

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.
Grass Valley, CA

Attendance:

President: Karen Schwartz
Vice President: Melissa Ribley
Secretary: Karen Wyeth
Treasurer: Teri Personeni
Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson

Board Members:
Vicki Testa
Charles Green

Pre-meeting of the Board: Karen Schwartz, Vicki Testa, Charles Green, Karen Wyeth and Teri Personeni met with Willie and Sue Brusin to decide on whether to support Paul Hart's (U.S. Forest Service) proposal for work on construction of an official trailhead at Upper Burlington Rd. He needs GCTC support for a grant proposal for green sticker funds. To qualify for funds, the parking and trails must be multi-use, including hikers, bicycles, equestrians and trail motorcycles. The Dogwood Trail and the Pioneer Trail would be signed for non-motorized use. A bathroom would be part of the proposal. The parking area would have a three-sided sign to make the trail use clear. There were concerns about conflicts, especially with motorcycles, since there is parking and a trailhead further along Rt. 20 for them. However, they must be allowed in order to qualify for these funds. At least the signage would be clearer than it is now and there would be much more room for all users. The Board unanimously approved supporting this proposal.

Call to Order: Karen Schwartz called the General Meeting to order at 7:00. She welcomed new members and guests, and introduced some of the leaders of the club. She announced that the 2015 phone books are available for pick up from Mary Johnson after the meeting. Members must sign for their phone book.

Approval of the Minutes of the February board meeting: Minutes were approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Teri Personeni reported that our balance as of March 9 was \$27,557.22.

Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin reported that he met with Paul Hart of the Forest Service, who has replaced Joe Chavez. They discussed installing portable bridges for two creeks in the Lang's Crossing area. The bridges would be anchored to granite

boulders and would not require a permit from California Fish & Wildlife. In the Lone Grave area 7-8 unauthorized trails would be removed and trail intersections would be labeled. He would like the GCTC to support his proposal for a grant to enlarge the upper Burlington staging area with Green Sticker Funds, install a bathroom, and improve signage. It would need to be a multi-use staging area, but signage would be improved and the Pioneer Trail and the Dogwood Trail would remain non-motorized.

GCTC has reallocated \$5,000 that was budgeted to pay for the original Cable Trail NEPA report and construction to using the funds to participate in the building of the Cable Trail, if needed. Trails and an equestrian friendly trailhead parking area with access to approximately 8 miles of non-motorized trails will be constructed in the Bear Valley area by the Bear Yuba Land Trust. The Tahoe National Forest and GCTC will assist in the design of the trails and trailhead.

Willie also met with Sean Clarke, the BYLT trail coordinator to review what requirements are for equestrian access and trail design. They discussed a trailhead at Zeebright Mine Rd. in Bear Valley, relocating the Pioneer Trail farther away from Rt. 20 to a conservation easement, and developing an 8 mile trail suitable for horses at Rice's Crossing with parking at each end. Willie proposed that GCTC help with trail work in that area to ensure equestrian access. This included working with the Conservation Corps. The current trails at Black Swan were not made for horses. One of the priorities for the BYLT is horse trails. Sean asked if GCTC would be interested in a preserve for horses, which would be located near Englebright Lake. This is just in the exploratory stage.

Members reported many new trails at Lone Grave and tree-cutting. Willie thinks that this is due to fire safety measures. Sue thinks the Conservation Corps may be doing it as practice. Willie will call Paul Hart to discuss this issue.

Karen Schwartz reported that members are not happy about GCTC not providing a porta-potty at Lone Grave. There is lots of waste in nearby brush and forest. GCTC hired a company that had not been maintaining it adequately, so the board decided to discontinue with them. Melissa Ribley will look into other possibilities.

Old Business:

Membership - Mary Johnson reported that only a few members have not renewed. There are approximately 170 members. The new directories include all paid members.

Update of 2015 Calendar -

Poker Ride - The date for the Poker Ride has been changed to May 16. Linda Lanzoni said that she has to receive the reservations for camping. They can't be made directly with recreation.gov. She asked for more volunteers and prizes donated by businesses that members patronize. There have been no camping reservations yet. There is no cook and no grill.

Day Rides - Jamie Canon, the trail ride organizer, has had no response for the Spenceville Day Ride, Sat. March 14. People should meet at the large trailhead at 10 AM. It will be approximately a 2 hour ride with riders eating their lunches together after the ride. You must contact Jamie to sign up.

Merrill will lead the Cronan Day Ride on May 9.

Horse Camping -

The Sensory Clinic camp-out at Running I Ranch will be May 1-3.

The dates for the Pioneer Trail 3-day Ride in June have not been set.

Trail Work Days - The phone tree will make calls to find leaders needed for work days and for Poker Ride volunteers.

Unfilled Leader positions - A regular camp cook is still needed. Barbara Simmons volunteered to only do the Poker Ride. Sandy Dent volunteered for historian. A publicity chair is still needed. Call Karen S. if you are interested.

Website Update - Karen S. explained that we are still having the web site updated. If there are any suggestions or concerns, please call her.

Insurance - Teri and Karen S. will consult regarding insurance.

U.S. Rider - Both Karen S. and Teri reported excellent service from them, both for horse trailers and cars. They will tow a trailer and truck, as well as find a place for your horse. Their special offer will end soon. Everyone is encouraged to join.

New Business:

Bear Yuba Land Trust will have a Celebration of Trails in May. A booth costs \$30. GCTC will have one and needs volunteers.

Donations were requested for the Melissa Davis fund to pay for medical bills.

Many GCTC members volunteered for the rescue of 41 horses organized by Sammie's Friends. It was difficult but successful. There is a fund raiser with Lacy J. Dalton performing March 14. All studs have been castrated and many horses are adopted.

Karen Schwartz announced that she is going on the 6 day ride in the East Bay before Labor Day. This is not a GCTC event, but if anyone wants to join her, they should contact her.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 for the members' tack swap.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary

