

Trail Times



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.

President's Message

Hello Everyone,

Happy New Year! 2014 was a great year for members of Gold Country Trails Council, and 2015 promises to be even better.

At our November Thanksgiving Feast we wound down the year by celebrating our 2014 Accomplishments as well as our founders and their amazing feats. Longtime member Sue Brusin and 5-term past president Ginny Dix presented a brief but very informative program reminding us that we have so much to be proud of. Building trailheads, horse campgrounds and many miles of trails, including our crowning achievement the Pioneer Trail; maintaining many miles of trails; and encouraging public access to the natural wonders of our Gold Country region is truly impressive.

And while we're busy accomplishing all this, we never forget to have a good time. Our events always include plenty of fun socializing and enjoying great food, and our Thanksgiving meeting was a great example.

You have made all our accomplishments possible. Whether working on trails together, serving on committees or donating funds for projects, you are what make GCTC a success. At our January 13th meeting, we'll be thanking you and honoring all who took on Leadership roles last year and in the year ahead.

We'll also be awarding the Top Hand award to one of the outstanding members nominated for having contributed the most to GCTC during 2014. Sue Brusin was our 2013 winner. Who will be the next Top Hand?

And we don't rest on our laurels. In the spirit of our founders, we look forward to another busy and fun year together during 2015. At our January meeting you'll be asked to approve the GCTC 2015 Calendar. Not only will it include all the fun events you expect from your GCTC membership - day rides, horse camping, trail work, the Poker Ride, the Lone Grave BBQ, the Ice Cream Social, the Thanksgiving Feast - but even more. We will present several ideas for new fun events, such as monthly horse camping trips, a trail horse-schooling event, and a multi-day Pioneer Trail ride to celebrate

that amazing GCTC achievement. You'll also learn about some exciting prospects for new local trail projects during 2015.

If you're feeling a bit overwhelmed trying to keep up with all GCTC's activities, perhaps it's slipped your mind to renew your GCTC membership. Not to worry. Our Membership Chair Mary Johnson will be on hand to help you renew at the January meeting

Bring your ideas to our January 13th meeting and help us make 2015 even more successful than 2014.

Karen Schwartz, President

Gold Country Trails Council History

Sue Brusin and Ginny Dix gave a wonderful presentation of the Gold Country Trails Council History at the Turkey Feast. It was interesting hearing how GCTC was established and learning about all the trails and horse camps this organization is responsible for. Jaede provided an electronic version of the timeline spanning 1981 through 2002 that Sue and Ginny put together of the GCTC accomplishments. From 2002 to the present time, our group has grown and grown, worked and worked, expanding the trails and amenities in our horse camps.

If you did not receive a copy and would like one, let Jaede know.



Gold Country Trails Council 2015 Calendar (Proposed)

	JANUARY
January 13	General Meeting - 7 p.m. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse (NCHI), 10600 Bubbling Wells Rd. Grass Valley
	FEBRUARY
February 10	Board Meeting - 3 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
	MARCH
March 10	General Meeting - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
March 14	Spenceville Day Ride Trail Boss TBA
March 21	Spenceville Day Ride ((rain date)
	APRIL
April 14	Board Meeting - 6 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
April 18	Work Day - Lone Grave Leader: TBA
April 25	Work Day - Lone Grave (rain date)
	MAY
May 9	Cronan Ranch Day Ride Trail Boss: TBA
May 12	General Meeting - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
May 16	Work Day - Skillman Leader: Melissa & Robert Ribley
	JUNE
June 6	GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser Leader: Merrill Kagan-Weston
June 9	Board Meeting - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
June 12-14	Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento (non GCTC event)
June 19-21	Wild West Endurance Ride non GCTC event)
June 26-28	Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride Leader: Mary Johnson
	JULY
July 14	General Mtg./Ice Cream Soc. - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
July 18	Royal Gorge Day Ride Trail Boss: TBA
July 25	Work Day - Omega/Upper Pioneer Leader: TBA
	AUGUST
August 1	Tevis (Western States Endurance Ride (non-GCTC event)
August 11	Board Meeting - 6 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
August 5-9	Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
August 13	Loney Meadow Camp/Work/Ride Leader: Teri Personeni
August 15	Loney Meadow Workday
	SEPTEMBER
September 8	General Meeting - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
Sept. 17-20	Draft Horse Classic Fair (non GCTC event)



Gold Country Trail Council 2015 Officers

Left to right: Melissa Ribley, Vice President, Teri Personeni, Treasurer, Karen Wyeth, Secretary, Vicki Testa, Board Member, Fran Cole, Board Member, Charles Green, Board Member and Karen Schwartz, President

September 26	Skillman Closes
	OCTOBER
October 10	United Trails Day/Workday Leader: Irv Mazur
October 13	Board Meeting - 6 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
October 21	Skillman Workday Leader: Melissa Ribley
October 24	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ Leader: TBA
October 31	Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date) Leader: TBA
	NOVEMBER
November 10	General Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 7 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley
	DECEMBER
December 8	Board Meeting - 3 p.m. NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

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Tuesday, January 13, 2015
at 7:00 P.M.

Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells
Grass Valley, CA

Speaker: Larry Goss, DVM from Animal Medical Center Large Animal Services in Grass Valley. Dr Goss will address first aid for horses.

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Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Historian: Open

Hospitality: Laura Duncan

Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin
and Mary Johnson

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Poker Ride Fundraiser: Merrill Kagan-Weston
530-273-6346 linda@mtnequestrian.com

Program Director: Melissa Ribley

Publicity: Diane Culver

Skillman: Robert & Melissa Ribley

Tool Storage and Maintenance: Willie Brusin

Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

Web Master: Gigi Lawton

United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

Gold Country Trails

Council Officers

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Board Member: Fran Cole 272-6363

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Board Member: Charles Green 530-268-3905

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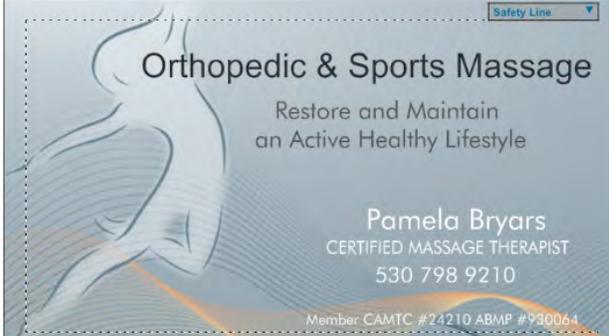
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GCTC 2014 Turkey Feast





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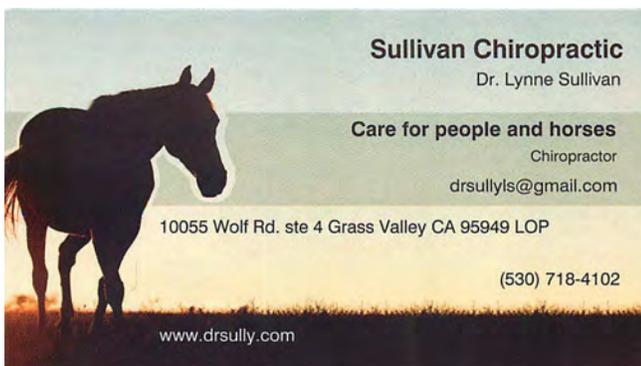
The Gold Country Trail Council would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous donations.

Mary Margaretich

GCTC members are not always able to participate in workdays or other activities but want to contribute to the support of the important work that the Gold Country Trail Council does throughout the year. We appreciate their donations and support.



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Welcome New Member Bobbie Reagan

I am happy to say my new membership was a Christmas present from my very close friend, Sharlene Kelley. I see many names on the roster that are familiar to me so I am delighted to be part of this amazing group.

Being one of seven women who took the challenge of creating the sweep riding teams for both the WSER and Tevis and forming the criteria for the training of each team including the implementation of becoming the first Ham radio operator's of any mounted group in the country. In fact Sharlene and I were the first two women to get our ham license for the previous sweep team "Tev Sweep". I must say that riding with an antenna on your helmet poses many interesting challenges along the trail. That was several years ago and after spending 15 years with the Sweep Riders of the Sierra it was passed on to very capable hands and continues to sweep the trails to this day.

While keeping busy working full time for Placer County, I have also had an equine tack business since 1995 and still enjoy finding new and exciting items along with keeping those tried and true ones.

Sharlene and I recent went horse camping at Loafer Creek. It was a special trip for Sharlene, since she brought both of her horses, one being only a 2 year old filly. Sharlene climbed in the saddle for the first time. Of course, I was clicking off the pictures as fast as I could. The little mare is named Rosebud and she was amazing. Acting as though this happened all the time. Sharlene didn't go farther than just sitting in the saddle but the first time is always the memory you carry forever. This was a much needed Girls Camp out!

Glad to be part of a group that truly is making a difference in our equine life styles and in the footprint we leave in our environment.



Submitted by, Bobbie Reagan

If you know of a GCTC member that needs a little sunshine in their life, contact GCTC's Sunshine Person Cheri Crain at 916-996-8854 or cwcrain01@gmail.com with the information and she will be happy to send a cheery note or card to light up their day.



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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
Tuesday, December 9 2014, 3 PM
NCHI clubhouse, 10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.
Grass Valley, CA

Attendance:

President, Karen Schwartz
Secretary, Karen Wyeth

Board Members:
Vicki Testa

New Board Members (2015):

Fran Cole
Teri Personeni
Charles Green

Others:

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson
Past President: Helen Harvey
Sue Brusin

Call to Order: Karen Schwartz called the meeting to order at 2:57 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting: Karen Wyeth will send out the minutes shortly.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Kathy Southgate provided the report to Karen Schwartz. The balance for November 2014 was \$28,552.02. The insurance must be renewed. Karen Schwartz will look at other insurance companies. GCTC now pay Larry Viegas Insurance \$500 per year. Karen Schwartz will develop a thank you note for large donors for tax purposes. She has a model from the Tevis Cup race. We may need an independent audit of our books and we need a review of financial archives. Live Wire never donated for the outhouse at Lone Grave. Teri will talk to Kathy Southgate and then follow up.

Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin reporting.

Keen Grant update - Willie has not been able to get in touch with Jet Lowe. He wants to set a meeting for after 1/5/15.

Cable Trail - He recommends having a trail machine or tractor to do the trail work. He mentioned Zack Anderson as a source for this work. There should be only two switchbacks on the Cable Trail.

Skillman - Willie asked if Linda Lanzoni has contacted Karen S. regarding the toilets. She has not so far. There is also a need for a new horse trough at the end. He recommended using a contractor for new corrals.

Recreation Survey - Karen S., Karen W., and Willie met with Joe Chavez. The survey will last 13 months and be at randomly selected points. Unfortunately this may miss equestrian use. Joe said that you could stop at any survey point to participate and state your type of recreation use of the national forest. There should be one along Rt. 20, i.e. at the Omega Rest Area. The board encourages all members to participate.

Mountain bike safety - Willie said that Jet Lowe is planning a workshop re. Mountain bikes and horses. The Loomis Basin Horsemen has a good booklet on trail courtesy. Jet would like the GCTC to participate in the workshop. Willie will try to get more large signs re. Trail courtesy from Joe. We'll have to pay for them. A joint committee from all trail groups can help put up the signs. Karen S. continued this item to the next meeting. Fran suggested including the difference between carnivore and horse manure in the workshop.

Old Business:

Karen Schwartz continued Archives Review to the next meeting.

Membership Report - Mary Johnson reported that 62 members have not yet renewed. There are 154 members now. She will send out a list to Jaede.

Website Update - Helen Harvey stated that the draft web site doesn't work on tablets. Merrill has asked for Gigi Lawton's Facebook password, but she understandably doesn't want to provide it. Karen S. will talk to Merrill and Brad. Teri Personeni made a motion to set 12/31/14 as the deadline for an operable website that will work on tablet and smart phones, including the minutes, archives, newsletter, and Pay Pal capability. Karen W. seconded the motion. Motion approved. The board decided that the list of advertisers should not be on the web site. They are in the newsletters and people will have access to them there. Ron Brown, who has created and maintained the old web site, will be invited to a meeting for appreciation. Teri moved that we present him with a \$100 Visa gift card, Karen W. seconded, motion approved.

2014 Calendar Update -

United Trails Day - In the future, volunteers will be encouraged to speak up regarding their ability to do the work assigned. Laura Duncan brought this need to Karen Schwartz's attention.

Lone Grave - There were no problems.

Skillman - There were no problems with the workday, but someone used the corrals while the DG was still wet and did some damage.

Thanksgiving Feast - The presentation and food were very good. Mary felt that we should continue to allow guests. There needs to be more time for scrapbooks, maps. Fran recommended sending out slate of board candidates before the meeting so that the election or approval of the slate can be efficient. Because there was not an official election to support the slate of candidates presented and sworn in at the dinner, Karen S. would like to schedule that for the General Meeting in Jan. There was discussion of eliminating the business meeting.

Fran's proposed Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest policies will be scheduled for the Feb. board meeting. Fran offered to get the Articles of Incorporation.

Top Hand Award - We are taking recommendations. The deadline is in Jaede's email

New Business:

Draft 2015 Calendar - The date for the Poker Ride should be checked to see if it conflicts with the Horse Expo or other events. Karen S. recommended going to the Running I Ranch instead of planning another desensitization clinic here. It should be scheduled during the spring. Karen would also like to have an annual ride on the Pioneer Trail lasting several days and she suggested monthly campouts. Diana Culver has volunteered to be our publicity chair. Merrill will coordinate the Poker Ride. Several board members pointed out that we had the maximum number of people participating in the 2014 Poker Ride. We should not increase the publicity for it in 2015. The Tevis Cup is scheduled for August 1. Sue stated that we need to have some open workdays.

Committees - There is one opening for a historian.

U.S. Rider - (usrider.org) they offer roadside assistance for trailers. Karen S. will present this offer at the Jan. meeting. There is a \$10 incentive for groups.

Caples Creek - Mary Lundin recommended considering a new trail project at Caples Creek, working with the Forest Service and Back Country Horsemen. They would like to install water at the horse camp. The board generally felt that this is too far from our area and that we're too busy. We will have a future project of installing equestrian parking at Bear Valley.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary