Trail Times





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 and Friends,

With the dawn of 2021, we have successfully (for the most part) escaped 2020! To say the prior year has been trying is a dramatic understatement. The COVID pandemic, lockdowns, employment challenges, small business failures and setbacks, the economy, and strident politics have made 2020 a year unlike ANY I can remember in my 68 years. The pandemic and lockdowns have particularly affected GCTC as a club.

We are a club that relies on volunteer hours from our membership to continue the work of fulfilling our mission statement. "GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain, and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users." This is generally achieved by large group workdays, and fundraisers such as the Poker Ride, to raise the funds necessary to complete the mission. COVID restrictions shut down all of these traditional club events and more.

Through the efforts of dedicated members, the work was shifted to small, restriction-compliant work parties. Most events like the Poker Ride and Thanksgiving dinner, though, were cancelled.

2021, however, is a new year. While restrictions are currently as strict as ever, I do believe that at some point later this year we may be able to return to our typical club activities. I ask for patience and flexibility from our membership. We will be making some contingent plans for future events, as allowed by decreasing restrictions.

Thank you to all the members who worked so hard to keep the GCTC mission going in 2020.

As always, I am accessible and happy to directly receive any feedback, concerns, and ideas from each and every one of you. Feel free to contact me via email at imarangemaster@gmail.com or call/text me at 530-802-4089.

~ Bernie Molloy, President











GCTC 2021 PROPOSED CALENDAR

GCTC members, as we move into 2021 we all hope many aspects of the pandemic will improve for everyone! But also so meetings, workdays, rides and other activities enjoyed by members can resume. The Board of Directors has put together this year's calendar which we all know is somewhat tentative, with meetings, ride and workday locations to be determined (TBD). Updates will be forthcoming as the year progresses. Be sure to check your email regularly for up-to-date information.

http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org

Leaders

Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy

Communications, Web Site and Social Media:

Jaede Miloslavich jaede@sbbmail.com

Forest Service Liaison: Mary Johnson <u>mjshasta@aol.com</u> GCTC Apparel Manager: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Membership: Cathy Chase (530) 205-0900

chasechc@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack (510) 697-6625 cows2horses@gmail.com

Parades: Linda Lanzoni

Poker Ride Fundraiser: Susan Donnelly

Program Director: Helen Crawford

Publicity: Teresa Dietrich

Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning Skillman Water Manager: Barry Vaccaro Skillman Campground: Elicia Kamberg

Sunshine: Andrea Duncan

sendmailtoandi@gmail.com (510) 295-7600 Tool Cache Manager: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro

Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

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sugarpine1996@sbcglobal.net

Board Member: Jamie Canon 530-265-8326

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Board Member: Karen Hayden 530-575-5808

karenhayden@att.net

Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2020 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



JANUARY

12 Tue. General Meeting CANCELLED

FEBRUARY

9 Tue. Board meeting 6pm

MARCH

9 Tue. General Meeting 7pm

Tentative, COVID restrictions permitting

13 Sat. Spenceville Area Ride

Tentative, COVID restrictions permitting 20 Sat. Spenceville Ride (rain date)

Tentative, COVID restrictions permitting

APRIL

10 Sat. Day Ride (Location TBD)

Tentative, COVID restrictions permitting

13 Tue. Board meeting 7pm

New Member Social

Tentative, COVID restrictions permitting

17 Sat. Trail Work Day - Lone Grave

Small Groups, distanced

25 or 26 Trail Work Day - Lone Grave (rain date)

Small Groups, distanced

MAY

7-9 Horse Expo (non GCTC event)

11 Tue. General Meeting 7pm

19 Wed. Skillman Horse Camp Work Day

22 Sat. Day Ride (Location TBD)

JUNE

5 Sat. GCTC Poker Ride Fundraiser - Skillman

8 Tue. Board meeting 7pm

17-20 Wild West Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)

25-27 Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride

PLEASE NOTE: Dates & times may change during the year. Changes and an updated calendar is always available on the website. Be sure to check: www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

Then click on the "Calendar and Events" tab.

Print out this page, clip it to your refrigerator, add dates to your calendar, so you'll never miss an amazing 2021 GCTC event! (Also see note below.)

JULY

4 Sun. 4th of July Parade - Penn Valley

10 Sat. Royal Gorge or TBD Ride

13 Tue. General Meeting/ Ice Cream Social 7pm16-18 Loney Meadow Camp/Work/Ride

24 Sat. GCTC Guided Ride for Skillman Horse

Campers

24 Sat. Western States Endurance Ride (Tevis) non-

GCTC event

AUGUST

7 Sat. GCTC Trail Work Day (TBD)

10 Tue. Board Meeting 7pm

11-15 Nevada County Fair (non GCTC event)

20-22 Work/Camp/Ride - TBD

SEPTEMBER

7 Tue. General Meeting/

Membership Renewal 7pm

11 Sat. Trail Work Day-TBD

17-20 Draft Horse Classic (non GCTC event)

25 or 26 Day Ride - TBD

OCTOBER

9 Sat. United Trails Day/Work Day

12 Tue. Board meeting 7pm

16 Sat. GCTC Member Appreciation Ride/BBQ-

Lone Grave

23 Sat. GCTC Member Appreciation Ride/BBQ

(rain date)

NOVEMBER

6 Sun. Day Ride or Work Day (TBD)

10 Tue. General Meeting/ Thanksgiving

Feast/Elections/Top Hand Award 7pm

DECEMBER

14 Tue. Board meeting 7pm



2020 GCTC TOP HAND AWARD



2020 GCTC Top Hand Award Winner Helen Harvey



Practicing social distancing, the 2020 GCTC Top Hand Award is presented to Helen Harvey by past recipients Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro.



A group of socially distanced GCTC members gathered at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead/ Lone Grave to present the 2020 GCTC Top Hand Award to Helen Harvey

HELEN HARVEY RECOGNIZED AS GCTC 2020 TOP HAND

Each year, the members of Gold Country Trails Council vote on a volunteer to recognize his or her special contribution working on the trails. This year, GCTC past president Helen Harvey was chosen for her considerable efforts during these challenging times.

COVID didn't stop GCTC from publicly recognizing Helen at a special physically-distanced ceremony which was held November 28 at the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead to present this important award.

In spite of the pandemic and record trail use, Helen Harvey created conditions where volunteers were able to work safely by implementing COVID-19 policies, creating the new trail volunteer recognition awards, and leading the GCTC Tahoe National Forest Mounted Patrol.

Congratulations and thank you to Helen for all she has done, and continues to do, for GCTC.



ENCOURAGING TRAIL SAFETY



The USFS has put in logs at both ends of the Pioneer Trail and at Upper Burlington Road at Skillman to encourage trail users to slow down.



Photo: Suzanne Vaccaro





Throughout the riding season, trail obstructions can happen at any time. If you are unsuccessful in removing an obstruction, remember to notify Mary Johnson our USFS liaison at: mjshasta@aol.com. She will coordinate with USFS and

She will coordinate with USFS and other parties for trail clearance.

It is very important to provide detailed information on the exact location, preferably with GPS coordinates, to assist the work crew. It takes all of us working together to maintain our beautiful trails.

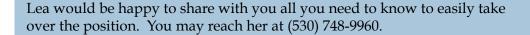
SAY "YES!"

Looking for an opportunity to contribute to GCTC's success? Here are two opportunities that only require a few hours a month!

VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDER: Susan Donnelly has spent "about 3 hours a month, tops," keeping track of GCTC member volunteer hours, which she has then reported to the US Forest Service.

She's ready to hand the reins over to a new recorder and would be happy to talk with you. You can reach Susan at 530-906-3093 or susanfdonnelly@gmail.com.

GCTC APPAREL MANAGER: Lea Zivic has been selling our stylish GCTC apparel and other items for several years and is ready to pass the torch—and the goodies—to a new manager. It only takes a few hours each month to make items available.









YOUR GCTC FAMILY CARES ABOUT YOU

One of the many joys of being a GCTC member is receiving some sunshine when you need it. 2020 certainly proved that we needed sunshine. If you have been the recipient of a lovely GCTC Sunshine card in the past, then you have experienced support when you needed it.

GCTC Sunshine is intended to let you know your GCTC family cares about you and your well-being. Going forward into 2021, we have a renewed supply of sunshine to share in support of our members. If you know of a member who is in need of some GCTC sunshine, Andi Duncan, our official Sunshine person, is the one to contact.

IT'S EASY TO SPREAD SUNSHINE. Just email or call Andi Duncan sendmailtoandi@gmail.com or (510) 295-7600, when you know someone who could use some friendly support. Andi will take it from there!

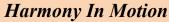














Helen Harvey
Feldenkrais Practitioner
Centered Riding Instructor

(530) 265-4086 cell (408) 858-7852 www.heartworks.bz/harmony







HIDDEN FALLS EXPANSION UPDATE

On October 22, 2020, the Placer County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the Modified Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of Hidden Falls Regional Park, which



would add 2,500 acres of land and 30 miles of new trails to the park and increase both automotive and horse trailer parking. Testimony for, and against, the project was presented at the public hearing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Planning Commission voted to continue the hearing process and requested the Placer County Parks Division provide the Planning Commission with answers to additional questions raised by the Planning Commission during the hearing.

Since the October hearing, the Placer County Parks Division has been working on developing answers to the Planning Commission questions and in mid-December, presented their responses to the questions and set a tentative date for the continued public hearing set for January 28th. At that hearing, the Planning Commission will be requested to recommend to the Placer County Board of Supervisors approval of the final SEIR (supplemental environmental impact report), and the recommended Modified Conditional Use permit approving the reduced Hidden Falls trail expansion plan (fewer parking spaces than original proposed, but keeping the full 30 miles of new trails).

The Parks Division provided enhanced responses to the 8 questions raised by the Planning Commission at the October Hearing: 1.) Vegetation Management on the 2,500 acres. 2.) Agricultural grazing and compatibility with public trail use. 3.) Emergency ingress and egress into the expanded 2,500 acres. 4.) Consistency with the Public Recreation Ordinance and the Hidden Falls Conditional Use Permit. 5.) Details of the financial plan that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on funding the expansion of Hidden Falls. 6.) What has been done to reduce traffic and parking problems at the Mears parking area, and what methods will be used to address traffic and parking at the Twilight ride parking area off of Bell Road. 7.) Information on cell coverage and emergency radios in the expanded park area. 8.) Information on Placer Land Trust's (PLT) management plan for properties they own within the expanded park, and how the County and PLT will ensure cooperation with the proposed park expansion.

Hopefully the county staff's answers to these questions will satisfy the Commission and they will recommend approval of the Hidden Falls expansion to the Board of Supervisors. If the Commission approves the project on January 28, the Board of Supervisors could conduct a public hearing on the project late in February or March 2021.

You are invited to email a short note of support for the Hidden Falls expansion to the Placer County Planning Commission, attention: Sue Colbert, Planning Commission Secretary at scolbert@placer.ca.gov, and the Placer County Board of Supervisors, attention: Clerk of the Board at nwood@placer.ca.gov, with the following: "I support the Hidden Falls reduced expansion plan and encourage your approval." You are welcome to provide additional information if you like.

Thank you to everyone in GCTC who has taken the time to attend meetings, as well as write letters and emails of support for the expansion of this beautiful park.

~ Jeffrey Foltz, GCTC Hidden Falls Liaison



Leslie Bussinger and I would like to thank everyone for their help with covering Koko's surgery expenses. She is healing amazingly well and enjoying getting out on the trail now that she has been cleared by the vets at Loomis Basin Equine Medical center.

(Leslie in photo with Koko on the left, and Kit on the right.)

Wishing you a Happy New Year from all of us at AB Equestrian!

~ Alexis Brasier







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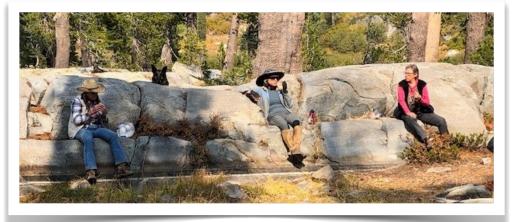
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GCTC members maintaining physical distance during lunch break at Paradise Lake



THE EQUINE CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW COVID-19 VACCINE

An equine West Nile Virus product was a forerunner of the new CoVID-19 vaccine

From EQUUS • Christine Barakat • December 15, 2020

North Americans began receiving the CoVID-19 vaccine [in December], less than a year after the novel coronavirus was identified. That accelerated timeline is a remarkable scientific achievement. And horse people may be gratified to learn about the small but critical role that horses played in making that happen.

In 2005, a vaccine developed by Fort Dodge Animal Health to protect

horses from West Nile Virus (WNV) was an early first step in the technology utilized to create the CoVID-19 vaccine. That vaccine was the first world's first DNA vaccine approved for human or animal use.

Conventional vaccines use a killed or inactive form of an entire virus to "teach" the body how to build an immune response to fight it. DNA vaccines, in contrast, use only small portion of genetic material from a virus. That material is injected into recipient, whose cells then transcribe the DNA into messenger RNA (mRNA), that create distinct but harmless proteins that the stimulate the body's immune response, defending against the entire virus. Gene-based vaccines generally stimulate more thorough immune responses and are faster to develop and manufacture than conventional vaccines.

The CoVID-19 vaccine is the first in the next generation of genetic vaccines. "The CoVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer is a novel mRNA vaccine. It is similar to, though not the same as, the original Fort Dodge DNA vaccine for the prevention of West Nile Virus infection in horses," explains David Horohov, PhD, director of the Gluck Equine Research Center at the University of Kentucky. "In the case of the DNA vaccine, the DNA is

incorporated into cells which then

transcribe it into mRNA, which is eventually translated into proteins. The immune response is then directed against those proteins. The CoVID-19 mRNA vaccine starts the process earlier by being directly translated into proteins once incorporated into the cell."



The DNA vaccine against WNV was very effective, says Horohov, but the company elected to shift to a more conventional vaccine once that version was given regulatory approval. However, the place of that first WNV vaccine in the history of immunology shouldn't be overlooked, says Horohov: "The WNV DNA vaccine developed for horses was very much a beginning step for the development of the type of vaccine technology being used for CoVID-19. It provided important evidence that nucleic acid-based vaccines were safe and efficacious. We should all be proud of the role the horse has played in this new vaccine."

<u>Click here</u> to read an in-depth exploration of the threat coronaviruses can pose to horses.



PEACE OF MIND

Did you know that the top recreational accidents resulting in dispatch of air ambulances is for motorcycle and equestrian accidents? Air ambulances save lives every day, but air medical transport can be costly. Should an equestrian be severely injured, a first responder, an injured rider or riding partner, calls 911, who then dispatches the closest available air ambulance.

We all know trail accidents can happen, but the number one category for air ambulance dispatch is motor vehicle accidents. Many GCTC members have a AAA membership or similar vehicle assistance policy. Unfortunately, even with medical and vehicle assistance insurance, air medical transport cost is often denied by insurance companies, and most patients receive a large bill for air medical transport.

You can choose to protect your family further from unexpected critical medical emergencies and expenses with an air ambulance membership. While local air ambulances are a part of the 911 system, they do not receive county or city funding. In addition to protecting yourself, a membership also supports our local air ambulance base, a valuable and necessary resource to our community.

AirMedCare Network recently entered into an agreement to manage Care Flight's membership program. Care Flight is the primary air ambulance for Northeastern California, Northwest Nevada, including the Tahoe National Forest, with bases in Truckee and Beckwork, California, and in Reno, Gardnerville, and Fallon, Nevada, and is also partnered with Enloe Medical Center in Chico, California. Both Care Flight and AirMedCare Network's CALSTAR and REACH air ambulances provide service to the Sierra Foothills, and the Tahoe National Forest with its numerous riding trails.

AirMedCare Network has 320 base locations in 38 US states, including 37 bases in California and 4 bases in Nevada. Your membership travels with you whether on a road trip or on the trail. AirMedCare Network has coverage in the Sierra Foothills with bases located in Auburn, South Lake Tahoe, Marysville, McClellan, and Mather.

Care Flight's partnership with AirMedCare Network is a membership management partnership which means it's now easier for you to enroll in both programs for complete coverage in our area, the Tahoe National Forest, and beyond.

Members of Gold Country Trails Council can enroll with AirMedCare Network at the DISCOUNTED rate of \$65 per year per household for an annual membership. Care Flight's annual membership is also \$65 per year, making both memberships available to your household for just \$130 per year. Enrollment is easy by calling your local membership manager and fellow GCTC member, Sonja Conklin, at 530-648-6455. Sonja will be happy to answer any of your questions and ensure you receive the discounted rate. For a map of AMCN's extensive network visit www.AMCNRep.com/SONJA-CONKLIN. Please note: Care Flight enrollment is only available by phone or paper enrollment as online enrollment is not available at this time.





For only \$65 a year, you will have no out-of-pocket expenses for air medical transport provided by one of AMCN's 320 bases in 38 US states, including local providers CALSTAR & REACH. Protect your family & finances, puchase a membership today. Even with medical insurance, Medicare or VA benefits you may have have out of pocket expenses. Membership covers entire household for a year from enrollment. AMCN now manages Care Flight's membership program as well. Call for details.

Sonja Conklin, Membership Manager, 530-648-6455 www.AMCNRep.com/Sonja-Conklin Enter Discount Code 11109-CA-BUS & Track Code 13818

Members are Invited to Advertise their Business in the GCTC Newsletter & Phonebook

Place your business card size advertisement in the 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, contact GCTC Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack @ cows2horses@gmail.com







Barry Vaccaro creates the beautiful trail signs. Here, he and Suzanne install them at Skillman to help guide us all.

Thank you!

