

MINUTES

Gold Country Trails Council, Inc. General Membership Meeting September 12, 2023 7:00 P.M.

Golden Empire Grange 11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley, CA 95945

President:	Jamie Canon	Board Members:
Vice President:	Helen Crawford McDermott	Bernie Molloy Absent
Secretary:	Mary Lundin	Laura Simmons
Treasurer:	Cathy Scott Absent	Mary McMillan
Past President:	Bernie Molloy	

A. Call to Order and Welcome-President Jamie Canon

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. by President Jamie Canon

B. Changes or Additions to Agenda

Trail Patrol discussion by Mary McMillan was added to Old Business

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion was made by Adam Wilhite and 2nd by Gail Anderson to approve the minutes for July 11, 2023. Motion carried.

D. Treasurers Report-Cathy Scott

Jamie reported the checking balance as of 8/31/23 was \$49,321.30, of which \$7,571.17 is reserved for specific projects such as the purchase of an enclosed cargo equipment trailer, map board at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead, and funds for Pines to Mines non-motorized trail system development. Five thousand dollars has been allotted for the trailer, however it was determined that more will need to be set aside. The estimated cost to insure the trailer is \$75 annually.

E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson

September 12, 2023

Tahoe National Forest Service:

Continued communications with the new West Side Trail Manager, John Kenney.

GCTC reports work done, such as the dirt work and tree work accomplished on the Pioneer Trail above Lang Crossing.

He was present at Grouse Fest, so he was witness to the work achieved by GCTC members. He was sent the email that also went out to GCTC members, and he was given a report about trail conditions on the Grouse Ridge Trail. (several trees across the trail, lots of work needed at Shotgun Lake)

Discussion with John about reporting volunteer hours, including what criteria is needed by the forest service. May be some change to our sign in sheets in the future. Clarified that Trail Patrol members can act as ambassadors throughout the TNF and report hours through the Yuba River Ranger District.

Reminders about the orange fence along the Pioneer trail have gone to John and he reminds Caltrans.

There continues to be a long list of items/tasks that need to be worked on regarding joint efforts with TNF and GCTC.

Work Accomplishments:

Lone Grave trails

Skillman trails

Little Lasier Meadows

Loney Meadows (great reroute on a rocky section of the Bull Pen Trail)

Pioneer Trail above Lang Crossing

Grouse Fest

The Loney Meadows Trail is on the "to do list." As to the repair of the Pioneer Trail along the Hwy. 20 rework, Cal Trans is giving TNF the money to reinstall the trail.

F. Old Business

1. Top Hand Award Explanation-Jamie Canon

Jaede will send out information about submitting your nomination for the 2023 Top Hand Award. Think about a member or couple that have contributed above and beyond in the mission of GCTC to share the honor and the Award Trophy with those honored in the past.

2. GCTC Web Store-Jaede Miloslavich

Changes have included a change in location of the club emblem on some items. Childrens sizes are available. Members are encouraged to advise the board of requests and the web designer can add items or make changes on a quarterly basis. The web store has been open since August 1st. The sales report shows a profit to GCTC of \$881.01.

3. Grouse Fest with BONC on September 9th-Helen Crawford

Work by GCTC members was covered in the Forest Service report. Our goal is to improve relationships with other trail user groups. We are more alike than different in our desire to use and maintain the local trails. We need to work together more and be more thoughtful of other trail users. BONC has this Grouse Fest every year. Our participation in this workday could add value such as our stock having the capacity to carry heavy tools to the worksites. Our cooperative image goes a long way in keeping our trails safe and enjoyable by all. Jamie reminded us that we are working toward an educational project with YBONC, the local youth bicyclists. Our club can be ambassadors for equestrians sharing safe trails with the next generation of bicycle trail users.

4. Trail Patrol-Mary McMillan

Mary reports the latest edition of the Trail Patrol Handbook is now posted to the website under the 'In The News' tab. The handbook describes the requirements to be on the Trail Patrol. Hours spent on patrol goes towards volunteer hours for the Forest Service. Patrol members can ride a horse, bicycle, or hike. Mary is working on setting up a certification day for prospective new members of the Trail Patrol and potentially CPR training.

G. New Business

1. Thanksgiving Feast November 14th (22490 E. Hacienda Dr. Grass Valley)

The Higgins Lions Club hall has been reserved for our annual Thanksgiving Feast and election of officers on November 14th.

2. United Trails Day October 14th-Mary Johnson

The United Trails Day workday as been held every year since 2008, with the exception of during Covid. The combined efforts of GCTC, BONC, Nevada County Woods Riders and the Tahoe National Forest working together on the common goal of maintaining the trails in the Hwy. 20 corridor has brought a mutual understanding of our shared use of these trails. Unfortunately, the United Trails Day of 2023 will not be held due to lack of participation by these groups. The reason behind this is being looked into. GCTC will have a workday on October 14th and will send an email invite to the other groups to join us. More information will be provided once the details are worked out.

3. Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ will be held on October 21, 2023 with a rain date TBD at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead at Lone Grave. This gathering with marked trails is a fun time to ride and visit together and show our appreciation to the members who volunteer in many different ways to further the success of the mission of GCTC.

H. Announcements

1. Members be sure to sign in on the roster by the door.
2. Jamie sent pictures to the Union Newspaper of GCTC members participation at the Grouse Fest workday sponsored by BONC. Showing that the equestrian community and other member trail users in GCTC cooperate with other local trail groups is important to keep our trails open and safe. Jamie also reminds us that the position of Publicity Chair is still open. Keeping our club visible to the community is the best way to have a say in what happens with the local trails.

Adjournment and Refreshments

Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

SPEAKERS:

>> One of our speakers was Stefani Geckler from H.E.A.R.T, the Humane Emergency Animal Rescue Team in conjunction with the Nevada County Sheriff's Department. The HEART team carries out animal rescue and evacuation functions for Nevada County.

>> Pat Ehlers of Nevada County Veterinary Disaster Response Team spoke about evacuation of our animals in case of fire or other disaster emergencies.

>> We heard how these two groups work together to help us in equine emergencies and during evacuations. They discussed who to call, what to do, what to pack for yourself and your animal, and more.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary