

General Membership Meeting Minutes

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.

Tuesday, May 10, 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
Laura Simmons
Teri Personeni

Administrative Members:

Mary Johnson, Forest Svc. Liaison
Toni Owen, Membership Chair, absent

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 by President Jamie Canon.

B. Changes or Additions to Agenda

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting and Special Minutes

Minutes from March 8, 2022 Meeting were approved as written. Miriam Lytle made a motion and Barry Vaccaro seconded. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Cathy Scott reported the bank balance to be \$46,732.08. Of that, \$10,571 is held for special designated projects. Purchases of a battery-operated chain saw and hedge trimmer were made. Barry Vaccaro motioned for approval of report. Joyce Radell seconded. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report passed.

E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson

Forest Service Report

May 10, 2022

Submitted by Mary Johnson

New Trails along Hwy 20:

New trails, (non-motorized) primarily for sport bicycle enthusiasts were approved by TNF and are being constructed on the south side of Hwy 20 (roughly between Conservation Rd and Scotts Flat Drop trail.)

The Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC) volunteers completed one of the trail loops which is open for use.

There will be a trail head built to accommodate parking for the new trail system. The location is yet to be determined, but current plans will place it on the South side of Hwy 20.

Lone Grave Trail System

GCTC has been asked to submit a proposal of which trails we would like to remain, change or be included in the future official trail system. The study and consequent presentation is ongoing. It will include requested modifications to the Hoot trail (as outlined in the Decision Memo produced by TNF)

Hwy 20 Construction Project

This will be on going for one to two years. Originally this was a curve alignment project. Left turn lanes and pull-out lanes were added. Currently there is work being done for a left turn lane at Conservation Road. Be aware that there will be traffic delays on Hwy 20 throughout the project duration.

Work Day

The April 30, 2022 work day was well attended, accomplishing a lot of trail work. The reroute on the Dascombe trail which was roughed in last April was finished and the old trail was closed. Brush was cleared on part of the Harmony trail, and a tremendous amount of work was done on the Hallelujah trail. Many trees were cleared, mostly at the bottom of the switchbacks in the creek area. Other trees were cleared on the upper portion of the Hallelujah, the Dogwood and the Pioneer behind Skillman and above Skillman to upper Burlington.

In addition to the hard work performed by GCTC members, trail clearing has been done by Paul Hart, TNF.

Loney Meadow

The forest Service is working on design and placement of a bridge over Texas Creek on the Loney Meadow interpretive trail. The forest service design team reached out to GCTC asking for input on the equestrian use of the bridge. GCTC recommended a bridge that could be used by both pedestrians and stock.

Mary reminded us that the Pioneer Trail is officially closed during construction. Approval to use a portion of the trail during the Poker Ride Fundraiser has been approved.

Mary has requested that the leaning tree on the Hallelujah Trail be removed by the Forest Service. The Wild West Ride will be held this year. Elicia Kamberg will begin clearing the trails for that.

F. Old Business

1. Power Tools Update-Cathy Scott

A battery-operated chain saw, hedge trimmer and loppers were purchased at B&C Hardware as approved at the April 12th BOD meeting for trail maintenance. Barry Vaccaro will paint "GCTC" on the items for identification. B&C had the requested tools set aside for easy pick up during their 20% off sale.

2. Poker Ride Fundraiser Update-Laura Duncan

The annual Poker Ride Fundraiser will be held June 4th at Skillman Horse Camp. Sue Brusin will mark the trails and Willie Brusin will head the parking crew. There will be several changes to the process from the past, including an easier method to value the poker hands. First prize will be a \$100 gift certificate to Tractor Supply. Pat Huntsinger will again donate one of her famous quilts. There will be a raffle and silent auction as before. Barry Vaccaro will manage the barbeque, and Debbie Molloy, and Phyllis Fanning will provide the accompanying beans and salads. Members will be asked to donate desserts. Linda Lanzoni will chair the guided rides on Sunday for campers and members. Donations were brought to the meeting. Please continue to seek prize donations and get them to Laura before the event. New this year will be a post-event feedback opportunity.

3. Acknowledge GCET sign refurbishment

The sign at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead was refurbished by Andi Duncan. She sanded and painted the wood, making the list of those who participated in creating this staging area more visible. She also added new plexiglass and a Forest Service approved yellow paint to the metal stand. Please take a moment to send Andi an email or a personal shout-out to let her know how we appreciate her hard work.

4. Equipment trailer discussion.

The option of purchasing an equipment trailer has again been broached with the addition of new tools to the club's stock. If anyone is aware of a trailer that might work, please let President Jamie know so it can be looked into.

5. A previous suggestion of buying a picnic table to replace one destroyed by winter weather at the Harmony Market was discussed. Wooden and strong metal tables were priced, with the stronger steel one estimated to cost around \$1500. Willie Brusin suggested that we use money in the bank account for this purpose. Members have used these tables for a refreshment stop at the Market for many years. There are tree ties and a water trough provided by the Market for the horses. More research will be done to find the right table.

G. New Business

1. Incident Reports-Jamie Canon

Please use the Incident Report form that is found on the website. These reports go to the Forest Service and are the best way to inform them of speed or other problems that occur on the trails. No reports=no problems. We are still encountering excess e-bike speeds that create unsafe conditions for equestrians. The Forest Service has no way to correct a problem that they aren't aware of.

*From an email from Jaede, reporting about the Forest Service's new E-bike rules: Greg Williams, executive director of the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, says "eMTB use has been a non-issue for them after seeing the green light on the East Zone Connectivity Project. The plan opened access to class 1 e-bikers on 35 miles of existing **non-motorized** trail in the Tahoe National Forest last spring." "There's been zero reports," said Williams, despite seeing plenty of e-bikers take advantage of access. "The use is already there, so why not create opportunities where everyone can get along, and that's what Tahoe did. The trails they re-designated were perfect for e-bikes. They weren't in high density areas and they were all purposebuilt trails already for bikes."*

2. Report on New Member Social-Jamie Canon

The New Member Social was a great success. It was well attended and provided a large variety of information about the club's purpose and activities.

3. Skillman Workday May 18th-Mary Johnson

The Skillman workday will begin at 8:30 with sign up and workday instructions. Mary and Jamie did a walkthrough of the campground and found that Jason, the campground host, had already begun repairs such as new paint on the picnic tables and new fire rings placed. Mary has created a working relationship with Jason which makes our upkeep at Skillman much easier.

4. Penn Valley Rodeo Parade-Jamie Canon

The Penn Valley Rodeo Parade is to be held May 21st. More riders are needed to represent GCTC or we will have to withdraw our participation. Contact Linda Lanzoni to sign up or get information.

5. CA Dirt Mtn. Bike Races June 24th & 25th

Riders be aware of bicycle event on these days on the Osborne Hills trail system.

6. Merchandise Chairperson Named

Sandrine Farrish is looking forward to making GCTC merchandise available for purchase. She has asked that the items available be displayed on our website to make it unnecessary for her to carry the storage boxes to each meeting.

7. Loomis Basin Equine Fair May 22-Laura Duncan

The Health Fair is a free event that GCTC participates in with an information booth. RSVP is required to LBE to reserve lunch if desired.

Member Passing Mention-Barbara Hobbs (President Jamie Canon)

Barbara was a long time GCTC member who participated regularly in all club activities, including helping Sue Brusin mark trails for Poker Ride. She will be missed by many members who rode with her and worked along side her at club activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M for refreshments, followed by the guest speaker.

Speaker: Rudy Darling of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society who will talk to us about our local birds we might see and hear while we are riding. Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary