

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Rd., Grass Valley, CA

Attending:

President: Karen Schwartz
Secretary: Karen Wyeth
Treasurer: Teri Personeni

Board Members:
Vicki Testa

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
Membership Chair: Mary Johnson

Absent:

Vice President: Melissa Ribley
Fran Cole
Charles Green
Past President: Helen Harvey

Executive Session: Attending Board members unanimously supported Karen Schwartz to continue as President of GCTC.

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of the Minutes of the May, June, July meetings: The minutes of May and June were approved at the July meeting. The minutes of the July general meeting were approved with a modification of the proceeds from the Poker Ride. The estimated income from the Poker Ride was approximately \$1,400.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Teri Personeni presented the proposed budget for 2016. The Board approved it, but there was a question whether it needs to be approved by the membership. The current balance is \$27,364.63. The balance at the July meeting was \$27,422.40.

There was discussion about who can do an audit of GCTC financial records and practices and what activities GCTC can have for their members. The cost for an outside audit is expensive, about \$6,000. Willie stated that as long as a person is an accountant, we could hire from within the membership or someone known by a member. Teri has a relative who is a retired accountant, who she will contact. An audit was done while Kathy Scott was treasurer. We could contact her for advice. Mary Johnson

recommended that we consult with another non-profit the size of GCTC. Karen Schwartz will follow up. Karen Wyeth said that her husband, Harry, is a retired lawyer who may be willing to provide a reference to guidance on whether a non-profit can hold events that benefit the members. Teri will go to a Tax Seminar for non-profits offered by the State of California on Sept. 2.

Forest Service Report:

Bowman Mountain - Sue and Willie will be meeting with BONC and the Tahoe National Forest on Wed., Aug. 19 to review the work that BONC wants to do on the Bowman Mountain Trail. Willie reported that the Forest Service has blanket NEPA approval for trail maintenance.

Grouse Ridge - The Forest Service has replaced trail signs and added signs at trail intersections.

Skillman Campground - Cory Richardson, Forest Service staff, reports that there is only one potable water faucet. He has fixed pipes three times at the trough. The gate to the camp is now permanently open because of a new Forest Service policy.

Cable Trail - Construction is waiting for identification of Spotted Owl nesting site and rerouting of the trail.

Mapping and Trail Signing - Paul Hart, Forest Service staff, will GPS the final Cable Trail alignment and will also do the Dogwood Trail.

United Trails Day - Paul and Willie looked at the trails north and south of Rt. 20 near the Omega Rest Area, which will be worked on for United Trails Day. The north trail will be multi-use and the south trail will be non-motorized. GCTC will buy "yield" signs. Paul wants signs at every intersection.

Rice's Crossing - Willie met with Shawn from the Bear Yuba Land Trust regarding the trail and staging design. The trail will be called the Yuba Rim Trail.

The chain saw has been tuned up.

Old Business:

Legal Compliance Issues - Karen Schwartz met with Fran Cole to review legal compliance. Fran recommended that we review by-laws and policies and procedures for consistency. The Board member portfolios should be uniform. Fran also stressed the need for indemnification of board members. She suggested forming a governance committee of two or more board members who would meet periodically. Mary suggested that the board may need enlarging. Teri added that we could involve more

members and previous board members. We can recruit more board members at the Sept. General Meeting.

Membership - Mary Johnson reported that there are several new members from the Royal Gorge ride and the web site. There will be prospective members at the Loney Meadows campout. We have had guests at events in the past, but now we require them to be a member for any horse activity and work day. Willie reminded us that for trail work days, we are volunteers of the Forest Service. Teri added that the insurance company people to be members. Extra insurance is necessary for any "public activity."

New Member Packets - Mary listed what is included in the new member packet: welcome letter, history of GCTC, by-laws, Leave No Trace, maps of Lone Grave and Skillman. There was general agreement that we should state that our membership is "over 200," which is accurate for the number of memberships, not differentiating individual and family memberships.

Mary has not always been getting the liability releases from on-line memberships. She can email prospective members with the liability form as an attachment if she doesn't receive them. Teri will clarify the insurance company's requirements. Mary hopes to have the new T shirts for the Sept. meeting.

Updates of 2015 Calendar Events -

Little Lazier Camp/Work/Ride - Mary Johnson reported that it is becoming more popular with the campground full.

Ice Cream Social - Very good turn-out for that.

Royal Gorge Ride - There were seven riders and everyone had a good time. Charles Green submitted his excellent photo to the Union, which was published.

Skillman Work Day - Vicki Testa reported that it was a small group, but they were able to complete the entire Dogwood Trail.

Loney Meadows Camp/Work/Ride - Teri said that Quick Response would not deliver the ports-potty. They will rent us a ports-potty on a trailer that we can take up ourselves. The charge is \$110. Last year it cost \$106. This year they wanted to charge us \$150 with no delivery. She was able to get the price reduced. Karen W. volunteered to bring it up. Twelve to fourteen people will be coming. There was discussion of our no alcohol policy at group events.

Sept. 8 General Membership Meeting - Teri reported that the past Horseman's Association Treasurer has left the area and the rent check for the hall has not been cashed. The July and Aug. payment should go to the new Treasurer.

United Trails Day, Oct. 10 - Irv Mazur is coordinating with Paul Hart.

Clinic with Jet Lowe, Nov. 5 & 6 - Karen Schwartz met with Jet Lowe. Jet is requesting that GCTC set up 4 or 5 stations with horses and riders on the trail to give mountain bikers practice encountering horses. There could be a presentation at the GCTC Equestrian Staging Area at Lone Grave to teach bicyclers how to behave around horses.

New Business:

Ruth Dascombe follow-up - Karen Schwartz said that Ruth Dascombe's niece, Pat Stoker, contacted her to thank her for the article in the Union. Pat kept the photo albums that Ruth had done. Karen S. invited her to the Thanksgiving Feast and asked her to bring the albums. Karen suggested that someone from the Board or membership could be with Pat at the feast, so she feels welcome.

East-West County Trails Meeting, Aug. 2 - Willie Brusin told us that, in his opinion, the real need is for the County and the Forest Service to coordinate. The County map should include Forest Service trails, but they are not up to date. Karen Wyeth added that there were some good opportunities presented in the meeting. The County has two web sites that can be used to help promote trails: www.gonevadacounty.com, which presents events and lists of recreational resources with links to trails when available, and www.mynevadacounty.com, the web site for the County government, has an interactive map showing the locations of trails. You can go to it directly using www.gis.nevcounty.net. Click on the banner when it says "my neighborhood" and then click on the hiking boot to get the map. The County is asking us to give them feedback about the accuracy of trails and information. We can list our events on the first one. The County will make their table at the County Fairs available for recreation groups to pass out brochures. The meeting also served to connect GCTC with the Bear Yuba Land Trust regarding the Pioneer Trail section along Lake Spaulding where a bridge is necessary to pass over the discharge from Fuller Lake to Lake Spaulding. BYLT offered to consider including that in its proposal for a grant to build trails in the Bear Valley area. Karen W. also said that the major focus for the meetings is to find a way for mountain bikes to go from Truckee to the Pioneer Trail through the Eagle Lakes OHV area or from Donner State Park through Cisco Grove. These routes may not be of great interest to equestrians, because of proximity to traffic and OHV use. Karen W. brought copies of the draft working maps. The Board discussed the formation of a trails committee. Karen W. volunteered to be on the committee. Vicki Testa offered to help review trails. Jamie Canon and Mary Byer are also knowledgeable about trails in that area. Volunteers will be sought at the Sept. General Meeting. Karen W. will not be able to attend that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM
Respectfully submitted by Karen Wyeth, Secretary