

# 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

Greetings everyone,

I want to point out that **this is my last installment of the Presidents message** in the GCTC Newsletter as your President. I would like to thank you all for being part of it. I've learned so much and truly enjoyed the experience. You've all been so gracious. You've seen me through my unprofessional meetings, trying to remember the correct protocol for "Robert's Rules of Order" I'll second that... oh wait; we have to have a motion first. So you see, you have all been so kind and extended me your patience. I thank you for that. GCTC's Presidents position is truly an important position. Without that and all of the other Board positions filled GCTC fails. Let's keep these positions filled with passionate involved members and move forward boldly into the future.

As always, **I'd like to extend a personal invitation to ALL to consider attending our Board meetings.** See what goes on, how we do move forward. Consider taking on a Board position yourself in the future. It is important and necessary. If you are passionate about trails, have ideas and interests, GET INVOLVED. You can make a difference. You will have a vote.

**I'm not done with GCTC.** I'm passionate about our Trails, our GCTC mission of building and maintaining multi use non motorized trails. I have more ideas I'd like to implement. I have more rides I'd like to take people on. There are more trails out there to explore. I'll be here for a while. I hope you will be too.

**2023 is winding down** but we still have a fantastic GCTC event coming up. Our favorite Thanksgiving meeting and feast. It is November 14th this year. Emails announcing plans for the dinner will be coming out soon. Please be sure to RSVP. We traditionally announce and hand out the top hand award, have officer installments, and more. Put it on your calendar. I hope you can join the year end fun.

**Soon the Board will be putting together the Calendar** for next year. We will determine the dates for our workdays, events, what projects we hope to complete, guided ride dates, etc. If you have an idea for a project you'd like to see completed, talk or write to a Board member. Let's get it added to the list for consideration. Better yet, join in on making it happen.

**We are hoping to have a guided ride this fall** if the weather permits. Write to me and let me know where you would like to go for a day ride. Our annual Royal Gorge ride was first delayed due to lingering snow levels in July. We had an opportunity to do a pre-ride at Royal Gorge in August. We found the trails there are in great shape and were all ready to have our ride only to find out there were going to be up to 2 hour delays on I-80. I don't know anyone that wants to sit in that for a day ride, so we cancelled. Maybe a nice fall ride, in Spenceville, a ride to Washington for lunch? A ride out of Skillman to Deer Creek for a lunch amongst the dogwoods? Loney Meadow? I don't know the trails at Lake Oroville. Anyone? I'm open to ideas? Let me know.

**I look forward to seeing you all** on November 15 at our annual **Thanksgiving feast.**

**Remember, you can make things happen and make a difference.** However 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

And as always, **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.**

Gold Country Trails Council President

Jamie Canon

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



## NEW MEMBERS

Chelsea Eckley

Julie Schmitz

Suzanne Warren

Celeste Marinoble

Ashley Sansome

Cindy Jo Woods

Susan Hellrigel

Asa Hoffmann

<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: **OPEN**

Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning

Membership: [Suzanne Barry](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Donna MacMillen](#)

Parades: Linda Lanzoni

Poker Ride Fundraiser: **OPEN**

Program Director: Helen Crawford

Publicity: Donna MacMillen

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

## FALL / WINTER



### NOVEMBER

- TBD Fall day ride
- 14 Tue GCTC Thanksgiving Feast, Election of Officers, Top Hand Award, Higgins Lions Community Center  
22490 E Hacienda Dr, Grass Valley

### DECEMBER

- 12 Tue GCTC Board Meeting 7pm GE Grange, GV
- 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](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org), then click on the "Calendar and Events" tab.

## **Join Our Thanksgiving Feast!**

*On Tuesday, November 14, 2023*

*Fabulous Friends and Food*

*Bring a dish to share*

*Election of Officers*

*Top Hand Award*

*Higgins Lions Community Center*

*22490 E Hacienda Dr, Grass Valley*

## Picnic Table Dedication



**For years Sue Brusin** has been riding past a lovely open flat spot on the Dascombe trail. Riding past that spot each time pointing out how nice it would be to have a picnic table there to sit at and have lunch in the shade. The spot is level, shady all day, plenty of places to tie horses and so serene. Unbeknownst to Sue, a picnic table was clandestinely put in place the weekend before this year's Volunteer Appreciation Ride. Sue was the inspiration behind the ride. She wanted to show appreciation for our GCTC volunteers. The first ride and BBQ was organized in October 2005. The name of the ride has evolved over the years, most recently landing on "Volunteer Appreciation Ride and BBQ" After 18 years, Sue continues to pick the route and hang the ribbons for the annual GCTC ride. It took us some years Sue, but there is a table there in your spot. Thank you for your continued support and volunteering for a worthy organization. We surprised her with it the Thursday before the BBQ while hanging ribbons. It was a special moment for all of us with her.

**Be sure to ride the Dascombe trail** and keep a lookout for Sue's table. Stop and enjoy your lunch there or just sit a minute and enjoy Sue's shady, serene little spot in the woods. It is not far from the power lines/gravel road. That is all the directions you get. It is visible, though not easy to see as it is nestled in the woods tidily. Be sure to stop enjoy and read the plaque.

GCTC President

Jamie Canon



## Volunteer Appreciation Ride and BBQ

**October 14th was our annual Volunteer Appreciation ride and barbecue at Lone Grave.**

It was a perfect day at the 4,000 foot elevation.

The woods are putting themselves away for the winter in an amazing display of colors. We had 19 riders, and 23 non riders. There you have it... not everybody comes to ride. Many simply come to have a great time enjoying a beautiful day in the woods and enjoying each other's company. We all have like interests and it is an easy group of people to mingle with and get to know. As the title of the event implies, we are there to thank our fabulous volunteers for another successful year of amazing accomplishments. GCTC put on another fabulous BBQ. With committed volunteers I might add. Our members pitched in this year with an amazing assortment of salads and desserts. Those who rode enjoyed a lovely ribboned route through the shaded and colorful woods in the Lone Grave trail system. Thank you GCTC members for contributing to a successful event. This fall ride really has evolved into an anticipated annual event where we appreciate our volunteers. We can thank one of our lifelong members Sue Brusin for implementing this ride. Sue wanted to thank all of our hard-working volunteers. It has become one of our favorite annual events. Sue continues to mark the trails for the ride every year that never fails to please everyone.



Also thanks go to Cathy Scott, Suzanne Vaccaro and yours truly for helping mark the trails with Sue this year! As always kudos goes out to Debbie Molloy for providing us with a fabulous lunch. This year we were dazzled by Mike Peckham and Laurie Sweeny and their amazing marvel of a BBQ set up. You had to be there. *Next year! GCTC President Jamie Canon*

**HAPPY TRAILS!**



## Grouse Fest Work Day

September 9, 2023

*GCTC members Jamie Canon, Helen Crawford, and Mary Johnson joined the Bicyclists of Nevada County and Tahoe National Forest trail workers at Lower Rock Lake for a work day along the Grouse Ridge Trail. Brush was cleared, small trees were cut and trail bed work was completed to make the trail more user friendly. It was a great day of trail enthusiasts working together in a beautiful area.*

Submitted by Mary Johnson



# Pop Up Work Day



October 14, 2023

GCTC hosted a pop up work day (short notice) to reroute a section of tie trail 24 between the Dascombe trail (12) and the Harmony trail (2) in the Lone Grave Trail system. The work day was a great success and the new section was included in the marked trail at the Volunteer Appreciation Ride on October 21, 2023. It was quite rewarding to see brush, stumps, and roots disappear, then duff to bare soil appear to become a trail. Two water bars were added for drainage and the work was complete! Many thanks to all the GCTC members who responded to the call! Willie and Sue Brusin, Suzanne Vaccaro, Laura Simmons, Mary McMillan, Bev & Milke-Hillar, Mary Johnson, Judy Hayamizu, Caren Wallington, Jeff Foltz, Cathy Scott.



*Submitted by Mary Johnson*



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COMPLIMENTARY PLAN REVIEW

The Annual Notices of Change and Annual Open Enrollment for Medicare Part C and Part D is in full swing. Changes can be made up until December 7 for 2024. I have two meetings scheduled in Roseville to learn about the plans, one is at the Lazy Dog on Gibson, October 30 at 11:30 AM and the second one is at the IHOP on N Sunrise Avenue on November 13 at 2:30 PM 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,  
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## TRAIL PATROL VOLUNTEERS

### Interested in becoming a Trail Patroller?

If you enjoy riding and/or hiking in the back country, why not volunteer to become a GCTC Trail Patroller? When it comes to getting back to nature, having fun and promoting safe use of shared public lands, serving as a Trail Patroller can be an ideal means of volunteering for GCTC while supporting the Tahoe National Forest.

### What is a Volunteer Trail Patroller?

Volunteer Equestrian and Hiker Trail members are specially trained volunteers who are responsible for greeting fellow enthusiasts, educating riders and providing useful information about responsible trail use on public lands. Most trail patrollers carry GPS route applications and have helped numerous other users understand where they are and what conditions to expect up ahead on the trail. Volunteers represent the USDA Forest Service. They are a vital part of the Yuba River Volunteer Trail Patrol program and maintain a high degree of commitment to the responsible use of horses, mules and hikers on public lands.



### Why Now?

There are many potential impacts to wildlife, vegetation and other resources that can occur as result of inappropriate trail use and all users need to work together to minimize the impacts. The Tahoe National Forest does not have enough Yuba River District staff to adequately cover all the areas on a given day. As a result, the education level on nature appreciation, and trail sharing has gone down. To tun this around and protect use opportunities, the Yuba River Ranger District has developed the Volunteer Trail Program in collaboration with users of the trails.

**By working together**, organizations like GCTC, Norcal Mountain Biking (NTB), Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC) and the Nevada County Woods Riders (NCWR) help educate their users to reduce risk of accident and/or injury while ensuring everyone has a maximum experience. The Tahoe National Forest trails are a legacy treasure in the Mother Lode community for bikers, hikers, and horseback riders and together, we set a positive example for all users of this precious resource.

### Who Benefits?

Everyone! Patrollers are able to actively participate in a program that improves our sport. Other trail users gain knowledge and awareness demonstrated by Volunteer Equestrian and Hiker Trail volunteers. The Tahoe National Forest benefits from the extension of educational programs and compliance with both Federal and State laws. Finally, the public lands benefit from encouraging responsible use of our precious trails.

### What's Next?

GCTC currently has 20+ active Trail Patrollers who have participated in initial training and certification courses expressly designed to give the new member and their horses; the skills necessary to safely perform the duties of a Trail Patroller. At the end of the training session, both the Patroller and horse are certified to represent GCTC and the Tahoe National Forest.

**We are actively recruiting additional Trail Patrollers** who are willing to commit to the training and to log at least one ride per month as a member of the Trail Patrol. We will also be offering pro bono Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training to new and existing Trail Patrollers concurrent with the certification training.

**For more information** on the GCTC Trail Patrol program, please read through the Trail Patrol Handbook which is currently available here [Trail Patrol Handbook](#), or on the GCTC website under the 'In the News' tab, under Incident Report.

**If you are interested** in joining the Trail Patrol or have questions, please email the current Trail Patrol Coordinator, [Mary McMillan](#).

*Come join us on the trails!*

**Barn News:**

**For those who may be interested, my dear Lil [Lil Baby Horse aka Terob My Fair Lady].** Was seriously injured on September 17. I had seen her the day before and she was fine. As I walked to the lower barn I could see she was in trouble.



**Upon looking more closely, I could see a huge gash on the inside of her lower right hind leg.** It was bad. As I led her to the upper barn [the usual 8 minute walk took 20 minutes] I was calling Loomis Basin Equine. I was told it would be over an hour for a vet to get to me and I could only imagine how much the Sunday barn call would cost. I told Dr. Fielding that I would bring Lil in and it would take me about an hour.

**We were only there for 5 or so minutes** before Dr. Fielding and Dr. Luri Carli were attending to Lil. Dr. Luri is from Brazil and is an amazing doctor. After tranquilizing her and numbing the entire lower leg, he began to clean up this very nasty wound. When it was clean enough to see everything, we could see the bone!! X-rays were taken and fortunately the bone was not damaged. Then the hard work began. Dr. Luri sutured for nearly an hour! It actually looked pretty good when he was done. After wrapping, he sent us home with anti-inflammatories, anti-biotics and pain meds. I was changing the wrap everyday for a week and then every two days. After 10 days Dr. Coyes came out to check the progress and was very pleased. I could now change the bandage every three days! Whoo hoo!

**October 10 Dr. Coyes came out to remove the sutures.** The bottom inch or so was not sutured so that it could drain, but had, unfortunately become proud flesh. Now to the entederm, but fewer bandages and could go four days between bandage changes. By October 18, just a month after this serious injury, she was looking pretty good. We are not out of the woods yet, but I can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Perhaps she will be totally healed in another month. Her spirits are good but we are both tired of her being cooped up without her friends. I give her what company I can, but not as much as she would like.

**I remember the first day** when Dr. Fielding told me that we weren't going for pretty, just get it closed and healed. Well, thanks to Dr. Luri I don't think there will be much of a scar if any at all.

Thank you all for your concern and well wishes.

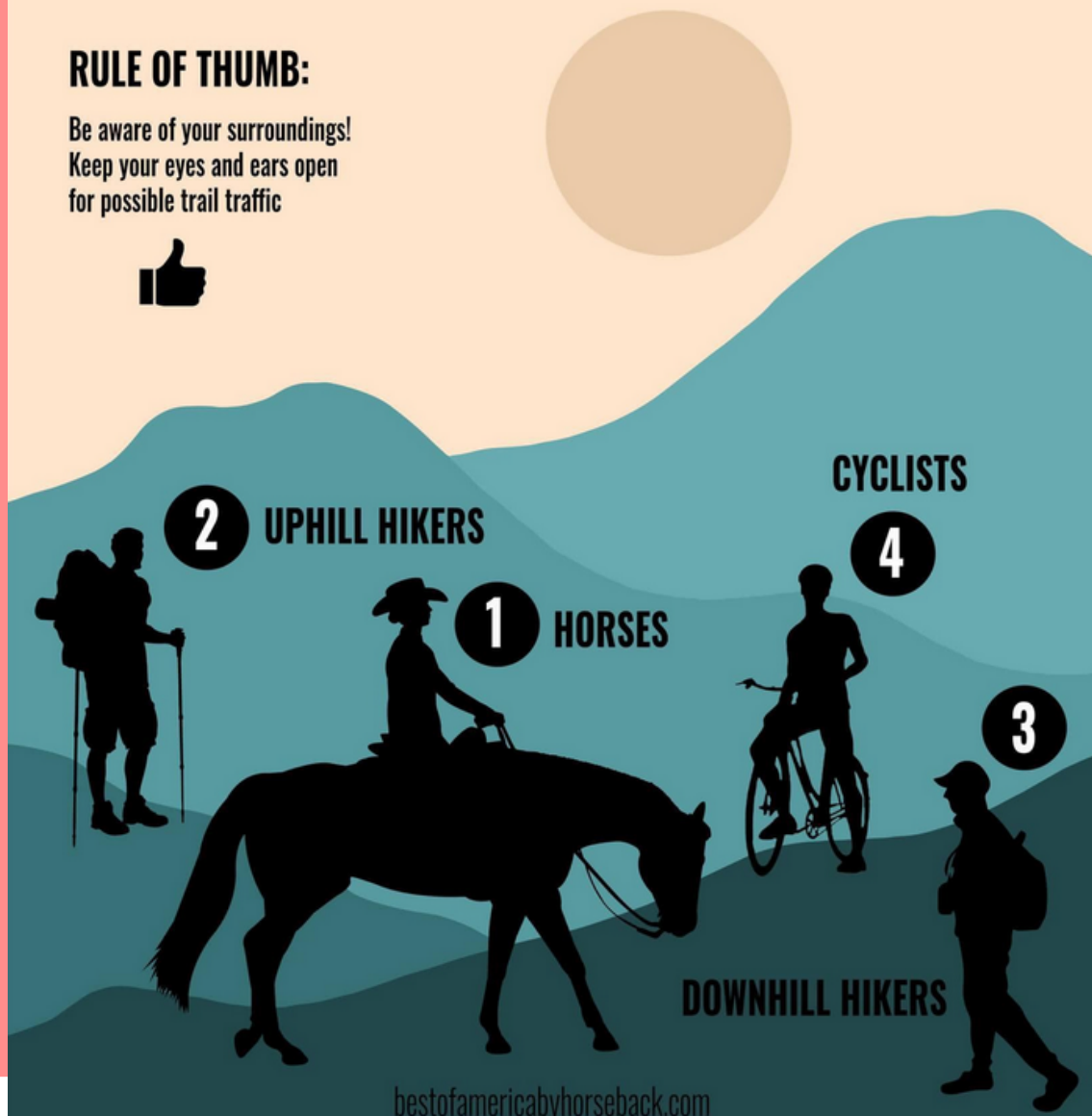
Teri Personeni and Lil



## TRAIL ETIQUETTE: WHO GOES FIRST?

### RULE OF THUMB:

Be aware of your surroundings!  
Keep your eyes and ears open  
for possible trail traffic



**When it comes to Trail Etiquette:** "Who goes first?" Things can get... confusing.

Let's shed some light on a general rule of thumb. 1. Runners, bikers, and hikers yield to equestrians. 2-3. Downhill traffic should yield to uphill traffic. 4. Bicyclists should yield to everyone. When in doubt, give other users the right-of-way.

**Trail etiquette is key to a safer hiking experience for everyone.**

**Good trail management** combined with user education means a better experience for everyone who gets out and enjoys nature! Respect and expect other users while on the trail. Show courtesy by anticipating other trail users around corners and blind spots. Respect wildlife too! You're a guest in their home areas so tread lightly. Respect public and private property. Leave no trace and pack out litter.

**Be friendly and courteous.** Greet other trail users with a simple "Hello!" or "Nice day today!" Avoid greetings that may be misconstrued, such as "On your left." Directional greetings may cause confusion and lead to incidents on the trail. Keep it friendly, and keep it simple.

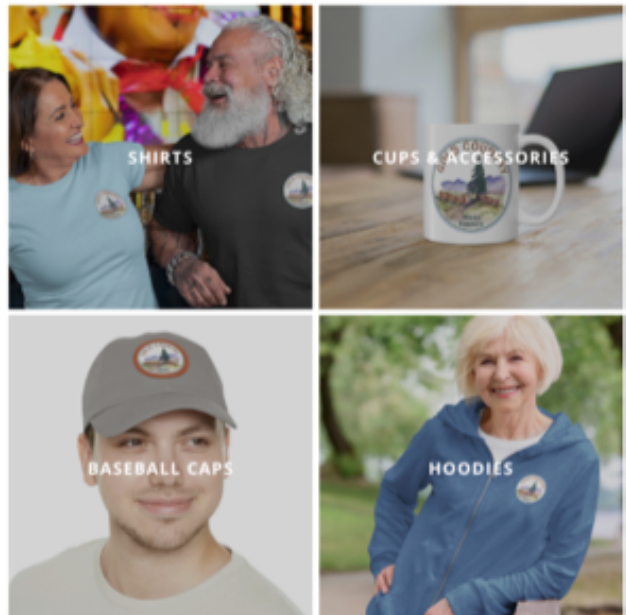
## GCTC ONLINE LOGO MERCHANDISE STORE!

GCTC Merchandise Online Store  
is open for business!



*A new logo  
with a horse  
is coming soon!*

### LOOKING FOR GCTC GEAR?



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!*

### 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](http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/gctc-merch.html)

*“We who choose to surround ourselves  
with lives even more temporary than our  
own, live within a fragile circle;  
easily and often breached.  
Unable to accept its awful gaps,  
we would still live no other way.  
We cherish memory as the only  
certain immortality, never fully  
understanding the necessary plan.”*

*– Irving Townsend*

SUBMITTED BY LINDA AT STARSHINE RANCH

## **Follow Us on Instagram!**

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

**Dear GCTC Member,**

**Time to renew your GCTC membership for 2024!**

**The Gold Country Trails Council (GCTC) offers members a Community Organization.** Together we maintain trails, organize horse camping trips, join in day rides, Poker Rides, pot lucks, sponsor trails advocacy, and enjoy meeting interesting speakers and more. There is something for every trail enthusiast who joins GCTC. Check out the calendar on our website for upcoming events.

**Members make the difference at the Gold Country Trails Council (GCTC).** Our members' involvement continue to make GCTC the largest equestrian trails group in Northern California. GCTC maintains over 100 miles of trails and three horse camps, including the famous **Skillman Horse Camp!**

**Please take a moment to renew. It's easy!**

Just Go to <https://www.GoldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/join-us.html>

The annual membership fee is still \$25. The secure online form accepts PayPal or debit and credit cards. Join now and your membership is active until **January 1, 2025!**

So don't put it off, Join the fun and sign-up today. Click on the **JOIN US** tab.

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

We appreciate your participation.

Thank you, Suzanne Barry GCTC Membership

**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](#)

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- Ride in the Fall Day Ride!
- Volunteer to clear trails!
- Attend Thanksgiving Feast, Election and Awards!
- Volunteer to help at events!
- Renew your GCTC subscription!
- Volunteer for GCTC!



**DEADLINE!**



Just a reminder: before you wrap your horse's gift, 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: December 15**



*Happy  
Holidays!*