

**Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the General Meeting
July 9, 2013
Golden Empire Grange
11363 Grange Court, Grass Valley**

The general membership meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:15.

Members present included:

President Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Treasurer: Kathie Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Teri Personeni (Past President)

President Helen Harvey welcomed visitors and new members and asked them to stand and introduce themselves.

Helen asked about approval of the minutes of the June executive board meeting. Secretary Karen Schwartz responded that the minutes of the board meeting had been distributed to the board and for publication in the GCTC newsletter. She reported that no correspondence had been received.

Helen asked Treasurer Kathy Southgate to report on GCTC finances. Kathy provided a detailed report dated 6/30/13 and stated that the current working balance is \$14,816.13. She reported that the Poker Ride fundraiser held the previous weekend produced a profit about \$2000. She also reviewed upcoming expenditures.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reviewed his report dated 7/2013, including the following items:

Pioneer Trail: The proposed re-route of a section of the trail continues to be on hold until the NEPA report is approved. A workday is scheduled for July 28th to clear brush from the trail across from the Omega Scenic Overlook. He announced that the Brusins will be out of town and unable to coordinate the volunteer effort.

Skillman Campground: The campground host is generating a plot map of the campground to assist us with the redesign that we plan to submit.

Upper Pioneer Trail: Willie and Sue led a trail ride attended by four riders total. They encountered bees on the trail. Carlos Gonzales of the TNF will remove the bees from the Dogwood trail.

Helen reviewed the details of the upcoming 7/28/2013 work day and requested a volunteer to coordinate the work day. Board member Vicki Testa volunteered to act as coordinator for the work day.

Helen asked Linda Lanzoni to provide an update on the annual fundraiser Poker Ride held 7/6/2013. Linda reported that though we had only about half the riders this year, we made a surprisingly good profit of about \$2175. This year there was plenty of food, unlike last year. There were problems with bees on the trails, and the Poker Ride will be scheduled in June next year in the hope that the bee problems will be reduced. She thanked all those who volunteered at the Poker Ride, including Sue Hammontre who acted as food coordinator. Merrill Kagan-Weston who coordinated the purchase and preparation of the tri-tip meat for the luncheon, Past President Teri Personeni who coordinated the donation of prizes and raffle items, and Willie Brusin who coordinated the parking. Linda announced that she cannot serve as Poker Ride Chair next year but plans to help whoever volunteers for the position. Merrill Kagan-Weston announced that she will chair the Poker Ride in 2015.

New Business:

Vice President Melissa Ribley announced that GCTC has received a generous donation of \$5000. from Oregon resident Molly Farkus to commemorate her late husband's love of the Pioneer trail. The Farkuses enjoyed riding the trails near Skillman campground when they attended the Wild West endurance ride in years past. Member Valerie Logsdon suggested placing commemorative plaques when the new picnic tables are installed at Skillman campground. Willie Brusin suggested that some of the money be used to purchase a heavy duty chain saw (approximate cost \$800.) for member Robert Ribley, who had for years done so much to remove fallen trees from the Pioneer trail.

Helen reported that she attended a focus group sponsored by the Truckee-Donner Land Trust on 7/9/2013 regarding future use of the non-motorized trails at Royal Gorge. Representatives from hiking, equestrian, cycling and mountain biking groups participated. One proposal would limit mountain bikers to the black diamond (most difficult) trails. The Land Trust plans to issue a report in August.

Karen provided an update on the status of the Emigrant Trail in south Nevada County. She reported that a mediation process began on 6/27/2013 when members of the Emigrant Trail Conservancy board and representatives from other organizations which support their efforts met with Judge Dover to learn about the mediation process. Representatives of the local home owners opposed to opening the trail to public access met with Judge Dover on 7/1/2013. If agreed to by

both sides, the mediation process would begin on 7/11/2013, with a report on the mediation to be issued by August. The county board of supervisors would then consider the results of the mediation and make a decision as to permitting public access to the Emigrant trail.

Helen reviewed in detail the work days and rides scheduled on the calendar of GCTC events through August. Past President Terri Personeni agreed to lead the Loney Meadow work days if her mare has foaled by then. The work days will focus on trimming trails around Penner Lake.

Helen asked for any questions or announcements.

Poker Ride Chair Linda Lanzoni thanked the Common Threads band which performed during the Poker Ride luncheon and after the raffle.

Helen announced that several books remained from the raffle and were free to any members who might be interested.

Merrill noted that Renewable Energy Products of Auburn provided the delicious tri-tip enjoyed at the Poker Ride luncheon and will return for the 2014 Poker Ride.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 for ice cream and other refreshments, followed by a presentation by Chuck Kavros from Top This RV Accessories in Grass Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary