



Trail Times

Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

A non-profit incorporated association formed in 1981 to develop, maintain and protect non-motorized recreational trails in the Sierra Foothills area for public use and enjoyment.

President's Message

It's hard to fathom that it's already 2013 and the middle of winter, although with all the rain we've been having winter has definitely arrived. I've really enjoyed getting to know more club members this last year, and I'm looking forward to this year as your president. We got a lot accomplished in 2012, including clearing trails and improving the trailheads at Lone Grave and Skillman, clearing brush from the trails at Loney Meadow, putting on the most successful Poker Ride fund raiser ever, and sponsoring the NEPA report to reroute a section of the Pioneer Trail. The work that GCTC does to build trails and keep them cleared and available for everyone to use is so critical for this county.

We also completed a new 5-year plan. The results of the survey are included in the newsletter. I'm sure we'll revisit the list and priorities every year. The Forest Service was very glad to get the list, and very impressed that our top priority was the trail clearing work.

We've got a full calendar for 2013, with club rides, camping trips, and workdays every month. The calendar for 2013 is included in this month's newsletter.

There are always interesting speakers at every meeting. If there are any topics you'd like to hear more about, or you have a particular person you'd like for a speaker, contact Melissa Ribley.

Please, if you haven't renewed your membership send in your membership now. Jaede has emailed everyone who hasn't renewed. If you've renewed recently, but were still contacted, contact Mary Johnson so she can investigate.

Helen Harvey, President



The versatile Haflinger



GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speaker: Valerie Logsdon, Attorney

What Every Horse Owner Needs
From an Estate Planning Perspective.

A discussion about how to plan for the worst case scenario: incapacity
How to transfer title upon death
What documents are needed
What if my spouse and kids do not like horses?

WHEN I'M AN OLD HORSEWOMAN

I shall wear turquoise and diamonds,
And a straw hat that doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my social security on red wine and
carrots, And sit in the alley-way of my barn
... And listen to my horses breathe.

I will sneak out in the middle of a summer night and
ride my old liver-chestnut gelding across the
moonstruck meadow if my old bones will allow.

And when people come to call, I will smile and nod
as I walk past the gardens to the barn and show
instead the flowers growing inside stalls fresh lined
with shavings.

I will shovel and sweat and wear hay in my hair as if
it were a jewel.

And I will be an embarrassment to all, who have not
yet found the peace in being free to have a horse as a
best friend.

A friend who waits at midnight hour, with a soft
velvet muzzle, a nicker and patient eyes for the kind
of woman I will be
When I am old. ♥

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Committee Chairs

Camp Cook & Coordinator:

Merrill Kagan-Weston

Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Historian: Sharon Silver

Hospitality: Lori Moniz-Waddell

Little Lasier Meadow: Worth & Mary Lundin,
Mary Johnson

Membership: Mary Johnson

Newsletter Editor: Lynn Mangel

Phone Tree: Cherri Crain

Poker Ride Fundraiser: Linda Lanzoni

Program Director: Melissa Ribley

Publicity: Open

Skillman: Robert & Melissa Ribley

Tool Storage and Maintenance: Willie Brusin

Trail Rides: open

Web Master: Ron Brown

United Trails Work Day: open

Gold Country Trails**Council Officers**

President: Helen Harvey 265-6908

harmony@heartworks.bz

V.P.: Melissa Ribley 268-1378

mmribley@gmail.com

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karen-schwartz@prodigy.net

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kathysouthgate@msn.com

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vickite@att.net

Board Member: John Connelly 530-432-7028

johncon5@att.net

Board Member: Jeff Foltz 916-625-1524

jgf4oaks@yahoo.com



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Linda Lanzoni (530)265-3926

Howdy and Welcome to



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Dee Dee Carlini
Bill Gore
Cherie Harter
Jeff & Michelle Harter
Robin Pinney
Sandy Ruggiero



Jonathan J. Zerín
Attorney at Law

Law Office of **JONATHAN J. ZERIN** (530) 470-1925
P.O. Box 3453 FAX: (530) 470-1955
Grass Valley, CA 95945-3453 EMAIL: lawzer@sbcglobal.net

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The Gold Country Trail Council would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous donations.

Shellie Duggan
Cherie Harter
Sharon Miles

GCTC members are not always able to participate in workdays or other activities but want to contribute to the support of the important work that the Gold Country Trail Council does throughout the year. We appreciate their donations and support.



SUPPORT GCTC AND BE SEEN AT GCTC FUNCTIONS

Check out the new GCTC T-Shirts

T-Shirts are available in short or long sleeves; sizes Small, Medium, Large and X-Large; in Green (shown above), gold and grey. Short sleeve Ts are \$10, long sleeve Ts are \$12.

They are available for sale at the General Membership Meetings or by special arrangement by contacting member Mary Johnson @MJSshasta@aol.com or by calling 477-8501

Be sure to pick up the GCTC trailer decal for just \$1.00

No Internet? Slow Internet? think Smarter.

Fed-up with your slow satellite, DSL or dial-up? High-speed internet is now available from SmarterBroadband even in out-of-the-way places.

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**Gold Country Trails Council
2013 Calendar (Proposed)**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| JANUARY | | |
| January 8 | General Meeting - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| FEBRUARY | | |
| February 12 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |
| MARCH | | |
| March 9 | Spenceville Day Ride | |
| March 12 | General Meeting - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| March 16 | Spenceville Day Ride ((rain date) | |
| APRIL | | |
| April 9 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |
| April 28 | Work Day - Lone Grave | |
| April 22 | Work Day - Lone Grave (rain date) | |
| MAY | | |
| May 5 | Trail Ride, Cronan Ranch | |
| May 14 | General Meeting - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| May 22 | Skillman Horse Camp Work Day | |
| JUNE | | |
| June 7-9 | Western States Horse Expo, Sacramento (non GCTC event) | |
| June 11 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |
| June 15 | Upper Pioneer Trail Ride | |
| June 21-23 | Wild West Endurance Ride (non GCTC event) | |
| June 28-30 | Little Lasier Meadow Ride/Work | |
| JULY | | |
| July 6 | GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser | |
| July 9 | General Mtg./Ice Cream Soc. - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| July 20 | Tevis Endurance Ride (non-GCTC event) | |
| July 28 | Work Day TBD | |
| AUGUST | | |
| August 13 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |
| August 9-11 | Loney Meadow Ride/Work | |
| SEPTEMBER | | |
| September 8 | General Meeting - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| September 14 | Work Day TBD | |
| Sept. 19-22 | Draft Horse Classic Fair (non GCTC event) | |
| OCTOBER | | |
| October 8 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |
| October 12 | Unified Trail Work Day | |
| October 19 | Lone Grave Ride/BBQ | |
| October 26 | Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date) | |
| NOVEMBER | | |
| November 12 | Gen. Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 7 p.m. | Grange Hall, GV |
| DECEMBER | | |
| December 10 | Board Meeting - 7 p.m. | |

E-mail announcements will be sent prior to each RIDE or WORK DAY with staging area info, times, road conditions, directions, footing, ride difficulty, etc. pertaining to that specific event.

EMIGRANT TRAIL CONSERVANCY UPDATE

A BIT OF HISTORY

Although the many of public trails in Nevada County are above Nevada City, there is a vital need for trails in the southern part of the County where the majority of the population resides. To meet this need and as mitigation, when three rural subdivisions that contained the oldest portion (est. 1844) of the historic Emigrant Trail came up for approval in the 1970s, the Board of Supervisors required the developers to survey, provide easements with right of way, and open to the public six miles of public trail through those easements.

Over the years, the trail easements have been contentious. Some landowners who have the trail easement on their deeds have ignored the provision, building fences, an arena and buildings on the public easement. Some have threatened those who have tried to walk the trail. The County did nothing to stop the encroachments or enforce the public's right to the trail easement.



COUNTY RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND PUBLIC ACCESS

The Emigrant Trail Conservancy was established to regain the public's rights to their trail and asked the Board to consider the issue. On November 8, 2011, by Resolution 11-521, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors suspended public access to the six miles of public trail easements for the Emigrant Trail from Dog Bar to Highway 49 for 18 months. They continue to be open to those who live within the Golden Oaks, Sunshine Valley and Lodestar II subdivisions. The

Board said the closure was needed for public safety and to give time for the Board to come to conclusion on the future of the easements.

On January 12, 2012, the Planning Department provided the Board with research, a proposed schedule and milestones for addressing the public trail easements.

The timeline included meeting with the subdivisions' representatives and the general public to try to obtain some consensus, providing public tours of the trail, conducting a public opinion survey, physically walking and finding the original survey markers to re-establish the route, and to provide the Board with regular updates as well as with their recommendations and options.

The public closure was to sunset May 2013, unless the Board extended the suspension.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT RESEARCH AND OPTIONS

On August 28, 2012, the Planning Department presented their research to the Board, including results of the one June Workshop, identified issues, and Staff identified options.

The Staff options, which will be considered by the Board are:

1. Maintain the existing trail easements for future development of a public trail by a recreation provider.
2. Remove "Suspension of Use" and allow the public use of the trail easements in their existing condition.
3. Maintain the existing trail easements for future development of a PRIVATE trail.
4. Relocate the trail easements within the subdivisions.
5. Relocate the easements outside the subdivisions.
6. Continue suspension of use.
7. Abandon the public use component of the trail easements and maintain a historic preservation component.
8. Abandon all rights to the easement, including termination of public right.

See EMIGRANT TRAIL on Page 6

EMIGRANT TRAIL (Continued from page 5)**EMIGRANT TRAIL CONSERVANCY HIRES LEGAL COUNSEL**

Since several of the Staff recommended options included abandonment or elimination of the public right of way, the Emigrant Trail Conservancy hired Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger from San Francisco to legally research if the Board can abandon or restrict public rights to the trail. A letter requesting records was sent to the Board in November 2012. The collection of those records have been completed and a letter to the Board with legal conclusions is currently being prepared and will be sent this month.

Because the Conservancy found it necessary to hire legal representation, it has incurred some costs. It has successfully applied for its 501(c) (3) status so that the Conservancy may provide a tax deduction for those who wish to donate to this cause.

Once the legal issues have been resolved and the trail is reopened, GCTC has offered by letter to the County its expertise in management for this trail.

CONCLUSION

If anyone in GCTC would like a copy of the Board of Supervisors' Emigrant Trail packet, including the Planning Department's schedule, milestones, research and options, I will be glad to send it electronically to their email address. It is a 3.2MG file of 31 pages. I will also send to those who wish it, the letter from Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger that will be given to the Board this month.

The historic Emigrant Trail belongs to us, the public. The subdivision's landowners have never owned these easements and purchased properties with the public easements clearly detailed on the deeds. When the County does the right thing and re-opens the trail to the public, the historic Emigrant Trail will be a lovely hiking/equestrian path through the digger pines and oak studded hills of south County. The trail will increase the value of all properties within walking distance. The subdivisions' land owners and the public will be the beneficiaries of everything we know a trail provides.

Submitted by, Jaede Miloslavich

Check out the following websites:
www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org
www.parkwatchreport.org
www.coolhorsetrails.com

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Proceeds donated by the author to the
 Western States Trail Foundation, organizers of the Tevis Cup Ride

**HORSE CAMPGROUND INFORMATION****Little Lasier Meadow**

Near Jackson Meadows Reservoir with access to the Pacific Crest Trail.

11 Campsites (2 vehicles each), picnic tables, fire rings, horse corrals, tie rails, water for stock and restrooms.

Information & Reservations:
www.recreation.gov

Directions:

Highway 80 East to Highway 89 North, toward Sierraville; go approximately 15 miles on Highway 89 to the Jackson Meadows turnoff to Fiberboard Road. Proceed approximately 15 miles to the East Meadows turnoff; cross metal bridge and take first left turn. Little Lasier Meadows Horse Camp is approximately 2 miles.

Skillman Flat Horse Camp

In the beautiful Tahoe National Forest at the 5000-foot elevation. Enjoy marked, dedicated trails while exploring this beautiful and scenic area. 16 individual campsites, 4 horse corrals, tie rails, water for stock, fire rings, and restrooms. Campsite parking for vehicles and trailers

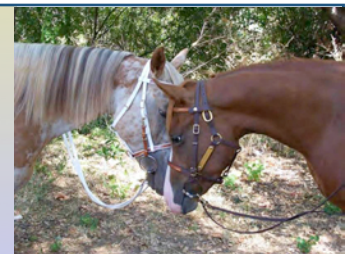
Information & Reservations:
www.recreation.gov

Directions:

15 miles east of Nevada City, off Highway 20.

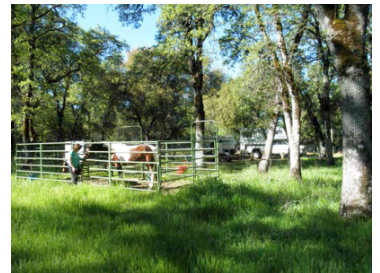
Submitted by, Helen Harvey

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GCTC ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2012

- Ride at Spenceville Wildlife Area
- Brushing/Trimming and grading of trails in the Lone Grave trail system. Maintaining signs and posting of maps. Porta-potty available through the summer compliments of The Wild West Ride and GCTC. Graded the parking and access road into the trailhead.
- Ride at Cronan Ranch
- Filled potholes with gravel in the access road to Skillman campground. Reroute of the Hallelujah Trail near the water tanks. Clear trails around Skillman Horse Camp in cooperation with The Tahoe National Forest and California Land Management for the location of the GCTC annual poker ride.
- Pt. Reyes camp and ride.
- Wrote and received a grant from American Endurance Ride Council for a portion on the NEPA report for the Pioneer Trail re-route.
- Attend meetings with the planning department and Board of Supervisors in support of the Emigrant Trail.
- Write letter of support and attend meetings with Bear Yuba Land Trust to secure a grant to purchase the land at Rice's Crossing.
- Sponsor the porta-potty at Empire Mine for a portion of the year.
- Fantastic successful Poker Ride Fundraiser. Many riders enjoyed the marked trail and delicious lunch and great prizes.
- Camp/ride/work weekend at Little Lasier Meadow Horse Camp cleaning and raking campsites and corral maintenance. A great joint effort with TNF, California Land Management and GCTC to maintain this beautiful camp with the primary focus on horse use.
- Camp/ride/work weekend at Loney Meadow. Brush and trees cleared.
- Ride/camp Robinson Flat
- Annual Ride and Bar-B-Q at Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head attended by many GCTC members and guests.
- Meeting and delicious year-end dinner and election of officers for 2013.
- New 5-year plan with a prioritized list of future projects.
- Ongoing work with the Tahoe National Forest for future projects including: removal and replacement of the horse water storage tank at Skillman; future connector trail from Rock Creek to Harmony Trail;
- Pacific Trail realignment and improvement of Pack Saddle Horse Camp
- A multitude of trees cleared from trails in the Lone Grave system, Pioneer Trail, Skillman/Burlington Road area, Little Lasier Meadow connector trail and Pacific Crest Trail, Loney Meadow area trails.
- Informative speakers and demonstrations at the GCTC general meetings.
- Continued posting of pertinent information through GCTC communication emails to keep members up to date and informed of the latest trail information, horse health, legislative developments, as well as GCTC announcements.
- Bimonthly newsletter with articles of GCTC activities, member's horse adventures, up to date information and many pictures, sent via email or postal mail to members.




Submitted by Helen Harvey



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If you know of a GCTC member that needs a little sunshine in their life, contact GCTC's Sunshine Person Cheri Crain at 916-996-8854 with the information and she will be happy to send a cheery note or card to light up their day.

Five Year Plan Survey Results

Here are the results of the survey for the 5 year plan. There were some ties, so some projects have the same priority. This information has been shared with the Forest Service.

| Project | priority |
|---|----------|
| Trail Maintenance: Our agreement with the Forest Service is to maintain trails we build. We're on a 4 year maintenance schedule to cycle through all the trails we are responsible for. | 1 |
| Cable Trail: This project has been in the planning stage for 3 years. We're waiting for a NEPA report from the Forest Service before we can proceed | 2 |
| Skillman: Corrals at each campsite | 3 |
| Little Lasier: Upgrade corrals and build additional corrals | 4 |
| Upper Burlington staging area improvement, Possibly adding gravel | 5 |
| Loney Meadows: Grade and surface from Bowman Road to the old cabin and up to the meadow used for camping | 6 |
| Create a trailhead on Bowman Road: This is on PG&E land. They want a flush toilet, but would only give us a 5 year lease. If we can get an easement, it would be feasible. | 7 |
| Bowman Mtn trail relocation: It is mostly complete; the trail is re-routed around meadow. Joe wants the trail re-routed around old dairy. Trail is flagged and Joe needs to look at it | 8 |
| Loney Meadows campsite improvement: The Forest Service does have a planned area | 9 |
| PG&E land near Bowman Lake Rd: additional trails will be developed (Bear/Yuba acquisition due to required PG&E divestiture) | 9 |
| Skillman: Manure collection bunker | 10 |
| Rice Crossing trail involvement: Trail will go from from Bullards Bar to South Yuba State Park (dependent on grant applied for by Bear/Yuba) | 10 |
| Pack Saddle camp upgrade: Work with Forest Service | 11 |
| Skillman bathrooms: We discussed new bathrooms for Skillman, but they would cost \$50,000 per bathroom, which doesn't seem feasible without a grant | 12 |

RIDING BUDDIES NEEDED

Vonnie Bays
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 For forms & information

Warren Thorsen is looking for riding buddies to get on the trails with when the weather calms down and dries up a little bit. His wife's horse is on a long recovery from a torn ligament and Warren seeks company for trail riding. (Don't we all???)

What's not like about the combination of an experienced horseman and his sweet mule??? Plus, he can haul another horse in his 2 horse trailer.

Call Warren at 477-7638 to set up ride dates.

Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2012
Coldwell Banker Realty Building
855 Sutton Way
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:03.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Board Members: Don Soto, Jeff Foltz, Vicki Testa

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair)

Absent:

Vice President: Melissa Ribley

Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen requested approval of the November minutes. No changes were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 11/30/12 was \$14,670.76. Current membership renewals are now about 75. The \$3.00 dues increase to \$25.00 will increase income by about \$500. Membership Chair Mary Johnson inquired if there are still funds available for members who can't afford the expense, and Kathy responded that there is currently one free membership available and more memberships can be covered as necessary.

Old Business:

Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin reviewed his report dated 12/11/2012, including the following items:

Bowman Road Parking: The snow park cannot be used for summer parking. We need to contact the Bear-Yuba Land Trust to determine if the parking area is in the portion of land, which will be eventually deeded to them.

Pioneer Trail: The NEPA report for the relocation of the Pioneer Trail section near the Washington Overlook is expected to be completed in the Spring, 2013. Another Tahoe National Forrest project is being sought by Joe Chavez in the Cable Trail area to facilitate the sharing of the cost of the Cable Trail NEPA report. The maintenance of the Pioneer Trail is shared by Bicyclists of Nevada County, which covers the part of the trail extending from 5-Mile House to Skillman Campground, and GCTC, which focuses on the trail between Skillman to Bear Valley.

Skillman Campground: Willie and Sue Brusin and Melissa and Robert Ribley met recently with Tahoe National Forest representatives to discuss various changes proposed for the campground. These include reconfiguring the 16 individual campsites to protect large trees, eliminating the \$100.00 group camp area, adding three new single pit toilets, sinking a new well to provide potable water, installing high lines rather than more corrals, improving manure control, limiting the Poker Ride to 60 trailers, and asking the California Land Management to provide an onsite host during 2013. In addition, a free day use parking area will be created outside the gate, the Upper Burlington Road log landing will be expanded to provide overflow parking, and pull outs will be created on various parts of the Hallelujah Trail and the Pioneer Trail going down to Bear Valley to facilitate two way traffic.

Board Member Don Soto suggested another Skillman sign be added for eastbound traffic.

Helen announced that she will use the nine responses received to the GCTC planning survey as indicative of the members' priorities, i.e., trail maintenance, upgrading amenities at Skillman, etc.

Helen reported that she contacted our insurance agent regarding the status of our insurance policy. She noted that we must inform our insurer of the dates of GCTC activities. Helen will pursue the question of whether board members are indemnified for errors and omissions.

Don Soto asked for an update on the status of financing the Porta-Potty at Empire Mine. Helen stated that no local businesses have offered to subsidize this expense, and the Porta-Potty will likely be removed.

New Business:

Helen asked the board if sending sympathy notes to members who have lost beloved horses should be included in the duties of the Sunshine Chair. There was consensus that this should be done in the future.

Helen reminded the board members that several positions need to be filled. She said that the Publicity Chair is still open. Regarding the need to recruit more phone tree callers, Membership Chair Mary Johnson reported that several members had expressed an interest in doing this on their membership forms.

Helen announced that Sandy Ruggiero has volunteered to take over producing the 2013 GCTC Membership Directory.

Don requested that the membership form be amended to include members' horses' breeds, so that members looking for others to ride with can better judge who might want to ride at the same pace, e.g., gaited vs. non-gaited breeds. It was agreed by consensus that although it is too late to do this for the current year, this will be done in the future. The information will be included in future membership directories.

Helen stated that a meeting place is needed for future executive board meetings. Don Soto said the Board of Realtors Office may be available and offered to look into it and report back at the next meeting.

Helen asked the board to generate a tentative 2013 calendar of GCTC activities to be presented at the January, 2013 membership meeting (see attached calendar). Willie recommended that Melissa contact California Land Management regarding coordinating GCTC work day efforts with their crew, as was done at Little Lasier last June. Board Member Vicki Testa and Sue Brusin reported that trail work is needed at various specific points on the Pioneer Trail above Skillman Campground. Helen recommended moving this higher on our priority list.

GCTC Historian Sharon Silver asked the board whether the GCTC scrapbook should continue since she has observed that members don't seem aware of or interested in it. Board members examined the scrapbook and complimented Sharon on it. In the future, members will be encouraged to check out the scrapbook during refreshment breaks during general membership meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary

Tentative Proposed 2013 Calendar can be found on Page 4 of the Newsletter.