

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.
Grass Valley, CA

Attendance:

President, Karen Schwartz
Vice President, Melissa Ribley
Secretary, Karen Wyeth
Treasurer, Teri Personeni
Board Members: Fran Cole, Charles Green

Others:

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson
Sue Brusin

Call to Order: Karen Schwartz called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. She welcomed eleven new people (members and visitors) who hadn't attended before. She read the GCTC mission statement and held a formal election of the board members. All board members, herself, Melissa Ribley, Karen Wyeth, Teri Personeni, Fran Cole, and Charles Green, were approved by the membership. Karen Schwartz announced the names of the people who had acted as coordinators or leaders during 2014 and thanked them for their service. She mentioned that the position of historian and camp cook were open.

Approval of Minutes of the December board meeting: Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Teri Personeni presented the report. The December beginning balance was \$28,540 and the balance as of Jan. 13, 2015 was \$29,185. We paid NCHI \$130 for rent and \$105 for their share of the Sensory Clinic proceeds.

Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin presented the report. Jet Lowe, who is in charge of map making for the Forest Service and is also involved with YBONC, has told Willie that the environmental work for the Cable Trail has been completed. There is an archaeological issue which will require that a section of trail be relocated. Hopefully the work should get done this year. There will be signs at Lone Grave and at the Five Mile House. The trail will have signs showing the order of right-of-way for horses/bicycles/hikers. The trail will be put in at a moderate gradient so that bicycles should not travel at a fast speed. Willie and Joe will GPS the trail alignment and will show the trail on an updated map.

Recreation Survey - Karen Schwartz announced that the Forest Service will hold this survey during 2015 at various random locations. There will probably be a station along Rt. 20. She encouraged members to stop and take the survey. There was a question about the Travel Management Plan. Willie said that it was being challenged in court.

Old Business:

Membership Renewals - Mary Johnson said that some members haven't renewed. She would get a list and give them a courtesy call.

Website Review - Brad Weston asked if there were any questions. There were none, but there was general approval of the new web site. Karen Schwartz thanked Ron Brown for his past web management and presented him with a gift card.

Other - There were questions about the survey of new amenities for Lone Grave. Willie said that there are stakes in the ground. Pat Gibbs completed the survey and Linda Lanzoni will present it to the board at the next meeting.

New Business:

Review of 2015 Calendar - Karen Schwartz proposed having a sensory clinic at the Running I Ranch in Dunnigan, about a 1 to 1 1/2 hour drive from Grass Valley. Jaede described their facilities. It's been in operation about 7 years and they develop new obstacles constantly. They allow camping. 15 to 20 people are needed to book a weekend event. It can be done as a day trip or campout. There was enough interest by a show of hands to put it on the schedule. Karen S. will see when they can accommodate us. Karen said that the first ride at Spenceville still needs a trail boss. The Poker Ride has been moved back to June to avoid bees. The Tevis Cup is on 8/1. Willie explained about United Trails Day. The purpose is to work on motorized and non-motorized trails. It helps improve communication and respect between groups. It's been held about 10 years. Karen proposed having a multi-day ride on the Pioneer Trail to highlight and appreciate the work of GCTC. It could be a campout at Skillman and then trailer out to the different sections. She would like to include a catered dinner. Willie said that the end of the trail is the penstock where NID releases water from Bowman Lake to Spaulding. A huge amount of water can be released there at any time and GCTC decided to end it there for safety. There was a lot of interest. The calendar was approved by a show of hands.

US Rider offer - This is a roadside travel insurance specifically for trailers. The cost is \$149 per year (a \$10 group discount). GCTC would get a portion of the fee. Karen S. recommends it highly. See her if you are interested. There was a question about Calstar, a helicopter emergency evacuation service. It costs \$35 per year for a group. They serve California, Nevada and Arizona. Merrill will put their link on the web site.

Presentation of Top Hand award - Karen presented the award to Willie Brusin and Jaede read some of the glowing comments members have made in nominating him.

Other - Fran Cole described the horse rescue that will be held Wednesday, Jan. 14. 40 horses on Garden Bar will be picked up and relocated to Horse Plus Humane Society in Bangor, CA (north of Marysville). This is the largest rescue operation ever organized by Sammie's Friends and they need donations to cover the cost. Jaede thanked everyone for the great response. Laura Zieman also said that the rescue destination needs donations. They have a web site for more information.

Don Soto proposed that we reduce the cost of registration for children in the Poker Ride.

Karen Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 8:13.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary
