for all who wish to experience camping on the eastern side of the Sierras. The nighttime sky, scenic vistas and clean air were additional bonuses.

GCTC members who attended included Gigi Lawton, Lori Moniz, Nikki Vasquez and myself.

~ Laura Duncan



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For the Benefit of the Horse

With mixed emotions I announce that Meadowcreek Maverick is back with his original owner/breeder. I have so enjoyed having Maverick here and his presence brought my son back into riding. They were quite a pair.

Over time we could see that Maverick was not happy with his low level of attention. Being kept on the farm where he was born, he was with his best horse buddy and human Mom for 10 years. When he came to me it was a dream come true. Buckskin is my favorite color and Morgan is my breed of choice.

I have known Maverick since he was born and watched as his training progressed from trail riding to showing. Such a sweet guy needed far more attention than I had available. When his original breeder heard that I was considering finding a new home for him, she jumped at the chance. Maverick is now back with his horse and human friends and ever so happy. He is missed here, but with 3 of my own, my time is limited. So, farewell Maverick.



~ Teri Personeni

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A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY...

Our president Helen Harvey recently sent me a clip from the GCTC mission statement:

Mission Statement:

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

There are several challenges for a non-profit, volunteer organization like Gold Country Trails Council. These challenges must be met in order to effectively perform our mission as stated.

One is generating money to achieve the goals as stated in the Mission statement of the GCTC. We need money for supplies, tools, renting trail equipment, signs, food for work crews, and running the organization in general.

Another challenge is getting an involved membership. While we have somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 paying members, the number of members who are actually involved in the work of the GCTC is far fewer. The more "informed" members we have, the more volunteer workers we will have.

A third challenge is education of the public (and membership). This covers not only trail etiquette between horseback riders, hikers, and bicyclists, but much more: Educating the general public about the trails and their locations, educating others about the GCTC and its mission, and interacting with members of like-minded organizations (BONC, Mines to Pines, etc.).

I believe the Nevada County Fair is a perfect venue to address all of the above. This year there

was an agreement with GCTC to work with Heather Newell at USFS, by supplying members and horses to share the GCTC mission at the USFS fair pavilion. Things were scheduled and ready, until the Fair administration (which had earlier approved the collaboration) cancelled the project the night before the fair opened, citing liability issues.

As the project manager for this effort, it felt like a great opportunity. But, even before the "plug was pulled" by fair officials, I began to think the GCTC needed to have its own venue at the Fair. The Nevada County Fair is arguably the most publicly participated event in Nevada County. Tens of thousands of visitors of every age and demographic attend the fair every year. It is the high point of the year for many families, and not to be missed. The Nevada County Fair is a unique county fair, partially due to our location in the Sierra Nevada and access to Tahoe National Forest. What better venue to meet the challenges identified above?

While it would be nice to have a venue that allowed horses and riders of GCTC to actively participate, it will depend largely on whether we can have a place where the Fair allows animals, and provides access for GCTC to spread the word to the mainstream public.

With GCTC Board approval, I am exploring the possibility and feasibility of us having a venue at the fair in 2019. At some point in the near future, I will be asking for your input and ideas. Right now, I am exploring our options with the Fair

Continued on page 8

GOLDEN *Continued from page 7*

Committee. I will let the membership know when we are ready for input and ideas. Your input will be invaluable. After all, this is YOUR club, too!

Stay tuned for further updates. If this becomes a reality, we plan to staff the venue with volunteers from Wednesday through Sunday of fair week. I anticipate 2 to 4-hour shifts, much as we do with the Nevada County Sheriff's Search and rescue. I will keep the membership posted as we go.

~ Bernie Molloy



SPENCEVILLE DAY RIDE

We had great weather for the GCTC Spenceville Day Ride in May with 13 riders, including new members, participating. The wildflowers were in bloom, and we had a good place for lunch with logs to sit on in the shade, and lots of green grass for the horses. It was a fun and wonderful day.

~ Suzanne Vaccaro



Laura Berman

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★ THANK YOU TO EVERY DEDICATED, HARDWORKING PERSON IN GCTC WHO HELPS TO MAKE IT AN AMAZING ORGANIZATION! ★



GCTC ROYAL GORGE RIDE

On July 7th, four of us, Jamie Canon, her daughter Rebecca, Jacqueline Debets and myself had a lovely ride. The weather was perfect. We had clear skies, wildflowers were in bloom, and we had light winds. The 360° views up on top where the lava rock outcroppings are were spectacular. Our lunch stop had green grass for the horses with lots of shade trees. There were several streams for the horses to get water along the ride.



~ Suzanne Vaccaro

Tahoe Donner Equestrian Center & Trails

We recently spent 4 nights mid-week with their horses boarded at the Tahoe Donner Equestrian Center, while staying at a vacation rental cabin a mile away. It's about a 90-minute haul from Penn Valley on a good day. Tahoe Donner is a membership-based residential community, but it opens its Equestrian Center to non-member overnight borders when it is open for the season, from May-September. Tahoe Donner also has a campsite with hook-ups that is open to the public less than 2 miles from the Equestrian Center.

Maps are provided and you can ride out onto trails that are well-marked and graded in 3 levels, which they would say run from little gradient and decent footing to some gradient and some rocks, but not a serious challenge for those GCTC members who have very experienced and fit horses. You can ride on everything from loops that never stray far from the center to rides that go down into beautiful Euer Valley and back. We used to horse camp in the Euer Valley before it was closed to the public. Our horses are now 23, and we don't like to overface them, so we did not make the Euer Valley trek, but we thoroughly enjoyed the variety of scenery on the various trails that we rode during our visit.

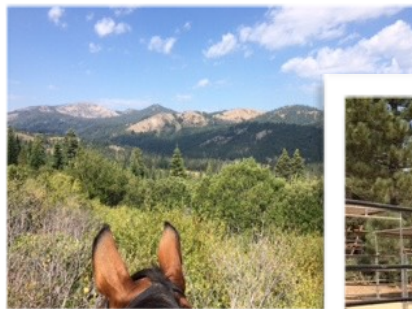
The boarding area of the Equestrian Center has been expanded since we last saw it and is now located nearer the beginning of the dirt rode where we used to haul down to the Euer Valley. The ridge-top rides we rode gave us beautiful, expansive views that we hadn't seen when we camped in the valley. Riders will encounter some cyclists, but they have clearly been told to respect

horses. It was our experience that cyclists generally stopped while we passed, so it's a good learning opportunity for young horses.

We found the Equestrian Center, which is at 6650 feet, to be well-run with friendly staff. It has half-roofed 12x24 pole paddocks with absorbent, sandy footing and some shade trees. They clean once a day and feed twice, two flakes, your choice of grass or alfalfa, and the large water holders are topped up daily. There are nice lockable cupboards for your tack, about the size of a porta potty, with two saddle racks and some hooks. Trailer parking is close by. There is also a wash rack with rubber mats and a large wood-sided round pen. If you want to work your horse in a fenced arena there are several, of small to medium size, and a clubhouse with a snack bar for refreshments after you ride.

Boarding costs \$44 a night, but for 5 nights it's better to go for the \$184 weekly rate. If you don't want to board the trail day use fee is \$15. The Tahoe Donner Equestrian Center's website is: <http://www.tahoedonner.com/amenities/equestrian/equestrian-center/>

~ Michael Brook and Cathy Blake



Wright's Lake Horse Camping

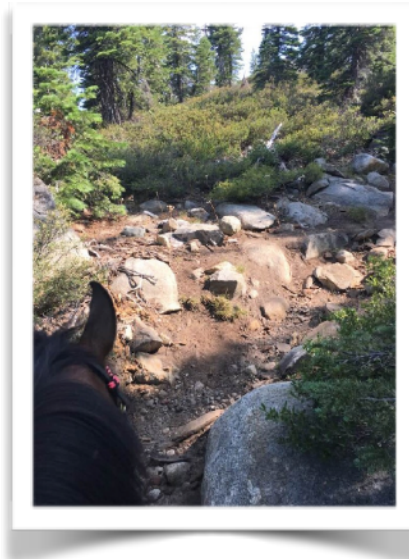
In July, Lori and I went horse camping at Wright's Lake -- It is located off Highway 50 above Kyburz. We took the road that turns off at Riverton and takes several turns over 20 miles past Ice House Reservoir to get there -- as was recommended by Robert Sydnor in his article (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/horsetrails>). Coming back down that way, I used 2nd gear most of the way for my small rig. There is a shorter way from Kyburz - but Robert doesn't recommend it, however other equestrians with larger rigs do use that road.

The horse camp itself is very nice. It has a stream with a swimming hole big enough for horses. There was a mustang and his rider swimming one day. The camp has nice vault toilets and water available, plus picnic tables and fire pits. There are trees for high tie. We were able to find a small space to set up our electric tape corral.

Wright's Lake is large and pretty with lots of kayakers using it. It has a large regular campground with a boat dock at the lake and a very small ranger information station. The trails are rocky and pretty technical. Going east out of camp we were told the single track to "Bloodsucker Lake" was eroded. We tried the jeep road to that lake but it had a very large tree down on it making it impassable. On the single track, we could not find the lake, and on the way back the rocks tore my horse's EasyBoot off the gaiter. I never did find the boot! We rode out and back past Beauty Lake on the trail to Rockbound Pass and it was rocky. The last day we found a jeep trail past Dark Lake through the campground until we ran into several jeeps blocking the road.

This seems to be popular horse camp as there were lots of campers.

~ Gigi Lawton



Remember, leave only hoof prints. Please do not clean out your trailer at staging areas. In fact, make it so horses and equestrians are welcome: carry a manure fork and scoop up your horse droppings and place them in your trailer to dispose of at home.



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