

Trail Times



www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

A non-profit incorporated association formed in 1981 to develop, maintain and protect non-motorized recreational trails in the Sierra Foothills area for public use and enjoyment.

Greetings GCTC members!

Summer is drawing to a close, hopefully bringing more temperate days for upcoming workday September 17 and to extend our riding adventures.

USFS announced recently that Skillman Horse Camp could be open until October 15 with limited servicing of the campground. If you want to try it out autumn is a perfect time for camping and riding. Reservations are not required, users are asked to put payment in the box.

Looking back on our past group workdays this season, it's important to note that there has been significant work done on our local trails. This work by members allows us to continue riding down the trails we love and creates new access to areas less known. There is a fair amount of preplanning work done by members to ensure that these workdays are as productive as possible. And then of course the actual workday when we hope for a good turnout of members to complete the work. At our last workday, August 24, member ages ranged from 53-76 with all pitching in for a great day in the woods. As president of GCTC I send out a heartfelt thank you to all the members who have contributed to this effort. I suspect the donuts and lunch were tasty inducements, but the shared camaraderie was the best payoff.

I want to leave you with some thoughts about our trails. We need your help for workdays. The trails don't build themselves or repair problems without our help. It takes all of us to get the job done. If you can't do the physical labor there are other opportunities to help: be on the lunch/clean up crew, assist with telephone tree, become the trail coordinator, take photos, or whatever. Let me or the GCTC board know why you do or don't show up for the workdays, maybe we can change it to be better for you.

Your President, Laura Duncan

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

7:00 PM

**Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells
Grass Valley, CA**

Range Management: Your horses, your land, and your well

Overfed, grass fed horses? Or Dust in January? What's this got to do with your well? Join Evelyn Soltero, avid equestrienne, scientist, and owner of All About Wells, at September's meeting to discuss how to balance pasture management (i.e. your horses) on your land while working with your well's productivity. She brings her understanding of regenerative land management; experience gained having horses, working with local well systems, and researching surface water and groundwater in Nevada County.

A horse parent since she was twelve, Evelyn moved to Nevada County so her horses could have a place to call home.

ALL ABOUT WELLS

Evelyn Soltero, MS
Geoscientist

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SEPTEMBER IS RENEWAL MONTH FOR GCTC MEMBERSHIP

**Information on Page 6, GCTC Membership Renewal Form is on Page 8,
Release Liability Form is on Page 9**

Skillman Campground Update

Reservations for Skillman will not be available after September 5.

Between September 5 and September 30, the campground will be open to campers on a first come basis, and fees can be paid by campers at the kiosk at the campground.

I asked Cecilia if the Campground could remain open for camping until October 15. She said the Forest Service is open to this if there is a need/demand by campers. They can leave the gate open, but there will be reduced service as personnel will be greatly reduced at that point. This means the restrooms will not be cleaned daily and the garbage pick up will be reduced.

So - bottom line is, Skillman Campground will be available for camping until October 15, which is good news. It would be great for the campground if campers used the campground after September 5.

Submitted by Melissa Ribley

Thank you Melissa for working with Cecilia of the TNF to achieve extending the closure of Skillman for the winter.



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Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

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Gold Country Trail Council Strategic Plan

At the June 2016 Gold Country Trail Council (GCTC) Board meeting, the Board voted to develop a multi-year strategic plan. This is part of the Board’s effort to look at current practices, plan for the future, and set realistic goals for the long-term sustainability of GCTC. The Board requested that a committee be formed, and as such, GCTC member, Jeff Foltz, was appointed to lead a small steering committee to initiate the preparation of the strategic plan. The steering committee members are Fran Cole, Helen Harvey, and Jeri Amendola.

To kick off the efforts, the committee wants to gain GCTC member input to determine: what's working, what can be improved on, possible changes to current practices, and developing future goals and projects. To accomplish this, the committee will develop a questionnaire and send to all members for their input. As part of the development of GCTC Strategic Plan, the committee will assess the current mission statement that reads, “A non-profit incorporated association formed in 1981 to develop, maintain, and protect non-motorized recreational trails in the Sierra Foothills area for public use and enjoyment.” Additionally, the committee will look to incorporate a vision statement that substantiates the stated GCTC mission.

Based on the member questionnaire results, and collaborative efforts of the expanded committee, a multi-year GCTC Strategic Plan will be drafted that will include goals, organizational structure, priorities, objectives and projects that align with the mission and vision of GCTC. The draft of the GCTC Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board and membership for review and approval. This process will take several months and requires a committed team. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact Jeff Foltz, 530-329-3097.

Submitted by Jeff Foltz

Gold Country Trails Council 2016

AUGUST

- August 9 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- August 10-14 Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
- August 24 Work Day - Upper Pioneer Trail
Leader: TBA

SEPTEMBER

- September 13 General Meeting - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- September 17 Work Day: TBA
- September 22-25 Draft Horse Classic
(non GCTC event) Barn Tour
Leader: Allyn Carman

OCTOBER

- October 8 United Trails Day/Workday
Leader: Irv Mazur
- October 11 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
- October 22 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ
Leader: TBA
- October 29 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)
Leader: TBA

NOVEMBER

- November 15 General Mtg.Thanksgiving Feast
5:30 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

DECEMBER

- December 13 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley



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Royal Gorge Ride

We had a real nice ride enjoying the wild flowers with spectacular views and rock formations. The weather was good with some pretty good winds that kept us cool and kept the biting flies away. After lunch we continued on down to the meadow. We were disappointed to see that Lake Norden had been drained with a few geese standing where the water used to be. We weren't sure why it was drained. The 7 of us or so had a great ride.

Submitted by Suzanne Vaccaro



Pony Tailz Custom Designed Jewelry



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Don't miss the GCTC Tour of the Draft Horse Classic!

Meet in the grassy area next to the Carman Ranch barn (at the end of treat street, first barn on the left, next to the beef show ring) at 1:00 on Saturday, September 24th. We'll take a tour around the barns, and talk about draft horses, wagons & other interesting vehicles, The Classic, and what it's like to be a competitor at the largest draft horse show in the western US. Plan to spend the day checking out the vendors, art show, treat street, entertainment, music, displays, and of course the gentle giants. Wear comfortable shoes!

Submitted by Allyn Carman




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GCTC Loney Meadow Workday 7/16/2016

Once again GCTC club members rise to the occasion! I was so concerned that we wouldn't have enough volunteers to build the section of trail, which we agreed to with the USFS. Ten or twelve would have been okay. We had FIFTEEN!! A huge thank you to all, in alphabetical order: Sue and Willie Brusin, Dee Dee Carlini, Cathy Chase, Charles Green, Gale Lear, Mike Peckham, Susan Pinsker, Karen Schwartz, Cathy Scott, David Smith, Laurie Sweeney, Barry and Suzanne Vaccaro. This was hard labor with big, heavy tools. Pictures will show some members swinging and chopping away at the hillside to create a foot bed; others were raking and yet others were tamping. Meanwhile, Mike P took the chainsaw and removed a log, which was across the trail. I took the loppers and trimmed the part of the trail, which has yet to be replaced. As long as we are still using it, we may as well make it passable.



The event actually began on Thursday when Sue and Willie arrived at the 'Circle Meadow' to claim our spot. Suzanne and Barry soon followed. Gale Lear arrived on Friday with the much appreciated Port-A-Potty. Then she turned around and drove all the way back home, only to return on Saturday morning for the workday.

After each had dinner, we gathered at Brusin's camp to visit. Neighbor Jane Schluter came by to say hello and chat a bit. She no more than left and cattle owner Scott Costa stopped by. We had a wonderful time listening to his stories of many years running cattle in the mountains.

After our morning safety meeting we piled into a few vehicles and had the luxury of driving to our worksite. With a USFS key we were able to drive through the gate at Lindsay Lake, past Culbertson and directly to our worksite. After more than three hours of intensive labor we came to a good stopping place. A ride back to our campsite and we each grabbed some lunch. How nice to sit around and socialize. Several volunteers headed for home while the campers took the opportunity to nap or take another trail ride. For myself it was a ride followed by a welcome shower!

As evening approached we gathered for snacks of chips and salsa, followed by a potluck dinner. Willie provided the tri tip, which was complimented by macaroni salads, potato salad, chicken salad; a wonderful mixed salad from Laurie and deviled eggs. Cathy S brought out the cookies and we were pleasantly stuffed!!

How lucky we were that the meat bees are just coming out. Only a dozen or so joined us for dinner. We put the meat on a separate table and dined in peace.

We sat around after dinner to visit a bit, but most went to bed earlier than the night before!

It wouldn't be a GCTC weekend without one horse getting loose. I was concerned about Maverick as he is new to me and I didn't know what kind of camper he would be. He was fine. It was Mike P's seasoned mare that pushed her way out of her corral and went about introducing herself to the other horses in camp. Karen S and Cathy S managed to catch her and put her away. In the morning as we gathered at Laurie and Mike's camp for coffee he commented about whose horse got loose? LOL He didn't know it was HIS! We gave him a bit of a hard time about that and continued to ask if he had closed the gate this time. A good-natured fellow, he would just grin.

Sunday morning was a slow and lazy one with a few more members heading home. Cathy S took a loop around Bowman Mountain and her quick little horse made fast time. I took a loop around the meadow and up to the dairy. Mike and Laurie took their horses for a walk. It was nearly 5 by the time we got packed up and reluctantly left. Last to leave were Laurie and Mike and I.

Submitted by Teri Personeni

GCTC Members Perform at Nevada County Fair

Several members, led by Nicole Schoppe of Hidden Gait Ranch on Hwy. 174, performed daily at the Nevada County Fair in the Gait Squad Drill Team. This group is made up of riders including GCTC members Mary Lundin, Cindy Burd, Krista Erickson, Bill and Ana Trabucco, and Fran Cole, each on their gaited horses. This team learned maneuvers that tested the trust between horse and rider, as well as horse to horse. I found myself working outside of my comfort zone, and pushing my horse beyond his trail experience to bend, turn, and increase his speed. This was something I never dreamed I would be involved with, but I can truly say it was a blast!

Submitted by Mary Lundin



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IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It is time to renew your commitment to keeping our wonderful area trails open for our enjoyment! Your support and/or participation are both needed to continue the purpose of Gold Country Trails Council: "to develop, maintain, and protect non-motorized recreation trails in the sierra foothills area for public use and enjoyment." While accomplishing that task, members also enjoy fun trail rides, interesting informed speakers, social gatherings, a great newsletter, trail information, delicious lunches at trail work days, and wonderful opportunities to camp and ride, all in the company of dedicated, fun loving, hard working, like minded people.

Membership fee for an individual/families is \$25.

If you joined GCTC in 2016 on or after June 1, your membership extends through September of 2017. You do not need to renew your membership at this time, but if any of your information has changed please fill out a new membership form or email the changes to mjshasta@aol.com.

Send your 2016 application in today! Don't miss any of the fun! Just fill out the Renewal Form on Page 8 and return it with your check for \$25 to GCTC, P.O Box 753, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924. You also need to sign and return the Release Form All Liability Form on Page 9. "renewals can be made on line with pay pal at goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org"

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Johnson at 530-477-8501 or mjshasta@aol.com

Welcome to GCTC New Members:

Linda Adams, Jo Bower, Terri Casci, Alyson Chandler, Brandi Damman, Amy Edmonds, Phyllis Fanning Elizabeth Hennin, Cindy Jo Hursh, Shannon & Jason Jillson, Amaryllis Khat, Pamela Oshay, Leon Shoenhair & Nyla Haddy, Nicole Shoppe, Jennifer & Bing Voight.

AN ADVENTURE Little Lasier Meadow 2016

Gorgeous scenery, beautiful weather, abundant water, wild flowers, friendly people, delicious potluck, wonderful rides, AND several mechanical issues and horse health issues! We had it all with laughter and good times prevailing. Although the official camp/ride/work happened on the weekend of June 24-26, 2016 many GCTC members arrived earlier in the week to enjoy extra time at this lovely camp. They not only spent time riding they also got a head start on some work projects. Irv, Tom, Suzanne, Gigi and Lori spent appreciated effort into the creek crossing upstream from the bridge. They defined the trail route and splashed around in Pass Creek moving rocks to smooth out the crossing. Their efforts were enjoyed by many riders who rode the PCT north of Jackson Meadows Res. this year.

On Saturday morning we all convened for the work projects: camp clean up and repairs, trimming the connector trail, and working on the trail that parallels Pass Creek Loop Road. GCTC was joined by TNF



personnel Ed and Brandon. It was a treat to get to know these two hard working men who are part of the Sierraville TNF office. They deserve a BIG thank you for their great help! Barry directed the camp crew who painted a table and camp signs, cleaned fire rings, repaired corrals, reset posts and other things. Suzanne led the connector trail crew hacking back the ever-encroaching white thorn. Willie and Worth cut a tree on the PCT, and Mary directed the trail workers who reestablished 1/2 mile of trail that will keep equestrians off the road and away from motorized vehicles. Everyone was weary, but gratified with the accomplishments. After enjoying free time for riding, we met again that evening for a delicious, social, potluck dinner. What a feast! from BBQ chicken (thanks Barry) to chocolate éclairs (yeah Irv) and everyone's scrumptious contributions.

Special thanks goes to Worth Lundin who was the car mechanic hero of the week. The words of "ask Worth" were echoed several times through out the stay From Gail's truck belt search saga to the very end when Barry and Suzanne's battery needed to be jumped from 2 batteries. It is a blessing to have such diversified talent in our GCTC roster.



Ask these members how great the trip was this year: Irv Mazur, Tom Fletcher, Mary & Worth Lundin, Suzanne & Barry Vacarro, Sue & Willie Brusin, Teri Personeni, Adam, Dominic & Ty (very cute youngest member) Wilhite, Karen Schwartz, Pat Hardy, Dee Dee Carlini, Sharon Silver, Bev Milke-Hillar, Gail Anderson, Gail Plakos, and Mary Johnson.

Mark your 2017 calendar for the last weekend in June and join the fun next year!

Submitted by Mary Johnson



LEAVE ONLY HOOF PRINTS



Gold Country Trails Council Membership Form

A non-profit incorporated association formed in 1981 to develop, maintain, and protect non-motorized recreational trails in the Sierra Foothills area for public use and enjoyment.

Date: _____ (Renewable annually in September)

Membership: Individual Family (all signatures needed on release form)
 Renewal New
 Equestrian Bicyclist Hiker/Pedestrian

Did your address, phone, or email information change this year? Yes No

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check this box if you DO NOT want your contact information listed in the GCTC Club phone book.
The phone book is for club use only.

Stay informed, stay involved! Please check the communication option(s) that best meet your needs:

Announcements: Email Telephone reminder for club activities Do not phone

Newsletter: Email Postal mail

Gold Country Trails Council welcomes donations

If you are unable to participate in the workdays, please consider a donation towards your favorite project. (Include your check with membership form and fee).

To enable us to utilize your many skills and interests, we ask that you check those activities which you can assist the GCTC. Please add to the list under "other" if there is something we may have overlooked.

Advertising/Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Artwork/Graphics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Skills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Horse Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>
Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refreshments	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs/Maps/GPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tool Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Ride (lead/organize)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trail Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	Webpage/Design	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodworking/Welding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workday Lunch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workday (lead/organize)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you consider serving as an officer of the GCTC Board? Yes No

Would you consider serving as a Board Member of the GCTC? Yes No

Would you consider chairing a GCTC committee? Yes No

Other (please describe): _____

To join, please complete and mail this form with membership fee of \$25.00, payable to:

Gold Country Trails Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 753, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924

(100% tax deductible as a charitable contribution)

(Please sign the release form below or on the reverse of this application for our files)

www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY

This is a binding legal document. Read it carefully before signing below.

I understand that the Gold Country Trails Council sponsors and organizes a variety of events, including, but not limited to, equestrian trail rides and overnight campouts, trail building and work days, tack sales, membership meetings, potluck dinners, and other social events. Gold Country Trails Council events are non-alcoholic.

In consideration of the acceptance of my application for membership in the Council or permission to participate in these events, I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Gold Country Trails Council, its officers, members, agents, employees, and representatives, from and against all claims, suits, actions, or liabilities (including any of the foregoing by way of indemnification or contribution), for personal injuries, property damage or loss, death, or for attorney fees, which are based on or arise out my participation in such events. This release applies to all such claims, suits, actions, or liabilities, even though they may arise out of or be based on the negligence, lack of care, or other fault on the part of the persons listed above.

In signing this release I acknowledge that (a) equestrian events and activities involving horses involve risks which may result in serious personal injuries, property damage or loss, or death, (b) that trails and areas for equestrian events may consist of rough trails, steep or unstable terrain, water hazards, wild animals, and other natural or manmade obstacles and dangers, and that I may expect to encounter such areas in their natural condition without any preparation or safeguards designed for equestrian activities, and (c) that horses themselves may create dangers because of kicking, running away, throwing riders off, and other disruptive and uncontrollable behaviors.

I am sufficiently skilled in riding horses, and am sufficiently physically fit, to participate in the equestrian events listed above.

This release is binding on my heirs, executors, administrators, and personal representatives.

DATED: _____, 20____ DATED: _____, 20 ____

SIGNATURE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ PRINTED NAME: _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY ON BEHALF OF MINOR

I, the undersigned parent or guardian of _____, address: _____, _____, age(s): _____, have read, and having legal authority to do so, agree to all of the foregoing provisions of the **RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY** on behalf of such minor and myself. I authorize any supervisory personnel to consent on my behalf to any necessary emergency medical treatment for such minor by a properly licensed or qualified person, and I agree to indemnify and hold harmless any persons giving such consent in accordance with the foregoing **RELEASE FROM ALL LIABILITY**.

DATED: _____, 20____ DATED: _____, 20 ____

SIGNATURE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

PRINTED NAME: _____ PRINTED NAME: _____

DATED: _____, 20____ DATED: _____, 20 ____

SIGNATURE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

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