

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 11, 2017 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Road
Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President	Laura Duncan
Vice President	Melissa Ribley
Secretary	Mary Lundin
Treasurer	Teri Personeni
Past President	Karen Schwartz, absent

Board Members:

Fran Cole
Helen Crawford
Charles Green

A. Call to Order and Welcome

President Laura Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

Three items were added to agenda: T-shirt sales person, Auburn Bike Park Litigation, Historian position open

The meeting was started with member comments.

Irv Mazur was concerned about the number of members who come to the Thanksgiving dinner meeting but do not participate in the regular workings of GCTC. He felt that only those who contribute in some manner throughout the year should be given a free meal, and others should be charged for the meal. No decision was made.

Teri Personeni advised the members that the Historian position is open. The Historian would take photos at club events, as well as receive them from other members and place them in an album. Cal McKitrick reminded members that the photos he has taken of GCTC activities are online and available free for use in the album.

Charles Green introduced 2 new members, Carn and Clint Wallington.

Fran Cole reminded members that we need to remain positive in our outlook as a trails club. GCTC has unified equestrians and bicyclists in our area. We need to celebrate what we are doing right and continue that path.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the June meeting were submitted to board members by email and printed in the newsletter. Willie Brusin made a motion to approve, and Barry Vaccaro seconded. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Teri Personeni submitted the Profit and Loss Statement for June 13 through July 11, 2017. The bank balance is \$32,497.36. Willie Brusin made a motion to approve, and Barry Vaccaro seconded. Motion carried.

E. Forest Service Report-Willie Brusin

1. The Bear Yuba Land Trust will recognize the \$1000 donation from GCTC for the Rice's Crossing trail project by adding the GCTC logo to the dedication sign.
2. The Dascombe Trail reroute at the PG&E power line near Rock Creek Road has been completed. Orion Kroeger of BONC roughed in the trail with the trail machine and Willie moved dirt. Willie and Sue Brusin will meet with Paul Hart and Jet Lowe of TNF to determine if the trail is in the correct GPS alignment.
3. The TNF will use an excavator this summer to remove the stumps in the connector trail from the Dascombe to Harmony trails that was rerouted during the May workday.
4. The Bull Pen Lake Trail that connects with the Lindsey Lake Road will require a NEPA report by the TNF. GCTC may select to fund construction of the trail reroute by a trail contractor as it is all rocks.
5. Barry Vaccaro will fabricate a new replacement trail directional sign for the Lindsey Lake Road intersection. The old one fell down last year.
6. The proposed new South Yuba River Trail Map being developed by TNF will include an area inset on the back of the map outlining trails in the Lone Grave/Rock Creek Road area and the Forest City area.
7. The United Trails Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2017. Paul Hart and Jet Lowe are aware of low turn out by other groups in last year's event. GCTC had 36 volunteers, while BONC had 2 and Woods Riders 6. Paul Hart of TNF will be selecting the project location and making sure that each group has adequate representation.
8. The Skillman Campground update (highway sign and hitching posts) will be reviewed by Melissa.
9. The Hoot Trail update will be reviewed by Cathy Scott, Hoot Trail Liaison.

Carol Scurria asked if the old Bowman Lake Trail will still be usable after the rework. The new trail requires a NEPA which can take 5 to 10 years to complete. This trail is not within the 5% to 8% grade required by TNF so it will be reworked. Willie described the configuration of new "steps" that would have a 10' flat surface in between each step. Jeff Harter will bring a jackhammer to create this temporary safety addition until the NEPA is completed. Carol and Helen Crawford expressed concerns that the new trail might become another downhill speed/competition trail for bicyclists which would be extremely unsafe for horses because of the cliffside nature of the location. GCTC will stay involved with the TNF in the design of the reworked trail. Valerie Logsdon asked if this trail can be designated as "hiker and horse only". TNF does not allow for user specific trails, only non-motorized and motorized or multi-use.

F. Old Business

1. Skillman Horse Camp Sign-Melissa Ribley

The sign outside of Skillman on Hwy. 20 was destroyed by winter weather and removed by the FS. GCTC previously authorized the expenditure of \$1000 to replace the sign, as long as it said "Skillman Horse Camp." The original sign said "Skillman Group Camp" but was replaced many years ago by one saying "Skillman Horse Camp." Melissa discussed this with TNF, but they will not allow it to say "Horse Camp" as they do not want to discourage non-equestrian campers. GCTC board then rescinded the offer to pay for the new sign. A member pointed out that there are 58 people campgrounds in this area, and only 2 horse camps, Skillman and Little Lasier Meadows, both built and maintained by GCTC.

Ginny Dix is a GCTC charter member and was involved in the creation of Skillman as a horse camp. In 1991, GCTC had attempted to get grant money to build a horse camp at Chalk Bluff, and at Malakoff Diggings but was denied. Because Skillman Campground was being decommissioned due to lack of use and no water to the campsites, TNF offered the site to GCTC to build a horse camp. Ginny still remembers the names of the Forest Rangers involved. GCTC replaced the water source for horse use, put in corrals and tie rails, and created the horse camp. GCTC has continued to maintain this camp ever since, including replacing the old water tank when needed. The Burlington Ridge trail system has been expanded over many years to accommodate trail use from the Skillman area. President Laura Duncan mentioned that due to FS personnel turnover, this history has been lost to the FS. GCTC needs to maintain a good working relationship with FS personnel.

2. Hoot (Cable) Trail-Cathy Scott/Liaison

In June, additional signage was put up, including signs with yellow background with black bi-directional arrows at 3 locations. Also signs including no motorcycles/atv's at Rock Creek/Hoot intersection. She reviewed 3 pages of user comments from June 6th to the 22nd, which included comments during the 19th Annual Wild West Endurance Ride. Overall, comments were positive other than concerns about downhill bicycle speed. Comments were submitted to TNF, GCTC, and BONC. A copy is attached to written minutes.

On July 14th, the USFS is hosting a ground review of the trail. Representatives from several user groups, including hiking clubs, will be there. The FS will clarify which technical features are authorized on the trail.

Cathy noted that both BONC and Woods Riders have 5-year contracts to build and maintain trails for TNF. The difference for us is that we are insured through the FS as we work as volunteers. The other clubs maintain their own insurance.

Bob Sydnor, an Engineering Geologist and A.E.R.C. Trail Master, spoke about the FS manuals available for trail construction. He emphasized that "safety is of paramount importance" in trail building.

3. Poker Ride Update-Jeff Foltz

Poker Ride had ninety-four riders. Gross receipts were \$5564, and net was \$4990.62. Donations for prizes were great. Jeff is stepping down as Poker Ride Chair and asks that someone else volunteer to take over for next year. The annual fundraising event is very well organized and help is available for anyone who wishes to volunteer for the position.

4. Tack Swap

The tack swap was held Saturday, July 8th at the Nevada County Horsemen's grounds. Attendance wasn't as great as expected, but the weather was very hot.

5. Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride-Mary Johnson

Mary Johnson met with Mary Westmoreland from the Truckee FS office, and Quinton, the Sierraville Ranger. The FS has graded the road to the campground, as well as cleared brush along the road. The FS had already done some campground cleanup, so GCTC will mostly focus on trail clearing. Mary Westmoreland was supportive of additional corrals being placed in the campground by GCTC. Members have already shown a lot of interest in attending the workday/campout this July, which was postponed from the usual end of June date due to excessive winter snowfall.

G. New Business

1. Consideration of creating more trail liaison positions

Willie Brusin would like us to create more liaison positions that would have someone responsible for a particular trail, or part thereof. They would be responsible for "knowing" that trail, and what needs to be done to maintain it. Recommendations would be used to schedule GCTC work days and coordinate with the Forest Service.

2. Loney Meadows-Teri Personeni

Teri needs someone to take the Port A Potty there on Wednesday or Thursday. Saturday, July 15th is the workday. Bring loppers. You can ride your horse to do the trimming. The potluck dinner will be Saturday evening. So far, about 15 people have signed up.

3. Maidu Bike Pump Park Bisecting Pioneer Express Trail-Robert Sydnor for ACE

Robert gave an update and registered geologist's report on the proposed bike pump park in Folsom Lake SRA. The proposed bike park will bisect the Pioneer Express Jedediah Smith National Recreational Trail. ACE is not opposed to a bike pump park, but is opposed to the proposed location. ACE has hired a land use specialist attorney and written a letter to ARD during the comment period.

4. T-Shirt Sales Person

Linda Lanzoni has been ordering the club t-shirts and bringing them to the meetings. She would like someone else to take over this job. She is willing to do the ordering if needed.

Open Discussion-

Mary Johnson is working on the updated phone book.

Adjournment-Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M., followed by the annual Ice Cream Social.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary