

General Membership Meeting
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, March 8, 2022
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President: Jamie Canon
Vice President: Helen Crawford McDermott
Secretary: Mary Lundin
Treasurer: Cathy Scott
Past President: Bernie Molloy, absent

Board Members:

Miriam Lytle, absent
Laura Simmons, present
Teri Personeni, present

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Jamie Canon

B. Changes or Additions to Agenda

No changes

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Helen Crawford made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2021 Membership Meeting and Laura Simmons seconded. Motion passed. (No meeting was held in January due to excessive snow and lack of power.)

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Cathy Scott reported the bank balance as of March 8, 2022 to be \$43,139.39. There were no changes to funds set aside for specific purposes. Insurance premiums for Liability and Directors and Officers Coverage were paid. A check for \$60 was sent to Back Country Horseman of CA for Organization Membership. A motion was made by Teri Personeni and 2nd by Barry Vaccaro to approve report. Motion passed

E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson

Pioneer Trail / Caltrans Hwy 20: This project is to realign several curves below White Cloud and near Lowell Hill Road. It has already started at Lone Grave/Conservation Road, with a new left turn lane to be added. The project has been scaled back from its original plan. It will probably be a 2-year project. It will impact use of the Pioneer Trail and will cause some re-routing of the trail after the project is completed or near completion. The Pioneer trail will be/is closed between White Cloud and Lowell Hill Rd. Some sections around Skillman may not be impacted.

Per Paul Hart, he figures about a month will be needed to rebuild the trail, which will be rerouted in some places, probably within 100 yards below the current trail. He is keeping the need for water access at the Steephollow Creek crossing on his watch list. He believes that most of the curve alignments will be using fill instead of "bridges", but Paul did say there will be wildlife under crossings made in the new sections.

New Trail Construction: New trails are being constructed primarily for bicyclists on the south/east side of Hwy 20 near Conservation Road. BONC has completed 1 loop already and has a work day scheduled this weekend for the climbing trail. Those trails will be open for use soon. The Yuba River Ranger District announced the project over a year ago and approved construction with a decision memo. The purpose of the project is to help disperse use of the trails in the Lone Grave System for "optimized" bicycle use for sport riders vs. recreational riders. Specific and pertinent to hikers and equestrians is the plan to return the Hoot trail into a more standard non-motorized trail. In the future a new trailhead parking area will be created near the Hwy 20/ Conservation Road intersection. With the construction of the new trail system, the inventory and trail decisions of the existing Lone Grave trails will be put on hold until the impacts of the new trails system can be evaluated.

Lone Grave Trail Map: The new map and signs are still in the works. Although the official forest service map is delayed, a map showing the system trails as they are now will be printed and posted on the kiosk at the GCETH. Hand out maps will also be made available through the forest service and on Avenza. The color-coded trail marking signs are no longer being used. The Forest Service is now marking the trails.

Lone Grave acknowledgement sign: The project of cleaning up the wooden sign that lists the groups and individuals who donated to the trail head construction was taken on by Andi Duncan. It included painting the metal sign stand and cleaning and oiling the wooden sign.

F. Old Business

1. Signage at Lone Grave Update

See update in FS report. The sign will be rehung in the metal stand on April 16th.

2. Trail tracking software

Toni Owen gave a presentation of the ride tracking software she uses that tracks your ride and then can be transferred to another user or even a website for downloading by other riders. No cell service is needed as it works off satellite. A committee was formed to research the most commonly used softwares, such as All Trails, Avenza, etc. One to three of the most user-friendly applications will be presented to the club.

3. Poker Ride Progress Update

Jamie Canon announced the date for the upcoming Poker Ride Fundraiser will be June 4, 2022. There were 3 responses from the email requesting volunteers, although they have not been available to finalize plans. Help to make the Poker Ride happen is still needed. The Upper Burlington to Skillman trails should still be available even with the Hwy. 20

roadwork. Motorcycle trails are used as well as non-motorized trails in the marked ride. Woods Riders Motorcycle Club can notify their members about the event.

4. New Member Social Announcement

Information will be forthcoming about the New Member Social to be held on April 12th in conjunction with the Board of Directors Meeting. Laura Duncan gave a brief introduction of the information to be shared with new members to help them understand what GCTC does and its purpose. She encouraged all members to attend and share their experiences with GCTC. Jamie reminded members how important it is to meet and talk with those just joining GCTC so they know they are welcomed.

G. New Business

1. Free Handouts Around Town Not yet available. No discussion.

2. March Spenceville Ride and April Tulip Ride

The March Spenceville ride was postponed, probably until April, due to the contagious EHV-1 outbreak. The April 20th Tulip Ride at Ananda is full and the 2nd date of April 27th is also full.

3. P2M Scoping Letter Appreciation

Jamie thanked all those who worked so hard on the Pines to Mines Scoping Letter response. The input of equestrians regarding the Forest Service's decision to possibly include E-bikes on the proposed non-motorized trail is vital to the safety of all those who will use this trail.

4. GCTC joining BCH

Laura Duncan explained the reason GCTC has joined Back Country Horsemen of CA, Mother Lode Unit, and the national BCH of America, as an Origination Member. This organization provides legal action for preservation of trails for stock use. They have lobbyists and environmentalists working to this end that smaller groups like ours cannot provide. Per Norma Kohlbaker, Membership Coordinator BCHC Mother Lode Unit, we "are now part of a major equestrian, non-profit service group promoting education, maintenance and protection of trails. BCH promotes public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and works to educate users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves our backcountry resources."

You can join as an individual or family if you would like to receive BCH emails, announcements, and newsletters.

5. New Membership Chairperson Announcement

Cathy Chase has stepped down after a very appreciated time as Membership Chair. Toni Owen has volunteered to take on this position. Thank you, Toni, for stepping up.

Laura Duncan announced the passing of a long-time member, Mark Hicks. She described Mark as a real old-fashioned cowboy. Those who knew him enjoyed many work days, campouts, and rides with Mark. He had a quick wit, always good for a good laugh and a cute grin. His obituary was shared by Jaede via email. He will be missed. Another long-time member, Penny Avery, has had a stroke. Our Sunshine person, Andi Duncan, will be advised so she may send cards from GCTC.

Remember that a Sunshine remembrance from GCTC can only be accomplished when members let Andi know when they are needed. It is a great way for members to know they are in our thoughts.

Phyllis Fanning is filling in as refreshment coordinator for workdays while Debbie Molloy is not able. We were reminded that participating in workdays does more than maintain great local trails. It gives us the opportunity to learn about new trails we may not be familiar with. It also allows us to socialize with members who just might have great stories and lots of helpful information. When doing trail work individually, be sure to turn in the hours worked including round trip driving time to Barbara Simmons. These hours are important to Forest Service planning and acknowledgement of the contribution made by equestrians to our trails.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:14 for refreshments.

Speaker: Member participation Experiences with battery operated trail work tools. Give your opinion and experiences with tools we may want to use/not use as we do trail maintenance as a group.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary

D:\2022 GCTC Secretary\030822 General Membership Meeting