

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

The Kentucky Derby is behind us this year as is many of our GCTC events. Never fear we have lots more to come. I am going to start with a question for you on an obscure bit of trivia; 6 names were submitted to the Stewards of the Jockey Club for Secretariat. The first 5 were rejected. What were they? Let me know if you find those rejected names. Look for the answer, it's in here.

Have you noticed?.... Summer is always busy, however this year it is busy *and* condensed. Everything is running up on top of everything else. I think GCTC is doing pretty well planning everything considering. Things are coming at us fast and furious. You have to make hay while the sun shines.

This year we joined forces with **Nevada County Woods Riders** to clean up Skillman and surrounding trails. The Woods Riders are a great group of motorcycle enthusiasts we are privileged to be partnered with. Between their work day and our workday, we cleaned most all of the trails up and around Skillman and points beyond. All that concerted effort cleared the way for our highly successful Poker Ride. Which despite snow on the ground right up to the week before, we pulled it off as scheduled.

Poker Ride 2023 Congratulations to ALL the VOLUNTEERS, ALL the members who participated in the poker ride and ALL of you who donated prizes and food. The Poker Ride was a grand success. We have a new and amazing Poker Ride manager this year. Helen Crawford. Kudos to Helen for dazzling us with new ideas and fun additions to the BEST Poker Ride in the Sierra. Ask anyone! From the beautiful and beautifully marked trails, the huge assortment of prizes right down to the best Poker Ride lunch around. A job well done by Helen and her extensive team of GCTC volunteers. YOU all made it happen. Thank you!

Due to too much snow Little Lasier (camp/work/ride) is rescheduled to the weekend before Loney Meadow (camp/work/ride). This year both take place in July. We always have an excellent turnout and invite you to join us for both the 3-day events or just the work days. Both Little Lasier and Loney Meadow are beautiful places to camp and ride. Our efforts keep the trails clear and usable and the campgrounds in good order.

Celebration of Trails is going to be bigger and better than ever. GCTC will be represented with a booth, a mini horse and saddle for kids to sit on, and a full size horse. Come out June 24th to Nevada City and find us. We should stand out!

I hope you have read this far because here are the **names rejected for Secretariat**. Scepter, Royal Line, Something Special, Games of chance, Deo volente, (Latin for God willing) Thank you for reading this far, you may as well read the rest.

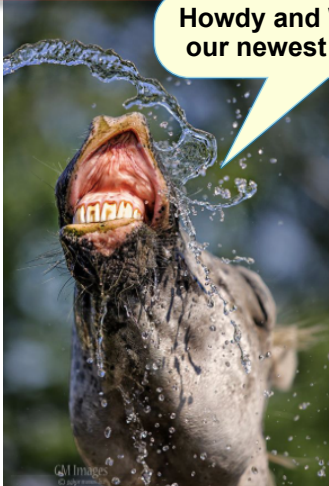
July 21 - 23 is our Loney Meadows Camp/Work/Ride. Loney Meadows is a spectacular riding area right in our backyard. Information about the event is forthcoming. Keep up to date by regularly checking your email and the GCTC calendar on the website. GCTC fun events and activities keep on coming.

As you traverse the trails, whether on foot or horseback, please be an outstanding GCTC trail ambassador. Be patient, friendly, and courteous with all users. To date, we have a bit of a reputation for being grumpy horse people. Of course, we're not; we're just concerned about the safety of all trail users. It isn't always easy, but rise above it and be friendly, whether they are or not.

AS ALWAYS! If you have ideas or suggestions, please join us at a GCTC Board Meeting and let us know your thoughts and ideas. You can make a difference – but we must hear your ideas!

Thank you,
Jamie Canon

[President Jamie Canon](#)



Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!

Annelise and Kristen Borer
 Aleena Church
 Les Cook
 Lynelle and Addy Coyle
 Meredith Crawford
 Anne Edwards
 Bridget Foster
 Natalia Gorovyy
 Desiree Graves
 Julianna Gregorski
 Philip Hatzenpiller
 Sarah Kukuza
 Carrie Labane
 Sarah Locatelli
 Jennifer and Hannah Long
 Aubry McAdams
 Yoel Palomino
 Sierra and James Player
 Ronnie Silver
 Christianna Stuber
 Aurora Thompson
 Jennifer Rutledge

Recent Donations!

5/2/23 Amazon Smile \$61.71
 5/18/23 Amazon Smile \$114.39
 6/2/23 Jennifer Crabb \$50
 6/3/23 Julie McManus \$5

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

Leaders

Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy
 Communications, Web Site and Social Media:
[Jaede Miloslavich](#)
 Forest Service Liaison: Mary Johnson
 GCTC Apparel Manager: Sandrine Nattkemper
 Historian: Anna Starkey
 Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning
 Membership: [Toni Owen](#)
 Newsletter Editor: [Donna MacMillen](#)
 Parades: Linda Lanzoni
 Poker Ride Fundraiser: Helen Crawford
 Program Director: Helen Crawford
 Publicity: Teresa Dietrich
 Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning
 Skillman Water Manager: Barry Vaccaro
 Skillman Campground: **OPEN**
 Sunshine: [Andrea Duncan](#)
 Tool Cache Manager: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro
 Trail Ride Coordinator: Jamie Canon
 Trail Workday Coordinator: Mary Johnson

Gold Country Trails Council Officers

President: [Jamie Canon](#)
 V.P.: Helen Crawford
 Secretary: Mary Lundin
 Treasurer: Cathy Scott
 Past President: Bernie Molloy
 Board Member: Laura Simmons
 Board Member: Mary McMillan
 Board Member: Bernie Molloy

DID YOU KNOW the names and web addresses which are in blue text and underlined in each newsletter are hyperlinks? No need to copy and paste, just click on the text, for example, [name](#), and it will open to the destination or email address.



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



JUNE

24 Sat. BYLT Street Party GCTC Booth

JULY

4 Tues. Independence Day Parade, Grass Valley
 11 Tues. General Meeting and Ice Cream Social 7pm
 13 - 16 Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride
 21 - 23 Loney Meadow Camp/Work/Ride
 29 Sat. Tevis Cup - Western States Endurance Ride
 (non-GCTC event)

AUGUST

5 Sat. TRAIL WORK DAY - Location TBD
 8 Tues. GCTC Board Meeting 7pm
 9 - 13 Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)
 19 Sat. Day Ride - TBD

SEPTEMBER

9 Sat. TRAIL WORK DAY - Location TBD
 12 Tues. GCTC General Meeting 7pm
 22-24 Draft Horse Classic (non-GCTC event)

PLEASE NOTE: *Dates and times may change.
 Changes and an updated calendar is always
 available on the website. Go to: www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org.
 then click on the "Calendar and Events" tab.*

ICE CREAM!

JULY GCTC GENERAL MEETING

AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

TUESDAY, JULY 11th, 7 PM
(Everyone's Invited!)

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE
 11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley



A SHOUT-OUT FROM YOUR POKER RIDE MANAGER 2023

I like to think of the Poker Ride as a big party, a party for all of us. A party with an awesome trail ride, food, prizes, and camaraderie. A party that was accomplished because of the membership. There were many people involved, too many to name and I am sure I would leave lots of deserving people out but you know who you are. There were the people who started helping right at the start of planning in January with so much to do behind the scenes; key people who contributed ideas and invaluable experience; people who later stepped in to take on key roles; the members who stepped in during the last week and even the last moment. I may have been the designated Manager but anyone could take on that role because I was really mostly a figurehead. All of YOU made it the equestrian event of our year. I hope you all enjoyed the party!

The Poker Ride is a fundraiser, our only fundraiser for the year, but it serves much more important purposes than raising money.

- It is a time for us to come together and create connections and cohesiveness within our Club.
- It is a way to show Tahoe National Forest that equestrians are a presence, that we exist, that we are important trail users!
- We reminded local businesses about us as we asked far and wide for contributions and these businesses really showed up for us.
- It is an opportunity to showcase Skillman Campground as a horse camp which increases the equestrian presence and thus the continuation of Skillman as a horse camp.
- It gives people a chance to try out horse camping and become a bigger presence on trails everywhere.
- It can be a non-competitive setting for riders and horses to get better at riding in groups and to wait patiently (or not) along the way.
- It is an opportunity to work hand-in hand with other trail users, namely the Nevada County Woods Riders this year, continuing the connections that we have with them.

I hope this Party re-invigorated your connection to GCTC and to your horse.



*Yours,
Helen Crawford*



2023 POKER RIDE - IT'S A WRAP



Amazingly once again, a thousand details fit into place like clockwork, resulting in a fantastic weekend at Skillman Horse Camp for the 2023 Poker Ride and Fundraiser. The weather was perfect, snowbanks melted, the trails, food, camaraderie, live acoustic music, activities, and prizes were over-the-top, and more than 90 riders and their mounts returned safely to camp. This year riders were offered the option of travelling 6, 8 or 11 miles on shady trails through the forest. Poker card stations staffed by friendly volunteers were strategically placed at key junctions. Everyone liked how well-marked the trails were and having distance options.



The 2023 Poker Ride and Fundraiser was quite a production involving well over 70 volunteers and local businesses that support our organization and GCTC's community service. Over \$7,000 was raised which will be earmarked for improvements to each of the campgrounds GCTC maintains, continued trail maintenance and improvements, trail user education, and more. Planning and preparation began early with selection of a weekend, accessing trail conditions and work needed, and creating the webpage for registration of riders, non-riders, and campsites. Tahoe National Forest, in recognition of our volunteer work to maintain Skillman Horse Camp and surrounding trails, lets GCTC have use of the campground for the weekend. Nevada County Woods Riders and GCTC Camp/Trail Crews coordinated cleaning up Skillman and clearing downed trees blocking the trails. Helen Crawford McDermott, our vice president, was the 2023 Poker Ride Manager and visionary. She encouraged simple steps that all of us can easily take to reduce trash hauled to landfills and saves us money. Everyone used their own personal container for beverages or a reusable/recyclable GCTC aluminum cup. The Check-in Desk gave out Lucky Tickets for anyone who brought their own utensils and plate. For those of us less prepared, Debbie's lunch crew provided sturdy second-hand silverware, which our organization can wash and reuse indefinitely at future events, instead of those flimsy plastic single-use forks.



Many thanks to Cal McKittrick and his team for radio communications, to Fool's Gold Mobile Bar who served alcohol-free beverages such as virgin mojitos, iced tea, and lemonade, and to the many GCTC members who volunteered countless hours preparing for and running the event. Thank you to everyone who came out to camp, ride, purchase tickets and bid on auction items.



Thank you to the Sponsors and Donors (many anonymous) for the prizes and auction items. Their services and donated items—many crafted by hand especially for our fundraiser—are much appreciated. Please remember them when considering where to shop or choose for services: All About Dogs Training Center; B&C Ace Home and Garden Center; Barry & Suzanne Vaccaro whirlygig artists; Brad Daniel; Dawa Fitzmaurice Equine Bodywork; Duke's Trailer Works; Echo Valley Ranch Hay, Feed & Pet Supplies; Five Brooks Horse Camp; Fool's Gold Mobile Bar, Fox Hollow Dressage Sarah Yoffe-Sharp; Gold Flat Lube & Car Wash; The Hay Barn; Ingrid Peterson; Jeff & Toni Owen; Jennifer Crabb; Julie Barhydt Realtor; Julie McManus; Laura Simmons, Madison Hoffman; Mary McMillan; Pat Huntsinger quilter extraordinaire; Rodeo Etc.; Santa Barbara Hotel Group Brisas del Mar Inn; Sue Bartow Realtor; Zsuzu Illes ReBalance Expert

Submitted by Cathy Scott



PENN VALLEY PARADE!

We had a very fun time riding/walking in the Penn Valley parade!

*Carrying the GCTC Banner -
Barry Vaccaro, Mike Dowling*



Riders and Walkers -


Sara Layburn, Grace Layburn, Laura Ziemann, Cynthia Lane, Merry Law, Suzanne Vaccaro, Mary Dowling, Teri Personeni, Laura Simmons, Sue Bain, Sharon Miles and Linda Lanzoni.

We had several new additions which made us a very large group... always love our big presence!
A big thanks to all who attended and made this another very special parade. -Linda



NEXT PARADE... 4TH OF JULY!

Be sure to shop with our GCTC member advertisers!



For only \$79 a year, you will have no out-of-pocket expenses for air medical transport provided by one of AMCN's 320 bases in 38 US states, including local providers CALSTAR & REACH. Protect your family & finances, purchase a membership today. Even with medical insurance, Medicare or VA benefits you may have out of pocket expenses. Membership covers entire household for a year from enrollment. AMCN now manages Care Flight's membership program as well. Call for details.

