

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 12, 2016, 7 PM
Nevada County Horsemen's Clubhouse
10600 Bubbling Wells Road
Grass Valley, CA

In attendance:

President:	Laura Duncan	Board Members:
Secretary:	Mary Lundin	Charles Green
Treasurer:	Teri Personeni	Merv Krill

Forest Service Liaison:	Willie Brusin
Membership Chair:	Mary Johnson
Past President:	Karen Schwartz

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Laura Duncan.

New and returning members were welcomed. A skype presentation by US Rider representative Lindsey Mulvany was promptly begun. Members had an opportunity to ask questions as well as discuss pros and cons of their experiences with US Rider Insurance coverage.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The new secretary, Mary Lundin, was introduced and voted in by the membership.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$28,084.59 as of December 31, 2015. Due to the high cost of an outside audit, an in-house audit was discussed. It was suggested that three members and the Treasurer need to be on the committee. This should be done every other year in order to keep the membership up to date on the status of the club finances. A member suggested that Ann Driver may be interested in being on the committee.

Willie Brusin presented the Forest Service report. (See attached.)

Willie noted that GCTC will purchase the carsonite trail usage stickers that include the TNF emblem. Paul Hart and Jet Lowe now have an acceptable map of Burlington area trails. Vicki, Willie and Sue will review the map for accuracy. When it is finalized, GCTC will pay for the printing of the maps and make them available to trail users in the same way maps are available at the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head.

The Bullpen Lake Trail relocation project for the Loney Meadows workday is a continuation of our work in 2015 improving the steep rocky portion of the trail below the Lindsey Lake road. No NEPA report is required for the work and Paul Hart will flag the work area.

The Bowman Mountain Trail is on the FS agenda for rerouting the rocky section to be less steep and more user friendly. The reroute is likely to be outside of the 60' allowance so will need a NEPA report. The FS through Paul Hart will be responsible for the NEPA report with the plan to have the trail work done at Grouse Fest in the fall of 2016.

United Trails Day on October 8, 2016 will include creating three switchbacks on the Pioneer

January 12, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Trail near Chalk Bluff.

Laura Duncan, Karen Schwartz, and Linda Lanzoni will meet with Cecilia from the Forest Service regarding Skillman Campground. They will give a Skillman update at the next meeting.

GCTC has budgeted \$2000 to hire a trail machine to build the Cable Trail when the wildlife biologist's report is finished. That should be the last item of the NEPA before TNF gives us the go ahead to complete the project.

The Sand Ridge Trail to Glacier Lake has officially been put on the Grouse Ridge map.

Membership: Mary Johnson reported that 60 memberships from 2015 have not been renewed. Jaede will send an email announcement that unpaid memberships will be removed from the roster and future emails. A list of names will be sent to Irv to activate the phone tree to remind those who have not renewed.

Thanks was given to the leaders of committees. Gail Plakos has volunteered to be the new Hospitality leader, providing refreshments at membership meetings. Jaede Miloslavich has been given the title of Communications and Social Media Leader for her continued work in that area. A request was made for someone to assist her.

Charlotte Chapman has volunteered to be the Sunshine chairperson. She will send cards to members who are ill or have lost a loved one.

Leaders Needed: A point person is needed to direct the Poker Ride fundraiser in June. This person does not need to know everything already as past leader, Linda Lanzoni will share her knowledge. Linda will handle the campsite reservations for this event. Members can also contribute by soliciting donations for prizes as well as volunteering at the event.

Irv Mazur will lead the Lone Grave work day in April. A leader is still needed for the Spenceville ride in March. The responsibility of the leader is to be there prior to the others to provide the sign in sheet and release of liability forms if needed and lead the ride.

Karen & Harry Wyeth volunteered to lead the Cronin Ranch ride. They will need to check for other events at the site at that time. The Mother Lode Trails calendar is a good source. The ride will be staged at the Magnolia trailhead.

2016 Calendar events:

The date for United Trails Day has been set for October 8th, 2016. Irv Mazur will lead this activity. The Forest Service was very impressed with the GCTC membership's contribution to last year's Trails Day.

It was suggested that next year's Thanksgiving feast include more social time for members to mingle.

A suggestion was made to include a tack sale on the calendar.

The date for the Loney Meadows Work, Ride, and Campout was moved to July 14-17th. Teri Personeni will lead the workday. The workday will be on Saturday morning but you can camp any extra days you wish. The club will provide a port-a-potty.

Added to the calendar is a 3 day Work, Ride and Campout at Skillman to be held just prior to the season opening of the campground. Details are not finalized yet. A request will be made of the Forest Service to allow us to camp for free as we will be working on the trails. Dinners will

January 12, 2016 General Membership Meeting Minutes

7

be potluck with a GCTC BBQ. This will help to introduce the Skillman area trails to members. Skillman will continue through 2016 to be operated as in the past by a concessionaire. The Forest Service will be operating Skillman in 2016 in the same format as previous... i.e. individual or group sites. Changes for 2017 under consideration are by whom and how it will be available... i.e. individual sites or only as a group camp.

Possible participation at Horse Expo was discussed. Karen Schwartz will contact Mike Kohlbaker, a GCTC and Back Country Horsemen member about sharing a booth. The purpose would be to promote Skillman Campground as well as the club.

Willie's recommendations:

Arrange for a meeting in January with BONC to coordinate calendars as well as arrange for a joint workday on the Pioneer Trail. Mary Johnson will coordinate a joint workday for the Pioneer Trail from the Hwy. 20 crossing. She will also work with Paul Hart of the

Forest Service on this project. Trail signs will probably need to be replaced in this area. Willie wants to work with the FS about turning the water off at Skillman on September 5th. The camping and riding season runs well into October most years and closing early takes funds from the campground.

Willie suggested that the executive board review the previous 5-year plan and draw up a 3-year "Big project vision statement." Member's input is needed to "steer the ship."

Other Business: Karen Schwartz will be volunteering at the Deadwood location for Tevis and requests volunteers.

Sue Brusin pointed out that the Overlook area has not been worked on in a while. Laura reminded us that workdays are from 9 to 12 noon and that lunch is provided by the club. It is important that members do what they can on these workdays.

Allyn Carman, a new member, offered to arrange a "behind the scenes barn tour" at the Draft Horse Classic for members.

The Lone Grave BBQ/Ride in October each year is a member appreciation day. No trail work is done that day. Sue Brusin marks the trails for a different route each year. Debbie Molloy will provide the meal, plus pot luck contributions from members.

Laura asked members to consider becoming Chain Saw Certified by the Forest Service.

Certification is required to use chain saws in the TNF in a group situation and we only have two people certified currently. The hours put in on trail work are submitted by the local Forest Service to National as money can be obtained for volunteer work done.

Jaede asked any members not receiving email to contact her with their information. Laura reminded members to submit information and pictures to Lynn Mangel for the newsletter.

Top Hand Award

Three years ago GCTC recognized that members are what keeps this club alive and decided to recognize outstanding members. A perpetual trophy was created and is awarded to the member who has been voted the Top Hand. Awardees to date have been:

Sue Brusin 2014

Willie Brusin 2015

This year Mary Johnson has been awarded the Top Hand designation. Many know Mary as the

Membership Chairperson. She also is the one in charge of maintaining relations with Forest Service and California Land Management personnel in keeping Little Lasier Meadows Horse Camp in order. She was Poker Ride chair for many years and continues to participate in that event. She is a past president and active on the board of directors. This is just a small part of her contributions to GCTC over the years. Congratulations, Mary!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM. Refreshments were served.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary