

Trail Times

www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



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,

There's still time to renew your GCTC membership, a real bargain. You can do that by visiting our website GCTC.org. Where else can you (and your family) be involved in so many fun activities, all for \$25?

Did you have fun at the Lone Grave BBQ? It's one of our pure pleasure events - riding beautiful trails, enjoying a buffet of delicious food in a forest clearing, and socializing non-stop with friends. What could be better! This event is the brainchild of Sue Brusin as a way to thank you for all your volunteer efforts, and it's a favorite with our members. Many thanks to Camp Cook and Coordinator Debbie Molloy and BBQ master Barry Vaccaro.

Are you ready for more fun? Get out your calendar.

First, United Trails Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. At last year's United Trails Day we had almost 40 GCTC volunteers turn out, more than any other trail group. Working together on trail projects gives us a chance to get to know other trail users, and the delicious lunch that follows gives everyone a chance to socialize. A great time was had by all, thanks to our volunteers and our United Trails Day leader, Irv Mazur.

Next comes our November 10th Thanksgiving Feast program, our last major 2015 event, and it's always fun. We'll enjoy roast turkey with all the fixings, along with a buffet of potluck side dishes and desserts. Our program will include welcoming honored guests, celebrating 2015 accomplishments, electing a new president and secretary to the 2016 board, followed by a special program with speaker Paul Hart of the USFS. We need lots of help, i.e., "domestic goddesses" (and gods), to pull off this memorable evening, so please be prepared to say "yes" when you're asked to help.

As I prepare to step down as GCTC president, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve this outstanding organization. It's been fun working with our great team of volunteers and Leaders. That's what makes Gold Country Council a very rewarding organization to be

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Page 3

THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank all the GCTC members who have contributed articles/pictures for the GCTC Newsletter during this past year. It is important that those of us that can't always attend the club activities (workdays, campouts, rides, etc.) see what great work this organization does and how much enjoyment they get doing it.

I especially enjoyed the articles about the Little Grass Valley Reservoir and Robie Equestrian Park. I didn't even know that these horse camping areas existed. Keep the articles/pictures coming.

I wish that I could put all the pictures you have sent, but then the newsletter would be too big to send out for you to enjoy. I will use as many as I can.

Happy Holidays to all and have a happy and safe New Years.

Thanks again.

Lynn Mangel, Editor

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Come and enjoy great food and visit with fellow GCTC Members.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

AT 7:00 P.M.

NCHI clubhouse

10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.

Grass Valley Valley

Program will include:

Speaker: Ron Garcia with the Tahoe National Forest will be giving updates on the trails program in the Tahoe National Forest.

Election of 2016 board members

Members will have an opportunity to vote on candidates nominated for 2016 Officers.

Advertising Space Available 2016 Newsletter & Phonebook Advertisement

Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC Newsletter for just \$25.00. Your ad will appear in the six issues of the 2016 GCTC Newsletter and in the annual GCTC Phone Book Directory. If you would prefer, you can place your ad in any one of the six issues for \$5.00 per issue. (members only).

The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on GCTC Web site.

To place your ad contact GCTC Newsletter Editor, Lynn Mangel, quailhollowpv@me.com 530-432-6979.

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We Design and Build Trails that Delight You!

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



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Kathleen & Ken Bennett
Cindy Burd
Debra Duffer
Beth Dunkerley
Stacy Guerrero
Kevin Scott Hall
Stephanie Hettrich
Lynda Malavanya
Jeanette Webber

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

Leaders

Camp Cook & Coordinator: Debbie Malloy
Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich
530 346-9933 jaede@sbbmail.com
Facebook Administrators: Gigi Lawton, Jaede Miloslavich
Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Historian: Open
Hospitality: Laura Duncan, Maryann Colley and Krista Ericson
Little Lasier Meadow: Mary Johnson
Lone Grave: Harry and Karen Wyeth
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mjshasta@aol.com
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Phone Tree: Lynne Sullivan
Poker Ride Fundraiser: Linda Lanzoni 530-273-6346
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Program Director: Melissa Ribley
Publicity: Pamela Warmack
Sunshine: Open
Skillman: Linda Lanzoni
Tool Storage and Maintenance: Willie Brusin
Trail Rides: Jamie Canon
United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

part of. Whether you volunteer to work on trails, or cook, or bring food, or serve on a committee or board position, or donate, or lead a Day Ride, Campout, or Work Day, or manage the website or the newsletter, or write Sunshine notes, or help in some other way - it's all good. We couldn't do it without you.

Happy Trails,

Karen Schwartz

Gold Country Trails Council - 2015 Calendar

NOVEMBER

November 10 General Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

DECEMBER

December 8 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley



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

- Henriette Bruun
- Ray & Pam Bryars
- Cathy Chase
- Ann & Jim Driver
- Natalie Drost
- Susan Donnelly
- Bobbi & Roger Giudicelli
- Mark & Teri Heuser
- Alysia & Cathi Mayo
- Dee Meridith
- Linda & David Palley
- Kriss & Bill Van Roo

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.

Membership Renewal for 2016

Thank you to all GCTC members who have renewed their membership for 2016! Renewal rate is about 1/2 of the total membership so far, so please put renewal on the top of your "to do" list. (Renewing in a timely manner makes the membership job go a lot smoother and this membership chair person really appreciates that!)

Renewal can be accomplished via the web site using pay pal, or printing the fill in form on the web site and mailing it to the P.O. Box along with your check, or renewing at the upcoming November meeting. GCTC relies on membership support to continue to keep trails open for all trail users so we have fun on the trails.

Submitted by, Mary Johnson



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The 2015 Grand Canyon XP Ride By Sharma Lynn Gaponoff

During the first week in September this year, I participated in the Grand Canyon XP Ride. This is a five-day endurance and/or limited distance ride, one of several XP Rides offered at various times of the year in various places around the country by Dave Nicholson DVM, and his wonderful wife Ann. This particular ride was held at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona at an elevation of 8500 feet. It was a fabulous experience and I felt privileged to be able to ride such beautiful trails. The ride venue was both literally and figuratively world class as there is no other place on earth like the Grand Canyon and you get to see it from the back of your horse. It doesn't get any better than that. I had loads of fun meeting new people, too. I highly recommend this ride.

It took months of conditioning my horse Tahoe and me in order to get ready for this ride. During this time, I had a lot of trepidation about riding five days in a row. I knew I could easily ride two days in a row, after all Tahoe and I have completed the Tevis twice as well as the Virginia City 100 once and done various two-day endurance rides. However, I was always sore and tired after each of those rides, so I figured by day three of this 5-day ride I'd be knackered. Happily, it turned out to be much easier on my body than I anticipated it would be. I know all the conditioning miles certainly helped, but my saddle played the most prominent role. I love my new Schleese saddle. It was definitely the key to keeping Tahoe and me comfortable the entire time. At the end of the 5th day of riding, my body actually felt as though I hadn't ridden all week! Go figure. I was tired, but not sore in the least, not anywhere. Neither was Tahoe. As a matter of fact, Tahoe actually got stronger every day. My Schleese saddle is custom made on the top half for me and on the bottom half for Tahoe, resulting in exceptional comfort for both of us all week. As a matter of fact, I was more comfortable riding those five days than I was sitting in the car for the two days it took to drive there and the two days it took to drive back! Maybe we can convince Schleese to make car seats also...

As I was preparing to go on this adventure, I thought since we would be up on the Kaibab Plateau, that all the trails would be flat because that's what a plateau is – flat. However, there was plenty of topography and lots of different microenvironments that we rode through so it was just beautiful the entire week. The ride management carefully mapped and marked two different trails for us for each day. You had your choice of either riding the 50-mile endurance trail or the 30-mile limited distance trail. No matter which you chose, each trail looped back to camp making the ride logistics easy since we started and ended the ride at the same place daily. I also appreciated the fact that they provided lunch and dinners for us every day – they even had plenty of vegetarian food, which made me very happy. I worked up an appetite and the food was great! And, Nancy Meyers graciously agreed to be my crew at the last minute pampering Tahoe and me the entire week as well as doing most of the driving to Arizona and back.

It turned out that Tahoe and I were one of only 3 horse/rider teams who actually rode all 5 days. There were over 100 participants, but most people brought more than one horse and alternated them or chose to rest on some of the days. Just goes

to show what a great athlete Tahoe is and what a difference a good fitting saddle can make.

This was the first time I had ever ridden in a pine/blue spruce/aspen forest. Though the aspen leaves had not yet started to turn red, yellow, gold or brown, they were drying and beginning to fall off the trees. In some areas we rode the dry green leaves actually blanketed the trail and as our horses trotted and cantered along these trails the smell that wafted up from the leaves was wonderful. I'd never smelled an aspen forest before and it is a lovely smell.

Both the first and last days of the Ride, the trails Dr. Nicholson mapped actually took us on the Rainbow Rim Trail, which is literally right along the rim of the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Geologist that I am, I felt like a kid in a candy shop being right there riding my wonderful horse along the rim of the world famous Grand Canyon – and what a view – with textbook perfect geology to boot. To get there, we rode out from camp for about 20 miles on various trails and then connected to the Rainbow Rim Trail. We had the pleasure of riding along this most scenic of trails for about 10 miles after which we left the Rainbow Rim Trail and its breathtaking views of the Grand Canyon and rode on other beautiful trails of the Kaibab Plateau in order to loop back to camp. On the first day we rode the Rainbow Rim Trail one direction and on the last day got to ride it again going the other direction. Yippee! On the last day we all received an unplanned bonus in that during the lunch stop, there was a California condor flying the thermals along the rim where we were eating. The California condor is actually the thunderbird, which is the name given to it by Native American peoples. The thunderbird we were watching was enormous, with a wingspan of nine and a half feet. It was the first time I'd seen a California condor in the wild and it was a thrill to watch it doing exactly what this critically endangered species is meant to be doing as it soared above us with all the grace and majesty that can only be achieved by these phenomenal birds...

This is an abridged version of the article Sharma will soon be submitting for publication in various endurance and other horse magazines.



Sharma and Tahoe on day five riding along the Rainbow Rim Trail at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon on the Grand Canyon XP Ride in September 2015.

OCTOBER LONE GRAVE BBQ



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DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR GCTC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016

**Loafer Creek Horse Camp,
Lake Oroville Outing**

We have heard such nice comments on the camping in the Loafer Creek Horse Camp at Lake Oroville that a small group of us (Teri Personeni, Dolores Torantino,



Deliah Springer and myself) decided to take a couple of days, mid-week, and try it out. We waited until mid-October hoping for cooler weather but it was still pretty warm up there. We did get a few sprinkles the last



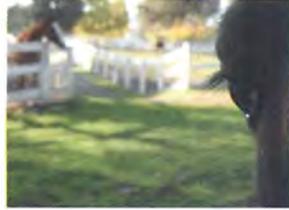
night we were there. It is a nicely kept campground. The campsites are big with two corrals in each site, nice clean bathroom and showers with hot water. Park personnel came through in the mornings and evenings checking things out. There is a large watering trough

and wash rack to rinse your horse down after riding. Another plus, is that it is not far from home. I live in Penn Valley right off Hwy 20 and it took me a little over an hour to the campground. I think we all agreed that we would be back in the spring. Although if we don't get a really wet winter, this would probably be a nice place to camp and ride during the winter.



Submitted by, Lynn Mangel

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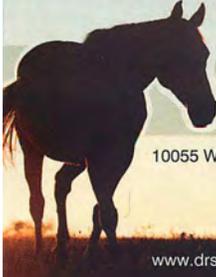
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Making the most of the weather...

Worth and myself, Mary Johnson and Gail Plakos have been enjoying these cool fall days by camping with our horses. At the end of August, we spent 5 days at Little Grass Valley Reservoir. This was a first visit for all of us at the Horse Camp there and we were more than happy with what we found.



The campground is well laid out and comfortable, despite having no corrals. The trails had recently been cleared by Back Country Horsemen members, as well as some clearing done by Forest Service

personnel around the lake. The trails varied from dirt, fairly level around the lake, to uphill to Bald Mountain with incredible views of the reservoir and area. The PCT was clear and shady, with terrain very similar to most places we ride around here. Some trails involved traveling dirt roads, crossing a cement bridge, and working our way around a tree too large for removal by hand crews. This is definitely a place we will return next season.

Next we went to Oroville for 4 nights in mid-October, celebrating Worth's birthday and a belated birthday for Gail. This trip Worth shared his trusty steed with Mary Johnson, so the horse got lots of exercise. We had rain 2 nights so the trails were not dusty, and fortunately, not muddy either. Debbie Thorsen joined us one day, and we ladies had a ride to the Visitor Center where we had lunch. Loafer Creek Horse Camp



has every comfort of a 5 star hotel, including an arena to get the "fresh" out of your horse or maybe just to let him roll after a ride and before his bath in the wash station.

I enjoyed my ride at the "End of Season Ride and BBQ" at Lone Grave so much so that the next day Worth, myself, Debbie and Warren Thorsen rode the marked trail again. Now that we are "in the habit," we saddled



up again 2 days later. Worth and I rode at Hidden Falls Regional Park in Auburn and explored some of the newer trails. What a fun day! That place is amazing.

Hopefully we will have rain to refresh these beautiful areas that we enjoy and be back on the trails ASAP.

While camping and riding at Little Grass Valley Res. and Loafer Creek at Lake Oroville we took notes about the camp sites and the area trails. If members are interested in more information, including directions, camp site maps and descriptions, and trail descriptions and maps they are welcome to contact Mary Johnson at mjshasta@aol or 477-8501.

Submitted by, Mary Lundin

Georgetown Divide Equestrian Trials Foundation (GDETf)

Poker Ride, Saturday, October 3

Teri Personeni and I ventured to the Dru Barner Campground in El Dorado County to for GCETF's annual Poker Ride. We went over Friday and camped so we would not have that early morning drive Saturday. There were not many in the campground as most riders came in Saturday morning so we had our pick of campsites.

The weather on Saturday was wonderful. They had a good turnout and we had a beautiful ride though the Enchanted Forest. They served a really nice lunch, with plenty of good food. The folks in charge were well organized and a very friendly welcoming group.

They gave cash for the top three hands and I won \$50 for the 3rd best hand, 4 Jacks. They had a very unique way of handing out and counting the poker hands. I would suggest that we check it out for our poker ride next year.

Submitted by, Lynn Mangel



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7 PM

Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse

10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.

Grass Valley, CA

Attending:

President: Karen Schwartz

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Secretary: Karen Wyeth

Treasurer: Teri Personeni

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Membership Chair: Mary Johnson

Others:

Sue Brusin

Linda Lanzoni

Absent:

Past President: Helen Harvey

Board Members:

Fran Cole

Charles Green

Vicki Testa

1. Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 6:59 PM.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the September meeting: Minutes were approved.
3. Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance at last meeting was \$27,423.90. Ending balance as of this meeting is \$27,591.47. Karen Schwartz passed out the proposed budget for 2016. The Board approved the budget. There was discussion about unusual expenses. The budget is based on expected income and expenses. The amounts can be modified as needed.

Teri reported on the seminar she attended for non-profit organizations. We're doing everything ok. We need to notice the Franchise Tax Board of any raffles that we hold. We usually hold one at the Poker Ride and sometimes at the Thanksgiving Feast. Silent auctions don't need notice, but these haven't worked out well in the past.

Karen S. reported on her conversation with Laurie Sweeney, a member who has worked for a Placer County non-profit rated by Charity Navigator. If we don't have a large income, we shouldn't bother with an auditor. Laurie or Kathy Scott could do an internal audit and that would be sufficient. We should schedule this for Sept. 2016. Fran Cole is concerned about insurance to cover Board members from individual liability and a conflict of interest policy.

4. Forest Service Report: Willie Brusin reported that we can order signs directly from the rock art catalog the Forest Service uses as long as the design is the same used by them. We need to get the order number from Paul Hart. Sue will keep the catalog.

United Trails Day - Latest schedule is for Nov. 7. Karen S. is concerned about so many changes. Jet Lowe will change her event to Nov. 8. Jet should have a grant to pay for food at United Trails Day. Karen S. will check with her to make sure. Sue thinks the Woods Riders did the food last year and it should be BONC's turn this year. Jane Ragen is the new president of BONC.

Grouse Ridge - BONC had a successful trail work day and improved the trails to Penner Lake, Island Lake and Crooked Lakes.

Bowman Mountain Trail - Forest Service will do the rock work to cut new trail on the east side of Bowman Mountain in 2016. Bullpen Lake trail is scheduled for our next Loney Meadow work day in 2016.

Cable Trail re-route - no update on this or on the Forest City Trail.

Top Hand Award - scheduled for Jan.

Skillman - There are 18 stumps, which are marked and along the road, that need to be ground down. The camp must be unlocked for access. GCTC can fill in any holes left at the spring work day. Melissa moved that up to \$1250 be authorized for this work. Karen Wyeth seconded it. Motion approved unanimously.

Melissa Ribley's report on Skillman - She and Linda Lanzoni met with Forest Service representative Cecelia. Cecelia wants GCTC input for the future of Skillman campground. It is operating at a loss and will need to be changed or closed. They are taking out hazard trees in the fall of 2016, and the number and location can vary depending on which of four options is selected.

1. Group Campground - Groups are the largest source of income. The camp would be closed between groups. This needs public comment. More trees would be taken out to accommodate groups and there would be a large, open parking area. Old growth trees would remain.

2. Leave as is - There are 16 sites. Barriers would remain. The cost is too high. Linda asked about increasing the number of corrals, marking trails better, providing better maps, and improving advertising.

3. Combination of 1 and 2 - It would be more open and a few individual campsites would remain. Reservations this year stopped mid-August. The camp is never full except for groups. Sue asked about keeping the camp open longer. It closes in Sept. and Oct. is usually the best month.

4. GCTC to manage camp - We would take over all maintenance.

Willie said that recreation.gov is a problem. Communication within the Forest Service is very bad. The trails are not GISed and there are no accurate maps. Paul Hart has to approve trails and then Jet can make the maps. Karen Schwartz proposed to schedule a special meeting. It was set for Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 pm. Charles will check room availability.

Coordination with other trail organizations - Willie recommended that representatives from the boards of BONC, BYLT, Woods Riders, and any other trail organizations meet to coordinate schedules in January. The Board agreed. We will also be coordinating with BYLT in planning for trails, the bridge over Fuller Spillway and parking in Bear Valley.

Lone Grave BBQ, Oct. 24 - Debbie Mallory will organize the pot luck side dishes. Willie suggested Barry Vaccaro for the BBQ. Willie will bring the BBQ. There was discussion over who should buy the meat. The ride will start between 9 and 10. We will start lunch from 12-1. Melissa will contact Jaede regarding announcing the schedule.

Old Business:

Membership - Mary recommended that members should be reminded that it is dues time through our email notification system.

Feast - We need to buy a new microphone for the meeting room. Cecelia was added to the guest list. Teri would like to invite a person who has the history of Grouse Ridge. Melissa invited Paul Hart to do the program. Charles said that the food organizers should come early to learn how to operate stoves. We also need a coffee maker and an ice maker.

Governance Committee - Insurance to cover individual liability for the Board of Directors will cost \$1,000, with a broker's fee of \$150 for \$1 million coverage (Burns & Wilcox). Teri moved to accept; Fran seconded. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

2016 Calendar - Discuss this at Dec. meeting. Mary will coordinate with BONC and Paul Hart for maintenance of the Pioneer Trail from Lang's crossing to Zeebright Mine Rd.

Strategic Plan - Karen S. proposed that we develop a three-year Big Vision Plan to be discussed by the Board at the Dec. meeting. The Pioneer Trail event will also be discussed at the Dec. meeting. Karen W. passed out some brief legal research on whether our non-profit status might limit what we can pay for provided by Harry Wyeth.

Announcements - A nominating committee will need to select new people for President and Secretary for 2016. Karen Schwartz will continue attending meetings as the Past President. Karen Wyeth must resign from the Board because of difficulty driving at night.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary

www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