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THE WESTERN STATES HORSE EXPO

The Western States Horse Expo was held June 9-10-11, 2023, at the Murieta Equestrian Center, located on the Jackson Highway in eastern Sacramento County. Several thousand equestrians attended, and there were several hundred vendors for horse tack and supplies. Vendors included dozens of horse trailers.

The backstory is that for many decades, the Western States Horse Expo was held at the California State Fairgrounds. Then came several years of Covid-19 with an interlude. The owner of the Western States Horse Expo was Mickie Garcia. She has now sold it to the Murieta Equestrian Center which will become its permanent home each second weekend of June. Members of the Gold Country Trails Council may wish to attend next year.



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REAL ESTATE SERVICES



LITTLE LAISER MEADOW WORK / CAMP / RIDE

HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO JULY 13-16, 2023

The workday is Saturday, July 15 from 9:00 to noon

There are still a few camping spots available for the Little Lasier Meadows camp and work day. However the corrals have all been reserved. Portable corrals or highline are options. Or you are welcome to camp without a horse if you would like to enjoy this beautiful area and participate in the Saturday work day and Saturday night pot luck dinner.

CAMPING: The campground accommodates tents, pick up campers, trailers as well as small RV's. There are no hook-ups. There will be 10 campsites available for GCTC members. Participation in this event is limited and sites will be shared and assigned according to size of rigs. Water for horses is available from one central well with a hand pump. You will need to carry water to your horse so water containers with lids are advised along with a cart to transport.

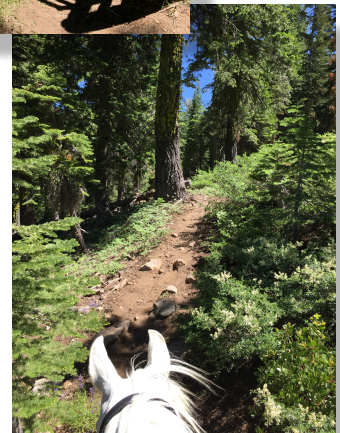
RIDING or HIKING: Many beautiful trails, logging roads and single track including the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) with wonderful views. Jackson Meadows Reservoir is 2 miles from the campground.

WORK: Typically camp clean up, corral repair, trail clearing, and trail bed repair.

RSVP REQUIRED!

Please contact Mary Johnson if you would like to be part of this event or with any questions. mjshasta@aol.com
530-477-8501(message)
530-353-0082 (message or text)

Information needed: arrival & departure date, type and size of rig, number or horses, type of horse "housing" needed or provided by you, and contact numbers/email.



LOOMIS BASIN EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER

Once again GCTC sponsored a booth at LBEMC health fair in May. Our loyal volunteers planned the set up, booth layout and continuous staffing during the day.

GCTC members Jeff Foltz, Mary Johnson, Gail Plakos, Jamie Canon, Janice Wong, Jaede Miloslavich and Laura Duncan answered questions about GCTC, trails and other horse related topics that came up in conversations. There were 2 new member registrations completed using the new iPad.

LBEMC scheduled an informative sequence of sessions designed to help people with managing their horse's care.



GILA NATIONAL FOREST IN NEW MEXICO

At the end of April, Willie and Sue Brusin and Ann and Jon Zerin took a 5 day trip to ride in the beautiful, isolated Gila National Forest in New Mexico. We were living in the lap of luxury at the Geronimo Trails Guest Ranch, where we ate 5 star food prepared to perfection, slept in roomy, heated, well appointed cabins, and rode excellent, sure footed trail horses in rugged, picturesque terrain. Off the grid completely, the living there was solar powered. All around, we saw evidence of past civilizations' presence: cliff dwellings, grinding rocks, pottery shards that surfaced after eons of climate change in the river bottom. Our friendly, knowledgeable hosts pointed all these things out as we rode and enjoyed the unlimited vistas from 6,000 foot heights and the local history along river bed crossings and old homestead ruins. *Fun!*



INTRODUCING AUBRY, EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHER!

My name is Aubry Mcadams and I reside in Grass Valley. I am a wife and mom of two. I am also a Professional Photographer. I specialize in equine photography. So, if it's horse related, I am your girl! I've been riding since I was a young girl. We moved to Grass Valley just last year, and with the weather warming up, I am looking forward to finding a suitable barn and making friends as well. A big part of my business model is being a part of the horse community and giving more than I take. I am looking forward to meeting new faces and seeing what GCTC is all about! Thanks for having me!

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/amcadamsphoto?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Website link:

<https://www.aubrymcadamsphotography.com>



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MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ADVERTISE THEIR BUSINESS IN THE GCTC NEWSLETTER

Hey GCTC Members, you may place your business card as advertisement in 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, or if you have any questions, or to send a high-quality scan of your business card to her please contact GCTC Newsletter Editor [Donna MacMillen](#)

Then, send a check for your advertising to:

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



HIDDEN FALLS TRAILS EXPANSION UPDATE



By the time this newsletter is published, well over 100 equestrians and even a few hardy hikers have visited Placer Land Trust's Taylor Ranch and Kotomyan Preserves on Big Hill within the past year. The trails on these preserves are part of the expanding network of trails that will be connecting to Hidden Falls Regional Park. GCTC members and several other local equestrians are instrumental in helping to develop an equestrian docent program and ready the preserve trails for eventual opening to the general public. You can learn about Placer Land Trust and its mission by visiting the website: <https://placerlandtrust.org/>

In late April, Lisa Carnahan, Placer County's lead project planner for the new parking area and trailhead currently known as the Twilight Ride Property, held an on-site meeting with several equestrians, along with mountain bikers, a hiker or two, and a representative for Placer Land Trust. Lisa brought a full-size set of design plans and walked us through the site so we could envision the layout for equestrian parking which is to accommodate 20 rigs, passenger vehicle parking and trailhead amenities. We emphasized to Lisa that equestrians sharing space with other user types such as hikers and mountain bikers is most successful when the stock doesn't feel crowded, and equines need plenty of room to maneuver gates and stay clear of obstacles, hikers and cyclists. Placer County has spent over 3 years and over 30 public meetings to plan and design this particular parking area, which is Phase 1 of the Hidden Falls Trails Expansion. They have listened to and addressed MANY concerns from neighbors who use the local roads and/or own property adjacent to the Twilight Ride Property. Zoning on the 50 acre Twilight Ride site was changed from 10 acre residential agriculture to "zoned for public access parking/trailhead." There exists many wetland and ecologically sensitive areas on the site, which severely reduces the amount of land that can be used for construction. Budget for this new parking area is about \$3.6 million dollars, most of which is coming from a trails and greenways grant. Placer County hopes to begin construction on the project this summer, with a projected completion date of late Winter 2024 or early Spring 2025 if things go smoothly. Everyone seemed to agree that the exchange of information at this meeting was helpful.

For more information about the Twilight Ride Access and Parking/Trailhead Project or the Hidden Falls Regional Park Trails and Open Space Expansion Project, please visit

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/2537/Hidden-Falls-Regional-Park-Trail-Network> or contact Placer County Department of Parks and Open Space at 530-886-4901 or parks@placer.ca.gov.

Link for Design Plans follows:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/67756/2023-032823-On-File-Item-12B>

Submitted by Cathy Scott



SPRING SPENCEVILLE DAY RIDE

A wonderful horseback ride and stop and tie for lunch was had at Spenceville Wildlife Preserve in May! Led by Suzanne Vaccaro.



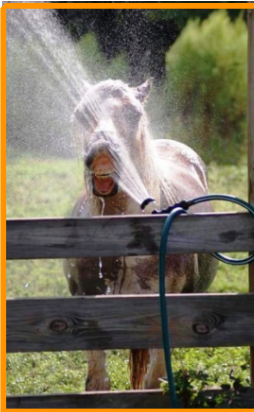
HAPPY TRAILS!

Thank you everyone for sending such great and timely content for our newsletter! You've made it easy for me to get the job done.

Pamela Warmack has done a wonderful job of producing our beautiful newsletter. I'm happy to be handed over such a proud publication!



Donna MacMillen



DEADLINE!



Just a reminder: while you're riding through the sprinklers please keep in mind articles, letters, and photos are due by the 15th of the month before the newsletter issue to the Editor!

The next newsletter deadline: AUGUST 15



Stay Cool!