

Trail Times



www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GCTC membership and friends,

It is so nice not to have to rehash the effects of COVID on our organization for a change! Life goes on, and our work continues on the trails.

Two factors are causing record-breaking numbers of people to flood the National Forests. The initial wave was COVID-19 forcing people to find outdoor activities to enjoy, away from the confines of their homes. The second wave is the now record-breaking heat that has settled in over California in the past month. Our home in Grass Valley has regularly hit 100 degrees this month, with the highest being 105—at 2400-ft. above sea level!

These new crowds on the trails and in the forest are often not aware of safe forest and trail etiquette, so please be extra watchful and extra patient when you encounter them. If on horseback, perhaps take a moment to educate folks on how horses see the world. The forest belongs to everyone, and we want everyone to be safe and enjoy the beauty.

On another note, some members have asked: where and how GCTC money is spent. In the last couple of years, GCTC has spent or has earmarked the following funds to enhance and improve trails and the club:

- \$3,571 for the Pines to Mine trail
- \$5,000 authorized for a new equipment trailer for events and workdays
- \$1,000 for a new map signboard at the Gold Country Equestrian trailhead at Lone Grave.

In 2021, GCTC spent \$4,800 grading the road into the Gold Country Equestrian trail head at Lone Grave off Conservation Road. In 2020, the club spent \$2,000 increasing the number of pipe horse corrals at Skillman Horse Camp. GCTC also currently spends \$285 a month for the manure dumpster at Skillman.

Other club expenses are hall rentals, miscellaneous supplies, insurances, and a recently purchased projection screen for enhanced presentations at meetings, so we don't have to project onto a wall or sheet.

All GCTC expenditures are done by consensus after discussion by the Board and Officers and are voted on for approval. The discussions and votes are recorded in the minutes to which club members have open access on the Gold Country Trails Council website.

In closing, I would like to once again thank those members who tirelessly step up and contribute to the success of GCTC and help us live up to our mission statement (in the header above). Thank you to each and every one of you who give of your time, energy and monetary contributions.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to join this wonderful group of people at one of our events, you have several upcoming opportunities to do just that! Come join us in July and August for a day ride, one of the work/camp/ride events, and the club ice cream social. We'd love to have see you!

~ **Bernie Molloy, President**

530-802-4089

imarangemaster@gmail.com



Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



- Robyn Armstrong
- Laura Barnes
- Lynnette Batt & Brian Graber
- Patricia Benzon
- Meredith Cherry
- Colleen Conley
- Janis Davidson/Pelley & Brian Pelley
- Nancy DeGan
- Gaye Derusso
- Daniela Di Piero
- Kathryn & Phil Haynes
- Joyce & Ken Johnston
- Janet Lehr
- Judie Lew
- Jill Lewis
- Courtney Loveday
- Lori & Steve Lunsford
- Audrey Paris & David Kahn
- Laurel Rhodes
- Gloria Scott
- Giya & Rob Sinnock
- Belinda Stroud
- Aubree Ware
- Kathy & Samantha Webb

Be sure to check your email...



...to stay up-to-date on the latest GCTC happenings!

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

Leaders

- Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy
- Communications, Web Site and Social Media: Jaede Miloslavich jaede@sbbmail.com
- Forest Service Liaison: Mary Johnson mjshasta@aol.com
- GCTC Apparel Manager: OPEN
- Historian: OPEN
- Membership: Cathy Chase (530) 205-0900 chasehc@gmail.com
- Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack (510) 697-6625 cows2horses@gmail.com
- Parades: Linda Lanzoni
- Poker Ride Fundraiser: OPEN
- Program Director: Helen Crawford
- Publicity: Teresa Dietrich
- Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning
- Skillman Water Manager: Barry Vaccaro
- Skillman Campground: Elicia Kamberg
- Sunshine: Andrea Duncan sendmailtoandi@gmail.com (510) 295-7600
- Tool Cache Manager: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro
- Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

Gold Country Trails Council Officers

- President: Bernie Molloy 530-802-4089 imarangemaster@gmail.com
- V.P.: Jamie Canon 530-265-8326 tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net
- Secretary: Andi Duncan ((510) 295-7600 sendmailtoandi@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Cathy Scott 530-305-1982 ccharlie@suddenlink.net
- Past President: Helen Harvey 530-265-4086 helenthharvey@icloud.com
- Board Member: Helen McDermott 530-478-0545 sugarpine1996@sbcglobal.net
- Board Member: Greg Sherrs sherrs@infostations.com
- Board Member: Karen Hayden 530-575-5808 karenhayden@att.net

Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2021 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



JULY

- 10 Sat. Royal Gorge Day Ride
- 13 Tue. General Meeting & Ice Cream Social 7pm
Golden Empire Grange, Grass Valley
- 16-18 Loney Meadow Work/Camp/Ride
- 24 Sat. GCTC Guided Horse Ride-Skillman
- 24 Sat. Tevis Cup-Western States Trail Ride
(non-GCTC event)

AUGUST

- 7 Sat. Trail Work Day-TBD
- 10 Tue. Board Meeting 7 pm
- 11-15 Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
- 20-22 GCTC Work/Camp/Ride-TBD

PLEASE NOTE: Dates & times may change. Changes and an updated calendar is always available on the website: www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org
Click on the "Calendar and Events" tab. Also check your email for the latest updates.



**JULY GCTC GENERAL MEETING
& ICE CREAM SOCIAL!
TUESDAY, JULY 13th, 7 PM
(Everyone's Invited!)**

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE



*Come for the meeting,
Stay for the scoop!*

**WHERE are GENERAL MEETINGS &
BOARD MEETINGS &
the ICE CREAM SOCIAL HELD?**

They're at the
GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley
(off La Barr Meadows)

Look for the "Golden Empire Grange" sign
on Le Barr Meadows Road.

Be aware, the driveway is narrow
and easy to drive right past!



*Thank You
for your generous
donations!*

- Jeri Amendola
- Alexis Brasier
- Janis Davidson
- Andrea Duncan
- Mary Johnson
 - Merry Law
- Jaede Miloslavich
- Phyllis Shobell
- Marianne Stuart
- Laurie Sweeney
 - Jeanine Wolf
- Alan Mader, Mader's Grading & Paving
- All who use Amazon Smile to benefit GCTC

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ROYAL GORGE DAY RIDE Saturday, July 10th

Our GCTC Royal Gorge Ride will be July 10th. In years past, the trails were often still too covered in snow—even in July—and we were forced to cancel the ride. We are not this year!

RESCHEDULED
To the weekend of Sept 25.
Due to current high temperatures.

boots are recommended for the elevation. Horse and rider will be at a walk but Breast collars are advised on beautiful single track with

is a beautiful place to steep climbs with lots of tons of trail. Shoes or 300-foot gain in elevation. The entire to trot, lope or lunge. also sections of

We will have lunch on the riders will need to pack the back, we ride in the meadow what was once known as Lake Norden.



Please check your email for more information & directions.

RSVP to TRAIL COORDINATOR: Jamie Canon
tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net or 530 265-8326.

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LONEY MEADOW WORK / CAMP / RIDE

JULY 16-18, 2021



Join us for a weekend or a day of GCTC camaraderie and gorgeous scenery! Head for the hills and experience the beauty of the Tahoe National Forest while helping to maintain the adjoining trails. This is a dry camp but there is a stream nearby, and everyone camps in a lovely area surrounded by trees. There are no human amenities. There are also no horse accommodations, so you must provide a way to secure your horse: portable corral, Hi Tie, etc.

We will be riding into the area we will be working on. After we are done working (9 am to ~12 pm), we will ride out and explore this beautiful area. If you haven't had the opportunity to ride here, you will be amazed by the miles and miles of mountain trails. And what better way to learn an area than to go with a group of riders who know the trails?

Riders can continue on to Bowman Mountain and the little glacial lake at the top. Then circle down to Lower Rock Lake, ride alongside Texas Creek past Bull Pen and on into Loney Meadow. There is a backcountry that is non-motorized. Ride to Grouse Ridge, or Glacier Lake at the foot of the Black Buttes. Return along Sand Ridge overlooking Five Lakes Basin, Faucherie and French Lake. Or then there is the ride on the Crooked Lakes Trail past Carr and Feeley Lakes. Pass Island Lake and a passel of lakes that are so numerous they have no names. Lunch at Penner Lake and circle back to camp. I'll stop there! As you can see, there are many riding options in this area.

Loney Meadow is not a designated campground and there is no reservation system. It has also become very well-known recently. As it is a first-come, first-serve area, anyone in our group who is interested in going up earlier in the week and possibly staking a claim on our camp area, either in the meadow or near the creek, would be greatly appreciated.

Come and horse camp for the weekend, OR come for the workday, Saturday, July 17 and bring your horse. Loney Meadow is close enough to Grass Valley to be a day ride area. We will be riding into the area we will be working on. All of the work will be simply trimming: Piece-a-cake!

Please do plan to join us: "Many hands make light work." Bring any small saws or clippers that you can pack on your horse. GCTC will provide loppers.

Four-wheel drive is needed for one small section getting to the camp area. But if you want to come up for the workday, there is a place to park for the day that does not require 4-wheel drive. Please check your email for more information & directions

Please RSVP Jamie Canon ASAP

tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net

land line: 530-265-8326 OR cell: 530-409-9436





Alexis Brasier
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GCTC SKILLMAN MEMBERS-ONLY WEEKEND "From Bust to Best"

This spring was unique in that the Forest Service was still under COVID restrictions. That meant they couldn't issue a permit in time for us to prepare for our annual GCTC Poker Ride. What to do?

GCTC had already reserved Skillman Horse Camp for the June 4-6 weekend, so we decided to use it to the fullest. Laura Duncan and Jaede Miloslavich created a low-key fundraiser consistent with our county's health guidelines, to utilize Skillman, familiarize our newer members with Skillman area trails, and have a rare social time after a rather unsocial year. We turned the public Poker Ride dates into a private GCTC members-only fundraising event that included weekend horse camping, with three marked trails of varying lengths for day rides every day, a guided ride on Saturday, a root beer float bar, and classes for learning how to high-line and to use the Avenza trail app.

Laura Duncan, Sue Brusin, Suzanne Vacarro, Jan Geller and Marty Mosman went up early and marked seven hours of trail adventures. All the horse campers and day riders rode those well-marked trails on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

On Saturday, we held the Guided Ride for our newer members who weren't familiar with the trails around Skillman. Suzanne Vacarro, Cathy Scott, and Jamie Canon were our Guided Ride Trail Leaders. They enjoyed a mostly shaded ride through the pine and cedar trees, with only a hiccup when encountering ground bees—which was quickly marked using the Avenza app.



When folks returned from the morning rides on Saturday, Jeff Foltz had set up a Root Beer Float Bar with an ice chest full of vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, cherries, ice cream cones, cookies and all the cups, spoons, re-usable straws, EVERYTHING to make the Root Beer Float Bar a welcome treat. Andi Duncan brought brownies, and everyone got one (or two or three) root beer floats, and Jeff got rave reviews.

While everyone was slurping down their root beer floats, we had a fun prize drawing made possible by generous donations from Pat Huntsinger, Jeff Foltz, Jaede Miloslavich, Judy Suter, and Laura Duncan.

As if that wasn't enough entertainment, Mary Johnson and Cathy Scott gave of their expertise and time to teach us high-lining and the Avenza Map app for our phones.

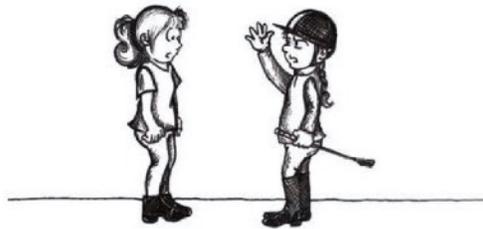
The Poker Ride weekend went from bust to best!

~ Jaede Miloslavich & Jamie Canon



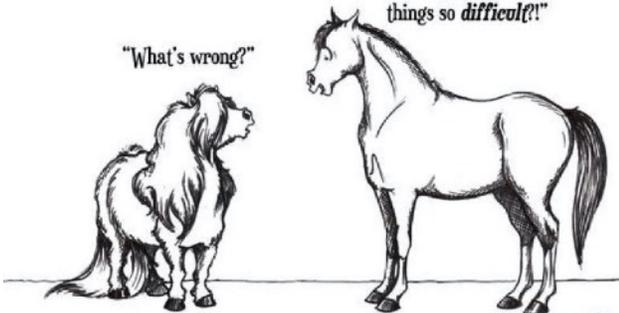
Communication...

"What's wrong?"



"I think my horse is an idiot! I take him to the base of the jump and he just darts or dives around it! He just doesn't get it. Why does he make things so *difficult*!?"

"What's wrong?"



"I think my rider is an idiot! She keeps steering me into small walls and then gets upset when I get us around them! She's just not with it. Why does she make things so *difficult*!?"

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is difficult.

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"Oh, did you want to go for a ride?"



LITTLE LASIER MEADOW WORK / CAMP / RIDE RECAP

We had fun and got 'er done!

Green meadows, colorful wildflowers, thunder showers, trickling streams, abundant birds, and even a bear created our amazing backdrop for camping, riding and working at Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp. The days were warm, the nights comfortable, the mosquitoes and flies tolerable, and the trails were fantastic. Nineteen GCTC members attended this year's work party, accomplishing all the tasks that were on the list. The intrepid sawing crew of Laurie, Mike and their three capable Friesian horses cleared fallen trees on the connector and Pacific Crest Trails. Other riders did minor clearing with hand saws when the need arose and a hearty few hiked and cleared brush on the connector trail! Campground work included cleaning fire rings, sanding and painting two tables, leveling and setting blocks under tables, replacing posts on failing barriers, marking the metal corral panels, re-setting the PCT trail head sign, and repairs to the wire and boards in the 4-plex corral. Many kudos to the amazing GCTC crew.

All riders, hikers and bikers enjoyed the numerous and wonderful variety of trails surrounding the camp during the stay. Saturday evening potluck was fabulous with a delicious variety of dishes including BBQ tri-tip and chicken by "chef" Barry. Dinner included a visit and guest from the PCT. Through hiker "Hamburgler" stopped by and eagerly accepted our invitation to a potluck meal. We all felt we were living in luxury compared to the spartan pack he was carrying. Everyone enjoyed his tales of travel.

Thanks to these returning and new GCTC participants to the Little Lasier Meadow workday: Cindy Peterson, Chris Hagen, Jamie Canon, Bill Dryden, Jeanine Wolf, Laura Duncan, Sharon Silver, Sue and Willie Brusin, Chris and Mike Dyer, Laurie Sweeney, Michael Peckham, Mary and Worth Lundin, Tom Fletcher, Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro.





GCTC TRAIL PATROL VOLUNTEERS

Report #3



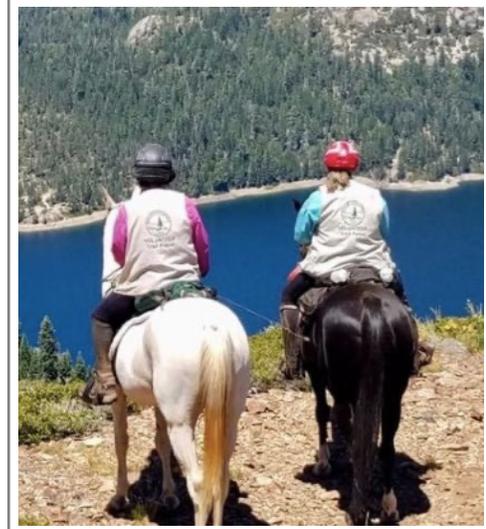
Welcome to our newest Trail Patrol Volunteer members: Mary Beyer, Chris Dyer and Lynn Reese.

Our Trail Patrol season is in full swing. We have been out there on the trails reporting downed trees, helping lost souls and reporting the illegal use of E- Bikes and motorcycles on the trails etc.

NOTE: Current Trail Patrol volunteers, don't forget to report your hours. Our hours count with the Forest Service!

As Trail Patrol volunteers this is what we do.....

Trail Patrol volunteers are ambassadors on the trails in the Tahoe National Forest. Trail Patrol riders report the hours they spend monitoring the trails and often give a short report on any trail conditions that may need attention, such as downed trees or interactions with other trail users. Trail Patrol Volunteers are welcome to provide as much information as they like, or simply log their hours patrolling. As ambassadors, we interact with other trail users (hikers, bicyclists, families, etc.) and can assist by providing directions or general information about an area, if needed, or just provide a friendly, "Hello."



With the reported hours spent on the trails, GCTC gains credibility as a volunteer partner with the Tahoe National Forest. That in turn aids GCTC in having a voice in planning for trails, campground maintenance, and changes or improvements the club would like to see happen.

If this sounds like something you are interested in doing, please Jamie Canon know and she can get you started. Contact Jamie at tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net

Here are a couple of recent reports.

By: **Laura Duncan**

When: Monday, June 7th, 2021, 10:00am to 2:30pm

Where: Lone Grave



Report:

Started at GCTC trailhead and headed out on Meyer trail then crossed over to Pfeiffer and down below towards Blue Hole. The road to Blue Hole has new "no trespassing" signs and chains blocking access. The Blue Hole loop is not passable. We returned up top and rode loops of Dascombe before heading back to trailhead.

(Continued on next page)

At the trailhead, there were 3 other trailers, all GCTC members. There are more bike vehicles parking at entrance to trailhead parking area.

A member from Paul Hart trail crew was there replacing carsonite trail posts. The gravel on the road into parking area is beautiful! It's very smooth and minus the potholes!

By: **Linda Lanzoni**
When: Monday, June 7th, 2021, 10:30am to 2:30pm
Where:Lone Grave



I rode at Lone Grave with another GCTC member. We saw a couple of other GCTC members at the trailhead but no other trailers. I chatted with a temp Forest Service gal who was posting a sign and she told me her job this summer is to identify the "extra" trails that have been made and she was told to close them off... bummer! I told her how we love the Edge trail and the berm/ditch trail and it sounds like she may leave those alone.

We headed off to the Edge trail via the Ditch trail and just as we were going to cross the Conservation Rd to get on the Meyer, we waited for two motorcycles that were roaring towards us. We thought they were on the road but as they got around the bend and closer, we realized they were roaring down the Meyer trail and we couldn't do anything to stop them.

We proceeded and after coming up the switchbacks on the Dascombe, we turned right, and then picked up the new little trail off to the left. We were about halfway up that trail when we saw a medium-sized brown bear, about 30' off to our left crouched like a dog and pooping. That answered the question, "Does a bear poop in the woods?" Apparently, it was completely downwind from us, because our horses never even flinched. It just watched us ride by and kept to its business. Thankfully, there were no cubs in sight!

It was the most crazy interesting day I've had up there in a while.

ROAD GRADING EXCITEMENT!

Alan Mader, of Mader's Grading & Paving donated \$500 worth of gravel, and spent 3 days with members Barry Vaccaro and Willie Bruisin, leveling and grading the access road to the GCTC Equestrian Staging Area and trailhead. Y'all rock—literally!



You rock!

You rock!



**“SMILE”
and donate to GCTC!**



Did you know if you purchase items from Amazon, you can also benefit GCTC? Purchases made through Amazon Smile donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization, which is GCTC, of course, with no fees, no extra cost!

It's super easy to set up your Amazon Smile account. Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>. You only have to sign up once and your purchase donations will automatically go to GCTC. Your receipt will say, "Because you placed this order at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will make a donation to Gold Country Trails Council."

Take a moment **today** to set up your “Smile” account. It's easy, and it helps GCTC achieve our mission of developing, maintaining and advocating for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users!

Members are Invited to Advertise their Business in the GCTC Newsletter & Phonebook

Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC publications for just \$5 per issue, or \$25 for the entire calendar year (6 issues). The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on the GCTC website. To place your ad, contact GCTC Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack @ cows2horses@gmail.com



WHAT IS “PINES TO MINES”?

“...a new 80-mile trail linking Truckee to Nevada City...
...jaw-dropping views of sweeping valleys and the Sierra Crest, mature mixed conifer forests, historic towns, and high quality recreation.

...this trail will offer both single and multi-day excursions by creating a series of smaller loops and point-to-point routes. With its long distance, varied terrain, unique habitats and majestic views...

...the alliance is made up of Bear Yuba Land Trust, Bicyclists of Nevada County, Gold Country Trails Council and Truckee Trails Foundation. A capable and committed constituency has formed around the project to seek and administer funding, create a sustainable trail alignment on the ground, provide trail building expertise, exercise land management, and perform ongoing trail maintenance and support...”

Read the entire article @ <https://www.theunion.com/news/pines-to-mines-trail-80-mile-trail-will-link-towns-of-truckee-and-nevada-city/>