

# Trail Times



[www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://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

Dear GCTC Membership

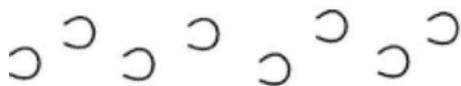
I hope this finds our membership and families safe and in good health. With COVID on a dramatic rise in much of California, social interaction, especially outside of immediate cohabitating family members, has become increasingly perilous. I am sure you all know someone who has had the disease, or even lost the battle. I personally know several affected families. The necessity for social distancing, hand washing, and wearing a protective mask is more important than ever.

With this said, the majority of upcoming GCTC functions have been cancelled, at least for the next several months. We will have some voluntary small party work days and rides, where social distancing can be observed, so that participating GCTC members have limited exposure to others.

I mourn the loss of the first half of the 2020 GCTC activities, and the loss of upcoming community events like the now cancelled Nevada County Fair and Draft Horse Classic. While it is too soon to say, we could possibly be cancelling our upcoming 2020 events such as the GCTC Thanksgiving dinner. Let us do what we can to limit the spread of the virus in the areas we control, hope for an improvement in the number of cases, and look forward to a brighter 2021.

STAY SAFE! My personal message is to 1) Wash hands, 2) social distance, and 3) wear a mask.

~ Bernard Molloy, President



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and  
Healthy*



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<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

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In the interest of keeping everyone safe, it is the GCTC Board's decision to cancel or postpone some GCTC events for August. If there is improvement, some of these events will be rescheduled, and we will let you know via email.

**August 1, 2020 (Saturday) Cancelled**  
Western States Endurance Ride - Tevis Cup (non-GCTC event)

**August 1, 2020 (Saturday)**  
GCTC Members-Only Guided Ride  
Equestrian Overlook  
Coordinator: Jamie Canon

**August 8, 2020 (Saturday)**  
Work Day (Location TBD)

**August 11, 2020 (Tuesday)**  
Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
Golden Empire Grange, Grass Valley

**August 12-16, 2020 Cancelled**  
Nevada County Fair (non-GCTC event)

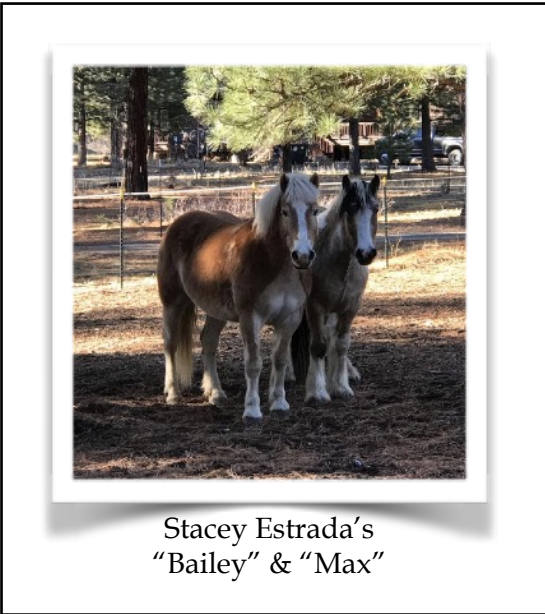
**August 21-23, 2020 Cancelled**  
Robie Equestrian Park Work/Camp/Ride

**August 29, 2020 (Saturday)**  
GCTC Skillman Horse Camp Guided Ride - public invited  
Must be Skillman weekend campers  
Coordinator: Jaede Miloslavich

Also, to see the latest updates, check out the calendar at:  
[www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org), click on the Calendar tab



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"Bailey" & "Max"





## GCTC LITTLE LASIER MEADOW HORSE CAMP Work/Camp/Ride June 26-28, 2020



Although it was a last minute “go” for the Little Lasier Meadow work/camp/ride event, it was very well attended. The Sierraville and Truckee ranger district were instrumental in blocking off the weekend for GCTC and putting up reservation cards in order to allow GCTC participants almost full use of the camp. It was a challenge as the camp did not officially open until June 25th. A big thank you to our partners in the Tahoe National Forest!



The winter snows had been light, enabling the camp and trails to hold up well which lightened the work load, but there was still much work accomplished. The early arrivals brought the stored corral panels in and set them up. The Saturday morning crews cleaned up the camp, made minor repairs on the corrals, cleared brush from trails and repaired the water bars on the Connector trail. One downed log in a precarious spot on the Pacific Crest Trail was also cleared. Battery-powered chainsaws



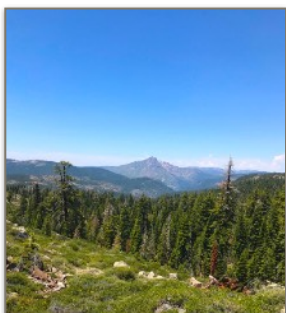
are very helpful in our arsenal of equipment!! Thank you Jeff Harter and Tom Fletcher! Hedge trimmers also fall in to that category: thanks to Laurie Sweeney and Mike Peckham.



Riders spread out in many directions to ride the variety of trails and logging roads. From great views on the PCT south, lunch at Frog pond to the north, loops including the PCT and Pass trail, roads 70-40, 70-50, 70-60, Green Gate road, the Blue trail and others create a wide variety of options for riding, hiking and bicycling (except for the PCT). GCTC members used all modes of exercise to enjoy this beautiful area.



Thank you to all who participated, several who were “first timers.” We all missed socializing at the Saturday night potluck, but small camp fires were enjoyed throughout the weekend. We can all look forward to good times next year!



Braving the yellow pollen, tree caterpillars and their excrement, but enjoying the green grasses, tall trees, abundant flowers, lovely trails and beautiful creeks; and earning hours for volunteer awards were:

Gail Anderson, Anne Bocheski, Willie and Sue Brusin (with their yurt!), Vern & Karrie Dunham, Chris & Mike Dyer, Tom Fletcher, Jeff & Michelle Harter, Greg, Kendall & Kolby King, Bev Milke-Hillar, Jaede Miloslavich (it was a short trip), Cindy Peterson, Mike Peckhan & Laurie Sweeney, Amy Umpleby & Tom Phillips, Barry & Suzanne Vaccaro (wonderful hosts!), Pamela & Carl Warmack, and at least in spirit Leslie Provost, Worth & Mary Lundin (I missed the resident auto mechanic!)



~ Mary Johnson



This note was received from the US Forest Service Sierraville District Ranger, Quentin Youngblood:

*Mary [Johnson]... We appreciate you and the hard work accomplished by the GCTC at Little Lasier and the trail system. Was up there yesterday and everything looks great! We are seeing lots of equestrian use this year at Little Lasier and that is wonderful. Thanks Again!*

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## 4th of JULY “Virtual” PARADE

On May 28th, I got a call from the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce to say that the July 4th parade scheduled for Nevada City was canceled but that Nevada County Media was in the process of putting together a virtual parade. They would be filming paraders and some extra entertainers separately at their facility here in Grass Valley, and then they would edit the filming to make a parade to show on the 4th on Nevada County TV. It would also be available and forever immortalized on YouTube!



Bernie Molloy and the GCTC Board approved our entry and Jaede put out an email inviting members to ride in the “parade.” Within just a few days we had enough members to ride, and carry the GCTC banner...it was a “go!” I ordered decorations for the horses, sent out emails to the paraders with all the logistics and on Sunday, June 14th, everyone showed up at Whispering Pines at 9 am to tack up and decorate the horses. Everyone cooperated and the horses were in good form — as there were no crowds, sirens or tractors running around. We headed off to the building where the filming took place right on time at 10 am.



We were asked to wave to the “crowds” and march around the building 3 times in order for them to get enough footage.

All our paraders were seasoned veterans so pulling this off on such short notice was so easy. Thank you all for stepping up and making this one of the most fun parades ever!

Also, a shout-out to GCTC member Pamela Swartz, running for California State Senate to represent District 1, who had a cameo in the parade.



### **RIDERS**

Alexis Brasier  
Ann Rubenstein  
Cathy Scott  
Jon Zerlin  
Karrie Dunham  
Linda Lanzoni  
Suzanne Vaccaro  
Teri Personeni  
Vern Dunham  
and on the ground  
Sharma Gaponoff, leading sweet little Cosmo



### **CARRYING THE BANNER**

Mary Johnson  
Barry Vaccaro, with our Parade Mascot, Pebbles

You can watch the parade at this link  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUU5ywPQQN\\_wTdzrebvRocA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUU5ywPQQN_wTdzrebvRocA)  
or you can go to  
YouTube  
“Nevada County Media” Main Page  
and then scroll till you find the parade.

~ Linda Lanzoni

**SKILLMAN / UPPER BURLINGTON WORK DAY**  
 July 25, 2020

The trails around Skillman are cleared! Thanks to Vicki Testa, Laura Duncan, Sue Brusin, Mary Johnson, and Helen Harvey for scouting out where the trail work needed to be done.



Since it was impossible to hold the normal Loney Meadows trail work and camping weekend, intrepid GCTC members met Saturday, July 25 at Upper Burlington Road to break into three small groups to clear trails and repair an eroded trail. This enabled us to complete the trail work in small groups while maintaining social distancing.

One group, consisting of Laura Duncan, Corrie Silva, Catherine and Carroll Pegeron, while Debbie and Glen Johnson headed out with loppers to clear the Dogwood trail. Vicki Testa led the way with her horses.



Another group, consisting of Willie and Sue Brusin, Barry and Suzanne Vaccaro, Heidi Hanson and her son Otis, Cathy Scott, and Jamie Canon drove to Omega to repair an eroded portion of the Pioneer trail. They made substantial progress, but there was a significant amount of damage. It's likely another work day will be planned to complete the needed repairs.



The third group, consisting of Helen Harvey, Judy Hayamizu, Andi Duncan, Suzanne Barry, and Gail Anderson drove up to Chalk Bluff. Some members used chain saws, and other members threw the branches off the trail and

used loppers when needed to clear the very overgrown section of the Pioneer trail just above Chalk Bluff. The attached picture just one example of the amount of brush that was cleared from the sides of the trail in one location to make it more passible.



This hasn't been an easy year to compete the work needed to keep the trails clear for all users, but GCTC volunteers have done an excellent job of rising to the occasion. Everyone's hard work is very much appreciated.

~ Helen Harvey

*Great job!*

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## GCTC TRAIL VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM



All those trail work hours do have their rewards. In this time of COVID-19, volunteer group work days with lunch provided are not possible, but the GCTC board approved of a new way to thank active GCTC member volunteers: super cool Trail Awards!

Work days are being conducted in small groups while keeping a safe distance in the beautiful outdoors. Many members are participating to keep the trails and camp grounds



in good shape. So far this year, GCTC members have spent **650 hours** doing trail work around Lone Grave, Skillman, and Little Lasier.

### HOW THE AWARDS PROGRAM WORKS:

Volunteer hours are being recorded by Susan Donnelly. As work hours accumulate, members receive an award. The awards are customized by GCTC member Elicia Kamberg, and are a major success!

### THE TRAIL AWARDS ARE:

- **Dirt Award:** 5 hours of trail work:  
Buff: a modern multi use neck and head bandanna
- **Dirt and Sweat Award:** 12 hours of trail work:  
Mug: for your favorite beverage
- **Dirt, Sweat and Fatigue award:** 20 hours of trail work:  
T-shirt or Water Bottle: wear and use it proudly
- **Dirt, Sweat, Fatigue and WOW award:** 40 hours of trail work:  
Camp Chair: time to relax, you earned it!

Considering the difficulty of scheduling work days, GCTC members have successfully cleared trails and fixed eroded trails. They have also cleaned up the

fixed eroded trails. They have also cleaned up the campgrounds and repaired corrals at Skillman and Little Lasier.

The following GCTC members are receiving trail awards for all the hours they have spent ensuring trails and campgrounds are available for ALL users.



### AND THE AWARDS (thus far) GO TO:

#### GCTC members who have received the DIRT AWARD are:

Alexis Brasier, Karrie Dunham, Vern Dunham, Chris Dyer, Vicki Epperly, Jeff Harter, Michelle Harter, Judy Hayamizu, Stephanie Hensey, Cheryl Holbrook, Jim Holbrook, Debbie Johnson, Glenn Johnson, Elicia Kamberg, Kolby King, Gale Lear, Miriam Lytle, Helen McDermot, Mary McMillan, Bev Milke-Hillar, Michael Peckham, Carroll Pegeron, Catherine Pegeron, Cindy Peterson, Tom Phillips, Gail Plakos, Joyce Radell, Mark Scott, Laura Simmons, Laurie Sweeny, Amy Umpley, Carl Warmack, Pamela Warmack, Adam Wilhite, and Jeanine Wolf.

#### GCTC members who have received the DIRT and SWEAT AWARD are:

Sue Brusin, Laura Duncan, Tom Fletcher, Greg King, Kendall King, and Vicki Testa.

#### GCTC members who have received the DIRT, SWEAT and FATIGUE AWARD are:

Gail Anderson, Willie Brusin, Jeff Foltz, Helen Harvey, Mary Johnson, Cathy Scott, Barry Vaccaro, and Suzanne Vaccaro.



*Congratulations to all GCTC trail work volunteers!*

~ Helen Harvey & Mary Johnson





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## SUEBE • EV SOLTERO



Years ago, I told anyone who would listen that one day I would own a chestnut horse named Sue.

A beautiful chestnut Arabian filly and I met when she was just two hours-old, the day before my 23rd birthday. Born to her wild mama, "Cajun Queen," at Five Brooks Stables in the Pt. Reyes National Park, the filly was a complete surprise: no one knew her mama was pregnant. She was, and is, so sweet we called her Suebe, after Sue Bee Honey.

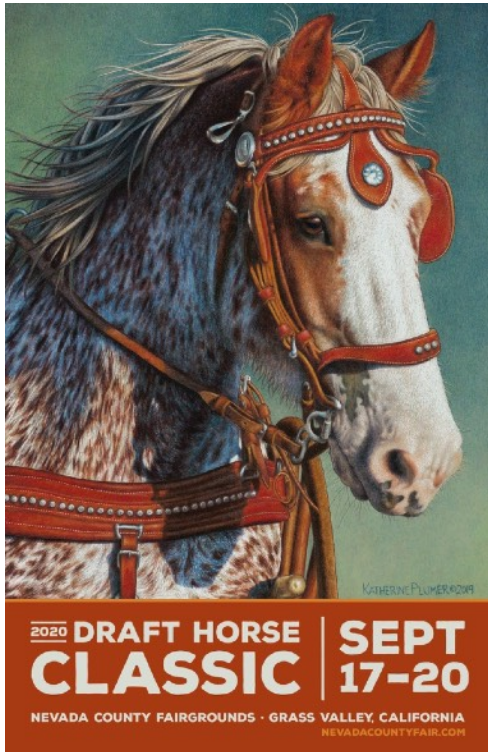
We were both babes. As the ranch locals stood around nodding at my trusty quarter horse, they took one look at Suebe, and remarked: "You better learn how to ride if you are going to handle that hot little Arabian." "What are you doing taking that baby home? You are just a babe yourself!" My horse friends were right: Suebe turned out to be one hot little Arab. But we developed an understanding and we have always looked after one another. We've had many adventurous miles together, and Suebe was the first horse I rode on a GCTC Poker Ride.

Fast forward to August 2019: Suebe was 33 years-old now. I had another dream I wanted to fulfill, so I adopted two mustang fillies from BLM's adoption event at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. A few months later, I realized one of them was not merely fat, but pregnant, and I couldn't help but wonder if Suebe had conjured up this little soul for me. On May 1st of this year, "Puma," another beautiful filly was born, and Suebe got to welcome her.

Suebe celebrated her 34th birthday June 14th of this year, and as if for the first time I saw her frame: her forever perfectly straight topline appeared to have dropped overnight. It seemed as if her fragility had increased ten-fold. I wondered if I dared try to trim her feet one more time. Although she always moves better after a trim, each time I wonder if I can get out from underneath her fast enough. I had seen her fall one night. She literally collapsed in place. But before I could take two strides in her direction, she'd planted a hind foot and pushed herself up, looking entirely annoyed with herself.

I later realized she had just slipped on the edge of her mat. My hot little Arab is still full of life and determination. Dreams really do come true.

## ROSEBUD'S COMEBACK



The route from the barns to the warm-up area to the bright lights, big sounds, and adoring crowd in the main arena is a well-known and familiar journey for exhibitors and horses alike at the Draft Horse Classic. But for one horse in particular, it is a journey that over the course of several years became a story of redemption and of victory.

Bill and Cheryl Pritchett are avid fans of the Draft Horse Classic. The number of years they have attended can be counted in decades and somewhere along the way, their awe for the magnificent draft horses became a longing to own one. And so they did. Two yearlings from the Redd Barney Ranch were under consideration, the one that ultimately followed them home was a beautiful Clydesdale mare they named Rosebud.

Rosebud was the willing recipient of untold numbers of lessons and clinics, pulled many a farm implement and wagon, and proved her sure-footedness and common sense on trail rides. Cheryl was on a mission to place in the Ladies Singles Pleasure Class at the Draft Horse Classic and she was sure that Rosebud was just the horse to fulfill that dream.

A custom harness for Rosebud was ordered from longtime exhibitor Gene Hilty, Cheryl found the perfect "fancy hat," and more than a few willing teamsters were peppered with questions about how to

best prepare for a class at the Draft Horse Classic. Cheryl was sure they were ready.

Cheryl distinctly recalls entering the arena that first year, ready for the limelight, ready for their shot at a ribbon! Rosebud, unimpressed by the mountains of preparation, unimpressed by the large crowds, and definitely unimpressed by the announcer's voice coming through the loudspeaker, decided to exit stage left and then calmly walked back to the comfort and relative quiet of the barns. The quest for a ribbon that year was over.

"This had to have been a fluke," thought Cheryl.

And so before the next Classic, Cheryl and Rosebud practiced and practiced, went to other shows, adjustments were made to the harness, they even participated in noisy parades! Rosebud gave sleigh rides and participated in youth clinics and drug newly cut Christmas trees through the snow. Cheryl was sure they were ready.

Rosebud, again unimpressed by the mountains of preparation (and especially that loudspeaker!) passed through the entrance gate and immediately decided that left seemed like a better direction than straight and headed back to the barns at her second Draft Horse Classic.

And then her third.

Cheryl was heartbroken and her dream of placing in the Ladies Pleasure class with Rosebud was gone. It wasn't meant to be. This horse that otherwise defined what a pleasure horse should be and how a pleasure horse should act would never bring home a ribbon from the pleasure class at the big show in Grass Valley.

A few years passed, and Cheryl and Rosebud had the opportunity to work for the Newborns, owners of Top Hand Ranch. The Newborns mentored the horse and the owner, giving them both the confidence to give carriage rides in Old Sacramento, to bravely walk along the steam train, to not flinch when faced with historical



*Rosebud's Comeback continued:*

cannons firing, the blaring sirens of fire engines, or even the raucous sounds of excited kids on their way to Sutter's Fort. The years rolled by and the Newborns recognized a change in the owner and a change in the horse. They encouraged Cheryl to give her dream another chance.

The 2017 Draft Horse Classic would be the ultimate and final test. Cheryl and Rosebud were given clearance to enter, but also reminded that they would face the scrutiny and watchful eyes of the Ring Stewards. One wrong move and Rosebud would be making her last trip to the barns, uninvited from any future Draft Horse Classic.

Feeling sick to her stomach with the anticipation that only one whom has failed before can understand, Cheryl guided Rosebud from the barn to the warmup area. Once there, Cheryl sensed a difference in her beautiful roan horse - Rosebud had something to prove, and did she ever. Without the slightest hesitation as they passed through the entrance gate, Rosebud floated around the arena with a "for all those who doubted, look at me now!" attitude. Cheryl specifically remembers two things from their time in the arena that night, that Rosebud was a "perfect joy" to drive and that she, Cheryl, cried the entire class.

Tears of relief became tears of joy when the judge selected Cheryl and Rosebud to not just place, but to win the Ladies Singles Pleasure Class! The flowing blue rosette, the first-place plaque, the honor of a victory lap around the arena that nearly foiled their dream all belonged to Cheryl and Rosebud that cool September night.

When asked for any lasting thoughts of the momentous performance, Cheryl replied, "I was just so proud of my girl."

The artwork of GCTC member Cheryl Pritchett's horse, Rosebud, was selected for this year's Draft Horse Classic art poster. Created by Katherine Plumer, a friend and neighbor of Cheryl's, the artwork won Best in Show at the juried art show for the 2019 Draft Horse Classic. The fairgrounds committee chose Katherine's artwork for the 2020 Draft Horse Classic poster and T-shirts. Sadly, the Classic has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 concerns. Let's hope they carry over Rosebud's beautiful image to 2021.



## **DEADLINE!**



Just a reminder: while you're relaxing by the seaside, 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: August 15**

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