

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

Greetings everyone!

As we head into September and the cooler fall months ahead, you may wonder how summer flew by so quickly. It was packed with GCTC activities. So many events condensed close together due to snow so late in the spring we couldn't get into the mountains as soon as we hoped. Despite some date changes it has all worked out. We have had record attendance and if not record attendance, herculean amounts of work was completed. (Ask Mary Johnson) GCTC members always seem to come through. We still have fun events planned this year. Be sure to check the calendar and join us.

GCTC can't stress this enough. Our volunteers and leaders are what make Gold Country Trails Council a success. So step forward and join the fun. Get to know your fellow trail enthusiast and get involved. We encourage you and would love to see you out there

I know it seems too soon to mention this, yet it is just around the corner. **Our annual Thanksgiving Feast** is coming up. We have the Higgins Lions community center booked for Tuesday November 14th. We elect and install our officers and announce the Top Hand Award on the 14th. The Higgins Lions community center is located at 22490 E. Hacienda Dr, Grass Valley. As the date gets closer, more info will arrive in your email box. Mark your calendar for the fun—and delicious event!

The annual United Trails Day event is Oct. 14th. GCTC will be providing lunch. It is coordinated by the Tahoe National Forest, Bicyclists of Nevada County, Nevada County Woods Riders, and Gold Country Trails Council. Traditionally, work has included placement of signs, some rerouting of some trails, and trimming overgrown foliage on existing trails. It is always a fun time to see people from other clubs working together to make our trails great. It is actually more of a social event. Watch for more to come.

As always I would like to put out a sincere and open invite to all club members to sit in on a **GCTC Board meeting**. See how our collective knowledge makes GCTC a successful organization. If you have a great idea bouncing around in your head, suggestions for improvements, changes, additions etc. please join us at a GCTC Board Meeting and let us know your thoughts.

You can make it happen and make a difference. But we have to hear from you! The Board meets every other Tuesday (opposite Tuesdays of the General meetings) at the Golden Empire Grange Hall. 11363 Grange Ct, Grass Valley, CA 95945

I really hope you have read this far because this is important. **So many of our trails** have become more and more crowded with the likelihood of encountering other trail users on other modes of transportation. It is highly possible we may have a close call without there being any malevolent intention. I would encourage you to practice "killing with kindness," not anger. A simple smile can often dissipate tensions. Our trail world has changed. But we can—and need to—be part of the solution by advocating the reality of it being multi-use. We must learn to co-exist with trail users in which GCTC members rise above any tensions and be gracious trail ambassadors—for the good of all.

Please take me up on my open invitation to contact me with any thoughts or concerns. Let's talk.
tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net.

And if for any reason that doesn't work (I'm having issues with my email)
Call me 530-265-8326
GCTC President,
Jamie Canon





Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!

NEW MEMBERS

Alling Family

Jenny Bowman

Brinsley Family

Torry Cardon

Dorothy Davis

Eckley Family

Hillar Family

Tami Mueller

Meg Patterson

Michelle Rose

Shenkman Family

Brianne Watters

Whitney Family

<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



AUTUMN

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Sat. TRAIL WORK DAY - Location TBD
- 12 Tue GCTC General Meeting 7pm with speaker Stefanie Heckler, Nevada County HEART.
- 22-24 Draft Horse Classic (non-GCTC event) NCF
- 30 Sat Day Ride, Royal Gorge

OCTOBER

- 10 Tue GCTC Board Meeting 7pm GE Grange, GV
- 14 Sat United Trails Day/Work Day Location TBD
- 21 Sat Lone Grave GCTC Volunteer Appreciation Ride/BBQ. GC Equestrian Trail Head.

NOVEMBER

- 14 Tues GCTC General Meeting - Thanksgiving Feast
Election of Officers - Top Hand Award.

DECEMBER

- 12 Tues GCTC Board Meeting. Time and Location TBD
- 13 Wed National Day of the Horse
- 31 Sun GCTC Membership Renewal

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.

SPEAKER

STEFANIE HECKLER FROM HEART!



**GCTC GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th, 7 PM**
(Everyone's Invited!)

**GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE
11363 Grange Lane, Grass Valley**

Our speaker for the September general meeting is Stefanie Heckler, head of Nevada County Sheriff's HEART.
HEART - *Humane Equine Aid and Rapid Transport*. HEART provides state of the art emergency rescue and transportation services for injured or ill horses.
Come hear about what this team is able to do and what we can do to be prepared!

ROYAL GORGE DAY RIDE!

We have picked a date and hope to be able to stick to it! Winter is coming and you never know. Mark your calendar for September 30th. *More information coming to your inbox soon.*



Trail ride enthusiasts, I welcome and encourage anyone (*YOU perhaps*) that may have an idea for a trail ride. Let me know and let's make it happen.

Our wonderful spring Tulip Rides wouldn't happen without our fantastic volunteer Jacqueline Debets. Because of a GCTC member stepping forward with an idea, we made it happen. Thank you from all of us Jacqueline, for making that happen!

See you on the trail!

Trail Ride Coordinator

Jamie Canon

SAVE THE DATE FOR GROUSEFEST!

SEPT 9TH, 2023



This year, BONC crew leaders will coordinate with volunteers to work on sections of the Lindsey Lake trail. *Additional details coming soon.*

Grousefest is always a fun time to be outside with members and volunteers of BONC. Celebrate your riding accomplishments of the summer with friends, put in some hard work and feel good about it, and help spruce up the incredible, gnarly trails of Grouse Ridge.

Join us on Saturday, September 9th!

GCTC OPENS ITS ONLINE LOGO MERCHANDISE STORE!

This last month, the GCTC Merchandise Online Store opened for business. The webpage went live on July 24 and within a few days sales were booming!

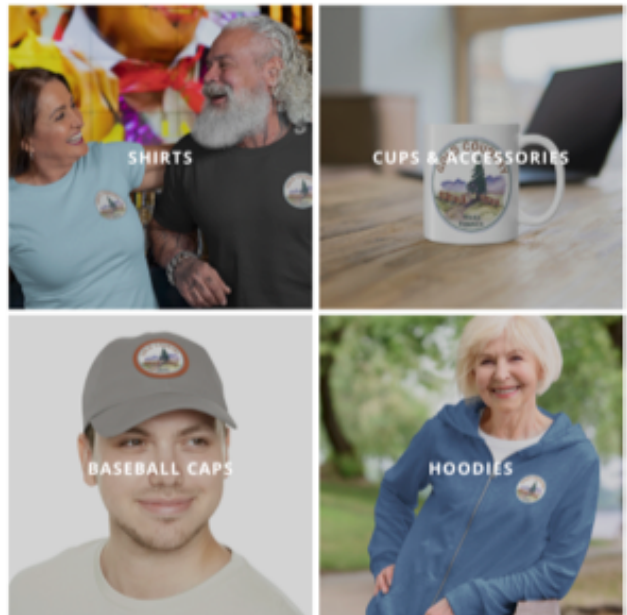
Last year, the GCTC Board made the decision to simplify our logo wear and products. Not only was it difficult to keep track of the inventory and haul around all the products to our events, the club had to purchase everything in advance and prayed it would all sell. To streamline and save the club money, as well as offer a huge variety and colors and sizes of clothing and products, the Online GCTC Merch Store was born.

Over this past year Sandine Farrish worked hard to select the products and Jaede was the liaison to the web designer, Punk Rock Web Design. Cathy Scott, GCTC Treasurer, obtained our California Sales Tax I.D. number and the Board was informed as to the all the processes and progress. It's not simple to set up a web store... everything has to be web designed and then integrated with PayPal, the bank, web software, the companies who sell and custom make the products for us. But now it is done!

The quality of the apparel is excellent, everything is available in sizes from XS to 3XL, and there are loads of colors to choose from. There are several types of mens and womens short and long-sleeved shirts, hoodies, water bottles, baseball caps, GCTC stickers (3 sizes), mugs, fanny packs, etc. *And everything has our GCTC logo on it!*



LOOKING FOR GCTC GEAR?



YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!



If you haven't visited yet, just use your phone camera and this QR Code to go straight to the webstore!

Or go to: www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/gctc-merch.html

THE LITTLE LASIER MEADOW WORK/CAMP/RIDE 2023



The GCTC annual camping/work event, usually held at the end of June, was delayed by the late snow melt this year. The reconnaissance crew finally made the trip to Lasier on July 6 to access the work needs in the camp and on some of the trails, and included some light trail clearing on the Connector trail. Through continued contact with the TNF Truckee district recreation manager, Rachel Westaby, an alternate work date was settled on and Rachel graciously reserved the campground for GCTC members Thursday through Sunday, July 13-16. Many members extended their stay by coming earlier in the week. The beauty of the area did not disappoint those who made the journey. The weather was awesome, the mosquitoes were typically annoying, the wild flowers were showing their spectacular variety and colors, the meadow was a luscious green, and Lasier creek was a constant flow of clear, bubbling, musical water.

The uncertainty of the final date probably prompted lighter than usual attendance but the fourteen attendees did not let that disrupt the amount of work that was accomplished. GCTC campers came with and without horses or just came for the Saturday work day and the delicious, as usual, pot luck. BBQ chicken and tri-tip by chef Barry and many tasty side dishes from everyone.

Workers were in the spirit of accomplishing the many tasks. Out on the trails the PCT was cleared of at least a dozen fallen trees by the mounted crew with sawyer Mike and support from Laurie and Donna.



September/October 2023



Barry sawed a large tree from across the PCT north and cleared several small leaning trees from the Blue Trail before the creek. Gail, Mary and Cathy cleared fallen trees and brush beyond the creek crossing and Pass trail 1 was cleared of encroaching brush. The Connector trail crew included Suzanne, Sue, and Cathy. The PCT north of the Connector trail, including the somewhat scary narrow section was cleared by Bev, Mary, Donna and Laurie.

In camp the crews split up to tackle replacing broken boards on the 4-plex (Barry, Willie and Jim) and replacing a gate and the broken top rails of the corals in site one, (Mike and Tom). Both projects were time consuming and engineering feats. Some of the heavy duty metal corral panels had sunk into the soft earth and bent from the weight of the snow. The panels were dug out and re-positioned. One of the gate latches was badly bent but with a little heat and force applied, it was straightened! The ingenuity and knowledge of GCTC members is amazing! Everyone put forth a lot of effort in a variety of tasks knowing as we ended our stay that future riders and hikers could enjoy themselves through out the coming months.

Participants enjoying the rides, the trails, the views, the work, the friendship, and the delicious pot luck were Barry Vaccaro, Suzanne Vacacro, Gail Plakos, Donna MacMillan, Bev Milke-Hillar, Jim Hillar, (along with son Matt and three energetic grandchildren), Willie Brusin, Sue Brusin, Michael Peckham, Laurie Sweeney, Tom Fletcher, Cathy Scott, Stacey Estrada, and Mary Johnson.

THANK YOU ALL!!!

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COMPLIMENTARY PLAN REVIEW

The Annual Notices of Change and Annual Open Enrollment for Medicare Part C and Part D are right around the corner. As of October 1, 2023, data will be available to review both Part C Medicare Advantage Plan changes and Part D Prescription Drug Plan changes. You have the opportunity to make new elections for 2024. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or need to make a plan change. Beware, if you call the number on your TV, you may be sent to a call center or numerous agents will try to call you.

Sincerely,
Catherine Pegeron
CA License #0M78610
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LONEY MEADOWS CAMP/WORK/RIDE



LONEY MEADOWS CAMP/WORK/RIDE 2023

Blessed are the trail builders and maintainers

Our GCTC annual Loney Camp/Work/Ride was a **GREAT** success. 25 GCTC members committed to keeping the amazing trails in that area open for all to enjoy were there bright and early Saturday morning. Those of us that weren't already there camping, started arriving at 8:00 am. with tools in hand ready to go to work. And work we did! Our favorite camping "meadow" had a crew that worked to clear logs and brush out to improve and clear more camping spots. The road in had work done to it. An annoying boulder was removed, and a much needed water bar was installed. A crew went out on the trail below Bull Pen in an ugly rocky downhill section and completed a re-route around that steep rocky section. Our giant sign made by the Vaccaro family was given a much needed coat of stain. A trail brushing crew drove in with the sign crew and proceeded down the hill walking and clearing all the way back into camp. WOW! and carrying a chainsaw no less. Yet another enthusiastic crew with chain saws went out past the old Dairy barn clearing that side of the Bowman Lake Trail. They went all the way to the old Forest Service/Logging Road. Our newest member with a chainsaw on his pack mule rode up over Bowman Mountain from the Rock Lake side and cleared some nasty big trees that came down directly across the trail on some gnarly steep sections no less. Also Tome cleared a nasty tree blocking the trail on the other side of the mountain.

Amazingly, last year's trail we had resurrected needed little to no work. Once the snow melted on that trail "Lundeen Camp Trail" we were able to get through with no problems. All in all it was a wonderful success.

A HUGE Thank you goes out to all that joined our workday. I'm proud of GCTC, the work we do and our members that participated at Loney and all of our trail maintenance endeavors. We all contributed to making the areas clear for everyone. Please be sure to thank them for making it possible for all of us to ride in that area and all of the trails we tend to.

Saturday night we had a FEAST! A delicious BBQ. Barry BBQ'd chicken and tri-tip. (*thank you Barry for BBQing*) Everyone brought delicious potluck dishes, appetizers and amazing desserts. Wow, Cheese cake out camping! We had music, dancing, and games. I hope you can make it next year. (well, no-one danced, maybe next year)

That area is in our backyard, an easy days ride away (or camp) with an amazing array of trails to choose from. Easy rides from an hour to all day. Your choice. Give me a jingle if you are interested in learning the trails in the area. Jamie Canon tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net
530-265-8326

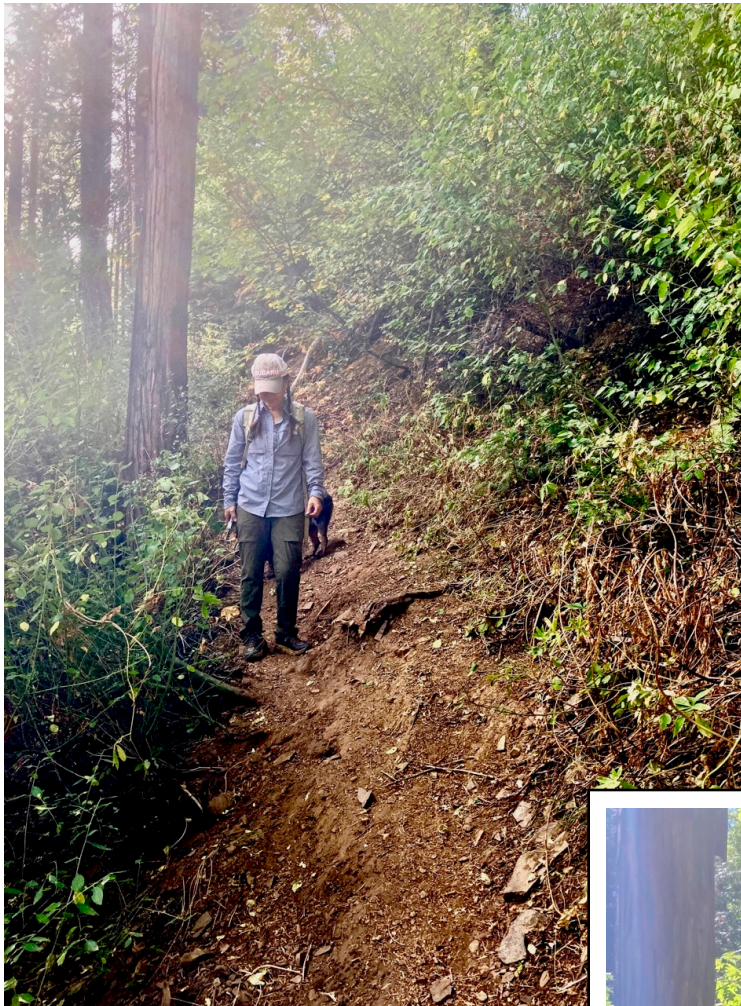
Once again, kudos to our volunteers listed here in no particular order, with a total combined 174 work hours;

Mary Johnson, Sue Brusin, Willie Brusin, Cathy Scott, Jerry Gridley, Lori Moniz, Gigi Lawton, Judy Hayamizu and Rocky, Michele Harter, Jeff Harter, Mary Beyer, Amy Umpleby, Tom Phillips, Suzanne Vaccaro, Barry Vaccaro, Tom Fletcher, Tom Alling, Bonnie Coyne, Bev Milke-Hillar, Jim Hillar, Brent McDermott, Donna MacMillen, Helen Crawford, and yours truly, Jamie Canon.

Watch some of us on our new YouTube channel hard at work!



HAPPY CAMPERS!



Before

GCTC VOLUNTEER WORK ON UPPER PIONEER!

Recently, GCTC volunteers Cathy Scott and Judy Hayamizu (with Mamma Bear) repaired a section of Upper Pioneer Trail bed above Lang Crossing that was sloughing off, making it unsafe to ride, hike, or bike.

Any GCTC member can adopt a section of trail that needs work and "create" their own work day on their own schedule.

Please contact the GCTC President (Jamie Canon, tra.jamieja@sbcglobal.net) or Forest Service Liaison (Mary Johnson, mjshasta@aol.com) to let them know where, the type of work and when you would like to work.



After!



Spring Tulip Rides 2023

Vandana and Andrew guided several rides this spring at Ananda's Tulip Festival! With beautiful views and tulips, it was a wonderful and leisurely ride through the grounds, except for a few horses who thought it was very exciting. We tied for lunch and tulip viewing of course!



HAPPY TRAILS!

GCTC BOOTH AT THE CELEBRATION OF TRAILS



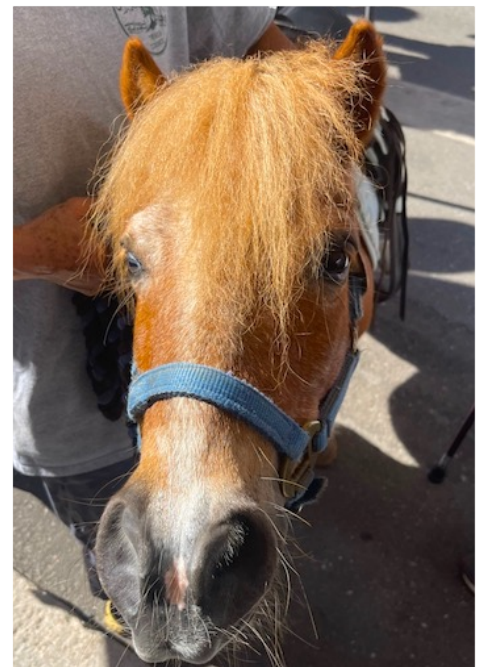
GCTC participated in the BYLT Celebration of Trails! It has grown from a small gathering of trail enthusiasts to a full-on street fair in Nevada City.

GCTC's booth was a big hit this year with the added pony ride, thanks to Judy Hayamizu and her pony, Tonka. See the attached photos. We had our giant map on display with all of the Lone Grave area trails, including the new bicycle trails across HWY 20. The map was a big hit with a myriad of requests for copies. We also had our GCTC brochures to hand out and, of course, our life-size cut-out of Spirit the horse. Thanks to our wonderful and committed volunteers: Suzanne Barry, Andi Duncan, Bill Dryden and Jamie Canon.

My prediction is (like anything else Nevada City does) that the BYLT Celebration of Trails will only grow in size. Please consider joining us next year. Bring your horse...or pony.

It's a Street Party!

Submitted by
Jamie Canon, GCTC President



Follow Us on Instagram!

Go to: [instagram.com/goldcountrytrailsCouncil](https://www.instagram.com/goldcountrytrailsCouncil)

Member Appreciation Day

thank
you!

October 21, 2023, Saturday

GCTC Volunteer Appreciation Ride and BBQ.

A thank you ride for all of you wonderful GCTC members who volunteer in some capacity for GCTC through the years. A beautifully marked trail and delicious meal put on by more awesome GCTC volunteers. Watch for additional informational emails.

UNITED TRAILS DAY

GCTC will be providing lunch for the annual United Trails Day “UTD” event on **Oct. 14th!**

UTD is coordinated by
the **Tahoe National Forest,**
Bicyclists of Nevada County,
Nevada County Woods Riders,
and **Gold Country Trails Council**

Traditionally, work has included placement of signs, some rerouting of some trails, and trimming overgrown foliage on existing trails.

It is always a fun time to see people from other clubs working together to make our trails great.
It is actually more of a social event!

Sign up today... Mary Johnson mjshasta@aol.com or 530-353-0082. Watch for more to come!

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](#)

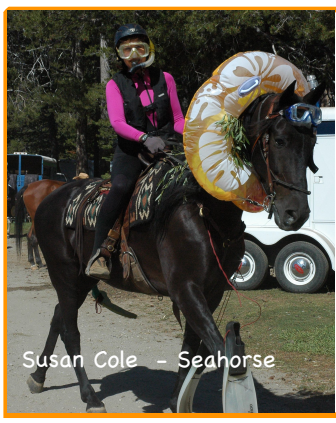
Then, send a check for your advertising to:

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GCTC
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Cedar Ridge, CA 95924





- RSVP for the Royal Gorge day ride!
- Volunteer to clear trails!
- Attend meeting with speaker Stefanie Heckler from HEART!
- Volunteer to help at events!
- Attend the Lone Grave volunteer appreciation BBQ!
- Volunteer for GCTC!



Susan Cole - Seahorse

DEADLINE!

Just a reminder: before you get your horse's Halloween costume ready, 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: OCTOBER 15



*Fall
Is
Here!*