

# 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

Hello Everyone,

What a great summer this has been. And it's not over yet!

July and August have been a busy time for GCTC members. Our Ice Cream Social was well attended, and we enjoyed hearing speaker Tom Grundy, an experienced Search and Rescue volunteer, who discussed the use of GPS while riding or hiking in the wilderness.

Our day ride at Royal Gorge on July 19th was wonderful. Everyone raved about the challenging and beautiful trails we rode, thanks to our Trail Boss Merrill Kagan-Weston. (See the story by Merrill inside.)

The Work Day at Upper Pioneer on July 26th saw a lot of work accomplished, although the job was not totally completed. Thanks to all who attended, especially our Work Day Leader Vicki Testa.

Our Loney Meadow Work Day/Camp/Ride started with a few early arrivals who staked out campsites in two camps. Led by Teri Personeni, we enjoyed the sunny days riding the scenic trails and the cool nights beneath the star studded heavens, and accomplished much trail work. (See the story by Teri inside.)

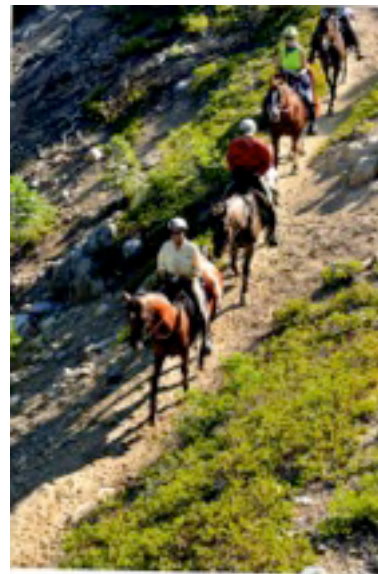
Now get out your calendar because we have more fun coming up in September and October. First, our Membership meeting on September 9th will feature Melony Vance, our member Fran Cole, and possibly Marty Coleman-Hunt, all of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, describing their Equi Treks program and answering any questions you may have. I have attended several Equi Treks and can confirm that they have been very enjoyable and informative.

And be sure to attend our Sensory Schooling event on Saturday, September 20th at the Nevada County Horsemen's arena. This will be an informal, fun event, open only to members of GCTC and/or NCH. Jaede will send you the entry flyer shortly with all the details.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Page 6

### THANK YOU!

Melissa and Robert would like to thank all of the GCTC volunteers who helped out at Tevis. It was so uplifting to see their smiling faces and hear their words of encouragement at the check points they assisted at. We, the riders, could not enjoy the Tevis experience without their help. Kudos to the volunteers of Tevis.



Front to back, Melissa Ribley, Robert Ribley and Kathy Sherman



Robert and Melissa Ribley finishing at 4:15 AM Sunday morning.

Submitted by, Melissa Ribley

**GENERAL MEETING**  
 Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 7:00 P.M.  
**GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL**  
 off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speakers: Melony Vance, Fran Coleman and Marty Coleman-Hunt from the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT). They will be providing an overview of the BYLT Equi Trek Program.

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL  
 2014 CALENDAR**

Date	Event
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
September 9	General Meeting - 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
September 20	Sensory Schooling Event Coordinator: Karen Schwartz
September 18-21	Draft Horse Classic Fair( non GCTC event)
September 28	Skillman Campground Closes
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
October 12	United Trails Day/Work Day Coordinator: Irv Mazur
October 14	Board Meeting - 6 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV
October 15	Work Day - Skillman Leader: Melissa Ribley
October 18	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ Coordinator: TBA
October 25	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
November 11	General Meeting/Thanksgiving Feast 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange Hall, GV
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
December 9	Board Meeting - 3 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse, GV



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

**Committee Chairs**

Camp Cook & Coordinator:  
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 Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich  
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 Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin  
 Historian: Sharon Silver  
 Hospitality: Laura Duncan, Maryann Colley and  
 Krista Ericson  
 Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin  
 and Mary Johnson  
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 Publicity: Diane Culver  
 Skillman: Robert & Melissa Ribley  
 Tool Storage and Maintenance: Willie Brusin  
 Trail Rides: Jamie Canon  
 Web Master: Ron Brown  
 United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

**Gold Country Trails  
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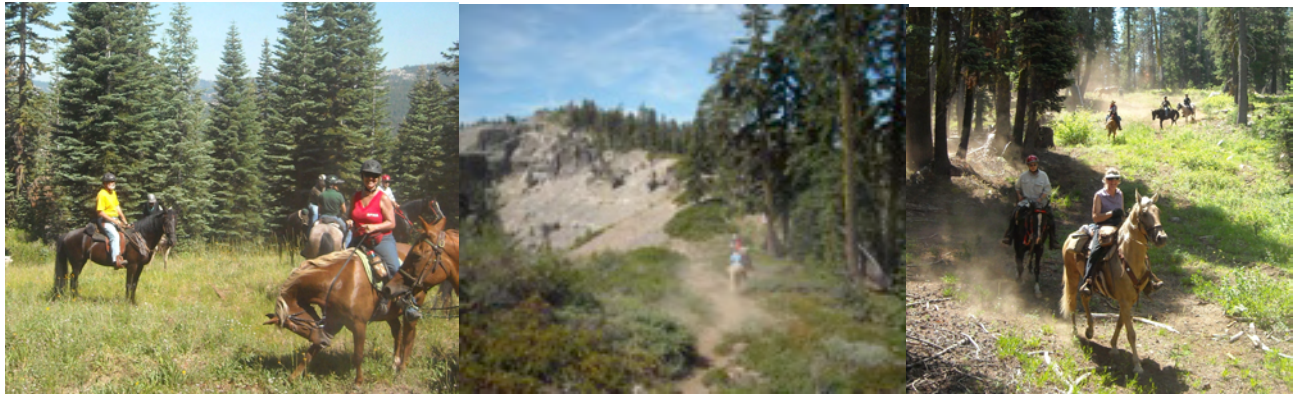
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### GCTC ROYAL GORGE RIDE

On Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup>, several members and guests traveled to Soda Springs to ride the pristine trails of newly acquired Truckee Donner Land Trust property of Royal Gorge.

Just 45 minutes from the Skillman Campground, there was plenty of room for all the rigs in the staging area by the old sheep pens. A little has changed since our "inaugural" ride last year led by Placer County Supervisor, Jennifer Montgomery.

There is now signage designating the area as open and lists all of the donors that made the acquisition possible.



The trails are in great shape as they have not been traveled much and the vistas of the Gorge and neighboring peaks and lakes are spectacular! We started our ride with a drink from the creek by the trailhead, the only water source at this time of year and rode to the top of the ridge via "Nose Dive" Trail to "Razorback." Some of the group rode up to "Lola's Lookout" before we slowly descended on "Bogus Basin" and "Jack's Jump", stopping for lunch along "Switchback" in a shady spot where some trees had fallen making for good sitting spots and places to tie the horses. Once we reached the bottom along "Summit" we came across a small bog with virtually a bed of small frogs, thousands of them hopping around creating an earth moving effect, which definitely confused my Arab! He finally realized it was safe to cross and off we ventured to "Prince Charming", which was flat and grassy. It parallels Van Norden Lake and we followed it back to the creek for another drink before heading back to the trailers.



The weather was perfect and there was just a slight breeze although I have been at the top on windy days as well.

If you haven't been there, now is a great time to go. There were a few hikers and bicycles, all very polite. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails but can be heard in the distance. There is new trail being cut parallel to Razorback so, next year there may be a separate trail for bikes. Enjoy this area before fall as the weather does change quickly up there.

Riders: Mary & Worth Lundin, Karen Schwartz, Suzanne Vacarro, Brad & Merrill Kagan-Weston, Bill Dryden, Laura Zieman, Merv Krill, Carol Scurria, Fran Cole, Kathy Trauman, Denise Pickering (New Member) signed up that day, Teri Personeni and Jamie Canon.

Submitted by Merrill Kagan-Weston



LEAVE ONLY HOOV PRINTS



**IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

It is time to renew your commitment to keeping our wonderful area trails open for our enjoyment! Your support and/or participation are both needed to continue the purpose of Gold Country Trails Council: .....to develop, maintain, and protect non-motorized recreation trails in the sierra foothills area for public use and enjoyment." While accomplishing that task, members also enjoy fun trail rides, interesting informed speakers, social gatherings, a great newsletter, trail information, delicious lunches at trail work days, and wonderful opportunities to camp and ride, all in the company of dedicated, fun loving, hard working, like minded people.

Membership fee for an individual or a families is \$25.

Send your 2015 application in today! Don't miss any of the fun! Just fill out the **Renewal Form on Page 9** and return it with your **check for \$25** to GCTC. You also need to sign and return the **Release From All Liability Form on Page 10.**

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A big THANK YOU to all you GCTC members for the pictures you have been sending me of the GCTC workdays, campouts, rides and other club activities. I wish that I could put all of them in the newsletter, but then it would be to big to send out for you to enjoy. Keep the pictures coming, I will use as many as I can.

Lynn Mangel, Editor



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Suzanne Vaccaro on her mustang gelding Suntuanna

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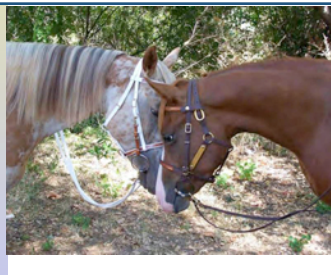
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**Save the date!**

October 15 is a new date slated on the GCTC calendar. It will be an important Skillman workday where we will be laying down material in the corrals at Skillman that have become deeply rutted. The additional material will make the corrals much more comfortable for our camping horses. Please join your fellow GCTC members at Skillman on October 15.

Submitted by **Melissa Ribley**

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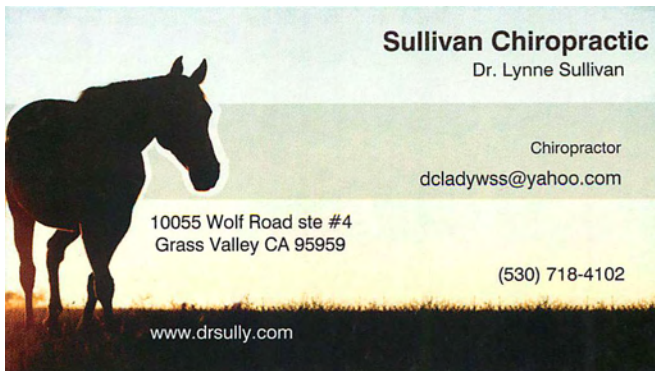
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**Castle Peak Ride**

Thursday destination: Castle Peak! This is a favorite riding area that truly showcases our beautiful Sierra Mountains. Generally the weather and views are fantastic, the trails easy to follow and sufficient water for equines.



We parked at the Castle Peak trailhead at the end of Boreal Road. Hopped on our horses and followed signs to Pacific Crest Trail, entered 2 tunnels to cross under I-80 and then up the mountain. Signage is good.



There are several choices for rides depending on how much time you have available. We chose the trail that goes around the mountain. It took us about 4.5 hours to complete our loop.

Submitted by, **Laura Duncan**



Worth and Mary are proud to introduce their future son-in-law on his first horseback ride at Cuneo Horse Park. Justin Dessel and Katie Lundin with Sandy.

*Not everyone can hear the silent language between a horse and rider, not everyone can trust their life with a 1200 lb. animal, the sweat, tears, and dedication needed to be a part of this world. But equestrians are no ordinary people and horses are no ordinary animals. The only ones who truly understand this world are the ones who are a part of it.*

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

Contact me ([karen-schwartz@prodigy.net](mailto:karen-schwartz@prodigy.net)) if you have questions.

In October, we’ll be equally busy. Be sure to join us for the celebration of United Trails Day on Saturday, October 12th. Members of BONC and Trails Riders will join us for some trail work, followed by a delicious lunch.

The Work Day scheduled for September 13th has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 15th. Led by Melissa Ribley, we will be focusing on leveling the ground inside the corrals at Skillman. As always, a tasty lunch will be provided for all workers.

Our annual Lone Grave Ride/BBQ is scheduled for Saturday, October 18th and will feature trail riding at Lone Grave followed by a feast focused on luscious locally- produced foods. We need a volunteer leader to organize the menu.

It’s not too early to remind you that our Thanksgiving feast on November 11th is always a high point of the year. Besides savoring wonderful food with friends, you will enjoy a special program we are putting together to revisit GCTC’s mission and accomplishments, plus the election of officers.

Hoping to see you at all these events,

Karen



Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!

Josette Brault  
Lori Codey  
Linda Lansky  
David and Linda Petersen  
Denise Pickering

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

**David and Linda Petersen**

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.

**REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR GCTC MEMBERSHIP**  
GCTC Membership Renewal Form is on Page 9  
Release Liability Form is on Page 10

### Annual Loney Meadow Work Day/Camp/Ride

Our annual Loney Meadow workday and campout was once again a very successful event. With 14 members participating it was quite a joint effort. I didn't remember where the club banner was. Mary Johnson volunteered that she had it and I could pick it up at her work. I didn't think I was going to be able to arrive in camp before Saturday, so Merv and Carol picked it up. Jeff Foltz was unable to attend, but had the hedge trimmer. Once more Mary Johnson was called upon to be the go-between for Jeff and me and I picked up the trimmer at Mother Lode Veterinary Hospital. Thank you Mary!! Willie and Sue had gone up a day early and cleared some fallen trees off of the connector trail to Bowman Mountain from the Loney Dairy.

As it turned out, I was able to arrive Friday afternoon, so Saturday our group decided to explore the new trail to Shotgun Lake. YBONC had done a marvelous job turning a jumble of rocks into a nice trail. It was a long day and all were glad to take part in a yummy potluck dinner that night.



Sunday my team out did themselves and cleared three directions of trails from the Bull Pen/Loney Meadow intersection. It is now much like a boulevard!! Not the least of which was an adjustment to the trail where Pat found the sharp end of a culvert on the very edge of the trail. Now that danger has been covered and part of a fallen tree has been cut to move the trail for safer passage. In addition, there is now a trail from the Loney



Meadow staging/parking lot to our horse camp without going on the road!! Thanks to Willie for his vision and foresight to design a trail that was pretty easy to create. He and Sue had done the half from the camp toward the parking area, so the end was a quick finish.

Many members had to leave Sunday night, so our group was much smaller for a Monday ride. With each day we were fewer in camp. By Wednesday Karen and I were the last and she went home while I rode with my friend Scott to Glacier Lake. I think Karen is glad she didn't stay for that ride; it was 8 hours of some rugged trails and Scott's famous cross-country bushwhacking! Fay and I survived and had a quiet night by ourselves in the circle meadow and left early Thursday morning from our tranquil spot in the forest.



Thank you beyond thanks, to all who attended and worked so hard:

Willie and Sue Brusin	Lori Moniz-Waddell
Pat Gibbs	Karen Schwartz
Gigi Lawton	Carol Scurria & Merv Krill
Penny Martin	Sharon Silver
Jaede Miloslavich	Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro

The port a potty was very much appreciated, although not placed in the most convenient spot. Hey! It was there.

In notable absence were Mary and Worth Lundin due to an injury. Hope you are feeling fine by now Worth.

Your pooped but happy Workday Leader,

**Submitted by, Teri Personeni**

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



**GCTC Board Minutes**

August 12, 2014

Present: President Karen Schwartz, Vice President Melissa Ribley, Board Members Vicki Testa, Jeff Foltz, Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin and Sue Brusin

Meeting started a 6:00 pm at the NCH clubhouse. Approved minutes of the last meeting, Treasures report not available.

Web site update: Heard a proposal from Auburn Printers, Brad and Merrill Kagan (GCTC Members) on the GCTC Web site. The proposal is to update the current site with new photos, current information, provide support, develop a simpler way of updating the site, and support Pay Pal. GCTC would continue to maintain the Domain Name. Would take about 6 weeks to develop. The cost would be \$1000 to set up and approximately \$19.00 a month service fee. Brad and Merrill would be donating their time as part of the setup. Motion was made by Jeff seconded by Vicki to authorize Auburn Printers ( Brad and Merrill ) to develop a new Web page for GCTC, voted carried 4-0. The current Web host will be recognized for his service, which he graciously donated to the club.

Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin, The \$1,000 Keen Grant still held up by the TNF environmental report, would provide a large map of the Pioneer Trails at the Five Mile House. United Trail workday has been set for October 12, 2014, involving all three-user groups of the Pioneer Trail system. The work will take place across from Skillman. Progress is being made on the Pioneer trail relocation with the Conservation crew, hopefully it will be completed August 14 and 15. The bee problem and down tree on the Pioneer Trail have been taken care of. Pioneer Trail workday was a success with the limited members present, 4 BONC members were also in attendance.

Melissa provide an update on the Future of Skillman: After further discussion with the Forest Service it was determined a camp trailer was not necessary for the current camp host at Skillman, in the future the camp host may be relocated to another camp site, and only provide monitoring of Skillman. The Forest Service is reevaluating their commitment and financial resources to those campgrounds with limited use. The Board is sensitive to the issue and intends to maintain a close relationship with the Forest Service to remind them of the importance of Skillman and the efforts by GCTC to maintain it. Got approval from the Forest Service to install DG in the stalls at Skillman, considering a workday at Skillman for Sunday September 28, 2014 to install the DG. The board authorized up to \$ 2,000 to purchase the DG, have it delivered, and front loader to move it and a rental tamper. 4-0 vote.

Poker Ride, for next years Poker Ride, would be helpful to have someone keep track of all the people who made donations with names and address's, so GCTC can be sure to get thank you notes out to those that donated. Authorized sending a thank you certificate for display to Trattotia Milano restaurant for their poker ride donation. Still have not appointed a Board Replacement. Member Diana Culver graciously accepted the position of Publicity Chair. Work is still being done on the review of GCTC archives and time line including past Presidents. Board asked that a notice be sent to the members trying to find the location of the GCTC microphone and karaoke system, if unable to relocate authorized \$250.00 to purchase another system.

Board discussed the joint sponsored clinic with Nevada County Horsemen, would be a closed event for GCTC and Nevada County Horsemen members, to be held at the arena at the NVCH, play day in the AM on trail obstacles, lunch and a fun judging competition in the afternoon with ribbons, there would be a cost for the event.

Discussed the importance of the Phone Tree and making sure that the full membership is called to remind them of workdays and special events. Without members at the workdays GCTC cannot fulfill its mission of maintaining and building trails. The Board also discussed the importance of trail work, and the low turn out from the membership. The Board intends to reemphasize the importance of trail work, and to remind the members that it is the purpose of GCTC to maintain and develop the Pioneer Trail and horse camp grounds, and it will take everyone's help not just a few to do the work. Otherwise the trails could easily be lost to other user groups. All the members need to help in some little way in maintaining the trails. Everyone needs to make a commitment to at least one workday a year. Without GCTC involvement the work does not get done and the enjoyment of riding the trails will be lost. The forest continues to grow, without trail maintenance we will have no trails. The more members we have helping the easier the trails are to maintain.

President Karen Schwartz mentioned that the Nevada County Horsemen's Club House would be available to GCTC at no charge for general meetings, and that per our contract we are to be out of the Grange hall by 9:00 pm on general meeting nights. Adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.



# Gold Country Trails Council Membership Form

*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.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Renewable annually in September)

Membership:  Individual  Family (all signatures needed on release form)  
 Renewal  New  
 Equestrian  Bicyclist  Hiker/Pedestrian

Did your address, phone, or email information change this year? Yes  No

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if you DO NOT want your contact information listed in the GCTC Club phone book.  
*The phone book is for club use only.*

**Stay informed, stay involved! Please check the communication option(s) that best meet your needs:**

**Announcements:**  Email  Telephone reminder for club activities  Do not phone

**Newsletter:**  Email  Postal mail

## Gold Country Trails Council welcomes donations

If you are unable to participate in the workdays, please consider a donation towards your favorite project. (Include your check with membership form and fee).

To enable us to utilize your many skills and interests, we ask that you check those activities which you can assist the GCTC. Please add to the list under "other" if there is something we may have overlooked.

Advertising/Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Artwork/Graphics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horse Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs/Maps/GPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tool Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Ride (lead/organize)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webpage/Design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodworking/Welding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workday Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workday (lead/organize)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you consider serving as an officer of the GCTC Board? Yes  No

Would you consider serving as a Board Member of the GCTC? Yes  No

Would you consider chairing a GCTC committee? Yes  No

Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_

To join, please complete and mail this form with membership fee of \$25.00, payable to:

**Gold Country Trails Council, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 753, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924**

**(100% tax deductible as a charitable contribution)**

***(Please sign the release form below or on the reverse of this application for our files)***

**RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY**

**This is a binding legal document. Read it carefully before signing below.**

I understand that the Gold Country Trails Council sponsors and organizes a variety of events, including, but not limited to, equestrian trail rides and overnight campouts, trail building and work days, tack sales, membership meetings, potluck dinners, and other social events. Gold Country Trails Council events are non-alcoholic.

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for membership in the Council or permission to participate in these events, I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Gold Country Trails Council, its officers, members, agents, employees, and representatives, from and against all claims, suits, actions, or liabilities (including any of the foregoing by way of indemnification or contribution), for personal injuries, property damage or loss, death, or for attorney fees, which are based on or arise out of my participation in such events. This release applies to all such claims, suits, actions, or liabilities, even though they may arise out of or be based on the negligence, lack of care, or other fault on the part of the persons listed above.

In signing this release I acknowledge that (a) equestrian events and activities involving horses involve risks which may result in serious personal injuries, property damage or loss, or death, (b) that trails and areas for equestrian events may consist of rough trails, steep or unstable terrain, water hazards, wild animals, and other natural or manmade obstacles and dangers, and that I may expect to encounter such areas in their natural condition without any preparation or safeguards designed for equestrian activities, and (c) that horses themselves may create dangers because of kicking, running away, throwing riders off, and other disruptive and uncontrollable behaviors.

I am sufficiently skilled in riding horses, and am sufficiently physically fit, to participate in the equestrian events listed above.

This release is binding on my heirs, executors, administrators, and personal representatives.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY ON BEHALF OF MINOR**

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, address: \_\_\_\_\_, age(s): \_\_\_\_\_, have read, and having legal authority to do so, agree to all of the foregoing provisions of the **RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY** on behalf of such minor and myself. I authorize any supervisory personnel to consent on my behalf to any necessary emergency medical treatment for such minor by a properly licensed or qualified person, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless any persons giving such consent in accordance with the foregoing **RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY**.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_