

General Membership Meeting Minutes
GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
Tuesday, May 8, 2018 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Road
Grass Valley, CA

Officers:

President	Helen Harvey
Vice President	unfilled
Secretary	Mary Lundin
Treasurer	Teri Personeni
Past President	Laura Duncan

Board Members:

Bernie Molloy
Helen Crawford
Elicia Kamberg

A. Call to Order and Welcome

President Helen Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:00. New members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

B. Changes or additions to agenda

None noted

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion was made by Barry Vaccaro, 2nd by Gigi Lawton to approve the March 13th, 2018 General Membership Meeting minutes. Motion passed.

D. Approval of Treasurer's Report

Teri reported the net income for April to be \$1,737.09, with \$1,676.67 coming from Poker Ride activities. The bank balance as of May 8th was \$35,157.68. Motions to accept the report made by Barry Vaccaro and Lori Moniz. Motion passed.

E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson

Mary began by explaining the Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp workday/campout/ride to new members. She gave an update on the meeting held in March with BONC, TNF, and GCTC members regarding trail user education, Trail Patrols, an Etiquette Manual, and the Lone Grave area map. The Forest Service will begin using backcountry patrollers in the Grouse Ridge area beginning May 1st, for the summer months.

Planned work at Loney Meadows includes TNF rock work on the Bowman Mountain Trail, possibly during the week of the 4th or 11th of June. Future work on the Bull Pen Trail by a hired crew depends on the NEPA report.

Heather Newell, TNF, said the loggers will clean up the debris and repair the broken water line at Skillman. The new Skillman sign will say SKILLMAN CAMPGROUND and will be FS brown, with a horse/tent sign and tent sign. Heather is open to GCTC installing more corrals and high line poles. She also said a new company will handle reservations when the existing contract ends at the end of the year. The new system will be more user friendly to TNF users. GCTC is considering paying for a dumpster from Waste Management for manure during the high use summer months. Ethan will oversee Skillman again this year. Having a campground host there is still in the planning stages.

Heather is also interested in the revision ideas GCTC participated in a few years ago at Packsaddle. GCTC will stay in the loop for planning and participation of Packsaddle Campground.

The new district ranger is Lon Henderson.

The formal agreement between TNF and GCTC is to document the cooperation between the parties. TNF will document and acknowledge volunteer activities so that as staff changes at TNF, the history of our participation is still there. Most volunteer groups enter into this type of agreement.

The Firesafe Council/TNF/BONC work crew will do trail maintenance on the upper Pioneer Trail from Chalk Bluff towards Bear Valley. GCTC involvement will be to supervise the crew and provide lunch.

Reservations have been made for June 29 – July 1 for the Little Lasier Meadow work/camp/ride weekend.

A workday was held April 14th on the bottom of the Zig Zag Trail and a portion of the Dascombe Trail by GCTC members.

(A complete printout of the Forest Service report is attached to the written minutes.)

F. Old Business

1. Poker Ride Update-Elicia Kamberg

The campsites at Skillman are sold out for the Poker Ride. Willie advised Elicia that she needs to notify campers that all sites will be shared during the Poker Ride with other participants and their rigs. Laura Duncan is handling donations for prizes, raffle, and silent auction. Donations are tax deductible. Debbie Malloy is in charge of the meal that is provided to all participants.

2. Hoot Trail-Cathy Scott/Helen Harvey

Parkwatch Reports have been filed regarding incidents on the Hoot Trail, mainly involving excessive speed and/or inattention of cyclists. When making a report, include how the trail is being used; uphill/downhill/time of day and the date, along with the situation being reported. The FS will use this information to determine how they will observe trail use. Positive comments are welcome. TNF Volunteer Equestrian & Hiking Trail Patrollers as well as BONC Volunteer Trail Patrollers are participating in patrols, with emphasis on the HWY 20 trails corridor, including the Hoot Trail. The mission is to be sure everyone knows how to safely share the multi-use, bi-directional trails with all users. Also use Parkwatch to check on group use activities on the trails, such as bike races and equestrian group rides such as Poker Ride and the Wild West Endurance Ride. Jaede will send out another email describing how to use the Parkwatch site.

3. Newsletter Editor-Pamela Warmack

Welcome, Pamela. Thank you for taking on this greatly appreciated job.

4. Bike Sensitization Workshop

The proposed workshop is on hold due to the cost to use the NCH arena.

G. New Business

1. Amazon Smile

The club will receive \$5 for every \$100 spent by GCTC members on Amazon Smile. Payment is sent when a certain amount is spent, not with each purchase.

2. Penn Gate Parking-Linda Lanzoni

Linda spoke to the Empire Mine ranger about non-equestrian vehicles parking in the equestrian parking area. There will be no parking enforcement at the Penn Gate Staging Area. The State of California is considering charging for parking at the Mine. The local ranger has asked that comments about this not be made to the State. Empire Mine is advocating for us locally to keep the parking free and prefer to do the negotiating for this.

3. Trail Patrol

We have new vests for Trail Patrol volunteers, with the FS emblem designating the wearer as authorized by the FS to patrol. Qualifying horses will need to be tested for the ability to stay calm around bikes, strollers, dogs, backpacks, etc. Rider must be able to mount/dismount on the trail but can use mounting aids such as rocks. The volunteers are ambassadors of the Forest and GCTC. Jaede has free leashes from Loomis Basin Veterinary Hospital for dogs who chase and need a leash to be contained.

4. Pacific Crest Trail skills college

The skills college will be held in July for a couple of days. You can camp there for free. If you are interested, please contact Helen Harvey.

5. We need a Vice President

The position of Vice President is unfilled. They attend the bi-monthly board meetings, backing up the President and handling some projects. If you are interested, please contact Helen Harvey.

6. Celebration of Trails booth

The Celebration of Trails Day is the same day as our Poker Ride, which is part of the day's celebration. We need someone to represent GCTC at our booth at the 5 Mile House on Hwy. 20. Last year Helen Crawford did the honors, along with her horse "Copper" who obviously was a hit with the public.

Other Discussion: Jaede informed us about the benefit Folsom Lake Trail Trials on May 20th, with a moonlight ride and camping on the 19th.

The Cronin Ranch Ride will start at 10:00.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00. Dr. Brent McDermott, a GCTC member, gave a presentation on medical emergencies on the trail and information about what is useful in your first aid kit. He answered many questions from the audience. Thank you, Brent, for such an informative talk.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary