



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

This is a great group! Asking for sponsors for memberships allowed people to remain active in the club who couldn't otherwise have been able to. We also added about 50 signatures to the successful effort to keep the South Yuba Park open.

I'm writing this at the end of February, when it looks like winter has finally arrived. Anticipating the return of spring, the first club ride will take place March 10 in Spenceville, and the first workday is scheduled for April 15 at Lone Grave. This year, it would be wonderful if more people were able to participate in the workdays. The Lone Grave workday will be lopping branches back so the trail is usable, not trail building. You can rest whenever you want, socialize, and get a great lunch when we're finished with the trail work. The more people who come to the workday, the faster the work is done. We have seven workdays scheduled during the year, with some of them combined with camping trips. It would be fantastic if everyone could commit to coming to at least one workday. If you're unable to do trail work, there are many other ways to contribute.

At the last general meeting, one of the members brought up the fact that the porta potty was no longer present at Penn Gate at Empire Mine. Teri Personeni did some research, and found a company that would give us a discount as a non-profit. The cost of the porta potty is about \$85.00 a month. The board authorized payment for two months, and currently the porta potty is in place at Empire Mine. We're going to solicit donations from other clubs and GCTC members to keep the porta potty available.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the March 13 meeting. Alden Olmsted will be talking about his work to keep the parks open. At John Olmsted's birthday memorial Alden said that the contribution buckets around town are being changed to specifically collect money to pay for the personnel and propane needed to keep Malakoff open.

President, Helen Harvey



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



GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, March 13, at 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
 off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speaker: Alden Olmsted, son of John Olmsted, is a photographer and film maker. A film he made about his father, John Olmsted, was shown in the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. He's established a separate website for his efforts to save our parks. The URL is:
<http://www.johnolmsted.net>.



Shadows of Dreams

Sometimes the full moons rays,
 Piercing through the outlines of naked branches,
 Appear like a mystical halo
 Illuminating the pathway that unfolds
 Beneath pounding barefoot hooves.
 A crisp chill in the air
 Turns to steam from the
 Flared nostrils of my mount.
 We are partners in every way.
 Ascending and transcending together
 A stone staircase up into the ethers
 Where dwells the night sky.
 Unbridled and unsaddled,
 Pure energy and passion between my thighs,
 I am one with this noble spirit
 Who gallantly and steadfastly transports me
 Through the shadows of my dreams.

Submitted by, Lisa Swerdlow

2012 GCTC Phone Books

The 2012 GCTC phone books will be available at the next General Membership Meeting on March 13.

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


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: Lynn Mangel
 Phone Tree: Melissa Ribley
 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
 Secretary: Karen Schwartz 470-8790
karen-schwartz@prodigy.net
 Treasurer: Kathy Southgate 478-9813
kathysouthgate@msn.com
 Past President: Teri Personeni 273-9144
teri@terobmorgans.com
 Board Member: Vicki Testa 273-1735
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2012 CALENDAR

MARCH

- 10 Spenceville Ride
- 13 General Membership Meeting
- 17 Spenceville Ride (rain date)

APRIL

- 10 Board Meeting*
- 15 Work Day, Lone Grave
- 22 Work Day, Lone Grave (rain date)

MAY

- 6 Cronan Ranch Day Ride
- 8 General Membership Meeting
- 16-20 Pt. Reyes camp/ride
- 21 Work Day, Skillman

JUNE

- 2 National Trail Day (non GCTC event)
- 8-10 Western States Horse Expo (non GCTC event)
- 10 Board Meeting**
- 16 Work Day, Skillman
- 22-24 Wild West Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)
- 29-30 Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride
- July 1

JULY (Fundraiser)

- 7 GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser
- 10 General Membership Meeting
Ice Cream Social
- 21-23 Loney Meadow Camp/work/ride

AUGUST

- 4 Tevis Endurance Ride (non GCTC event)
- 14 Board Meeting*
- 8-12 Nevada County Fair (non GCTC event)
- 10-12 Robinson Flat Camp/ride
- 25 Trail Work Day (TBA)

SEPTEMBER (Membership Renewal)

- 11 General Membership Meeting
- 15 Upper Pioneer Trail Ride
- 21-23 Draft Horse Classic (non GCTC event)
- 29 Work Day, Lone Grave

OCTOBER

- 9 Board Meeting*
- 13 United Trails Work Day
- 20 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ
- 27 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)

NOVEMBER (Elections)

- 13 General Membership Meeting (dinner, elections)

DECEMBER

- 11 Board Meeting*



* BOD Meetings (April, August, October and December) will be held at the Coldwell Banker Grass Roots Realty office at 855 Sutton Way, Grass Valley.

** BOD Meeting in June will be held at Laura Berman's Office at 226 Mill Street, Grass Valley




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**2012 GCTC POKER RIDE
Saturday, July 7**

Hi Members. Well, this year's Poker Ride is now scheduled and we have reserved the Skillman Campground again. While it is still early, I was hoping to sign up some volunteers for the various committees/duties involved in making this another successful fundraiser and a whole lot of fun.

Volunteers needed are for the following areas:

- Trail Marking
- Food
- Parking
- Prizes
- Registration
- Set-Up
- Ice
- Cards
- Card Stations
- Photography
- Poker Hands
- Clean-up

Those of you who helped in these areas last year would be so very welcome to do it all over again this year.

Please, everyone, think about it and let me know at the next meeting, or via email (linda@mtnequestrian.com), if you can help out this year.

See you all at next month's meeting.

Submitted by, Linda Lanzoni



**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE: 01/31/12**

BALANCE SHEET

Assets:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash (bank balance) | 13,231.66 |
| Prepaid Expenses | <u>639.58</u> |
| Total Assets | <u>13,871.24</u> |

Liabilities & Fund Balance:

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance 9/1/11 | 13,531.10 |
| Change in Fund balance | <u>340.14</u> |
| Total Liabilities & Fund Balance | <u>13,871.24</u> |

STATEMENT OF INCOME (CONTRIBUTIONS)

Contributions:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Membership Dues | 2,486.00 |
| Donations Received | 347.00 |
| Poker Ride | 0.00 |
| Newsletter Advertising | 301.00 |
| T-Shirts, Decals, Raffles | <u>276.00</u> |
| Total Contributions | 3,410.00 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Poker Ride | 0.00 |
| Trails/Campground Maintenance | 1,222.18 |
| Equipment purchase & repair | 50.00 |
| Food, Trail Workdays | 219.33 |
| Education (club projector, speaker supplies, etc.) | 782.55 |
| Trails Promotion (maps) | 0.00 |
| Membership Expenses | 118.10 |
| Newsletter | 214.82 |
| Membership Directory | 0.00 |
| Refreshments - General Meetings | 92.11 |
| Donations made | 25.00 |
| Post Office Box (\$56 per yr) | 18.67 |
| Grange Hall - Annual Rent (\$300 per yr) | 150.00 |
| Liability Ins - Annual Premium (\$425 per yr) | 177.10 |
| Website | <u>0.00</u> |
| Total Expenses | <u>3,069.86</u> |

NET CONTRIBUTIONS

340.14

**ACTHA - Competitive Trail Challenge
WILDFLOWER JAMB - APRIL 21, 2012**

**Camelot Equestrian Park, Butte Valley, CA
(near Oroville)**

**Six Miles of Trail with Natural Obstacles
Experienced ACTHA Judges.....unlimited fun!**



This reminder comes from GCTC Member Phyllis Shopbell.

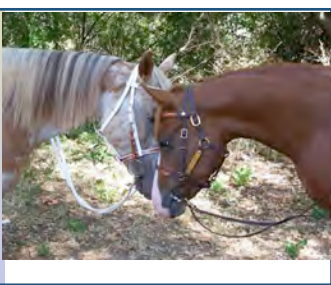
****Rain Date...Sunday, April 22.**

Refer to the ACTHA website, www.ACTHA.US, or the SVMHC website, www.svmhc.com, for further information.

Remember ACTHA gives up to half of its profits to horse rescue, rehab and other charitable equine causes throughout the USA.

Contact Amy Curtis (amycr7@aol.com) or Phyllis Shopbell (classicmrgn@yahoo.com) 916-390-8507 for further information.

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Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!

- Patti Bell
- Elaine Rhodes
- Jan Montana
- Patty Wilkins
- Sue and Tim Crum
- Penny Martin
- Veronica Tilden
- Bill and Kathy
- Krista Ericson
- Barbara Collins

**SUPPORT GCTC AND BE SEEN
AT GCTC FUNCTIONS**

GCTC logo T-Shirts are available in sizes S-XL for the reasonable price of \$10.00 each. The bright beautiful yellow/gold color shows the presence of GCTC members on work days as well as help with safety visibility. They are available for sale at the General Membership Meetings or by special arrangement by contacting member Mary Johnson [@MJShasta@aol.com](mailto:MJShasta@aol.com) or by calling 477-8501. Be sure to pick up the GCTC trailer decal for just \$1.00



GCTC NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!!

Remember we need your input to the newsletter. Articles/pictures of GCTC activities, rides, workdays, camp outs, or other information of interest to GCTC members would be appreciated. Submission deadline for the May/June 2012 Newsletter is Sunday, April 29. Articles/pictures should be sent to Lynn Mangel, Editor (quailhollowpv@me.com)

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.

**Bear Yuba Land Trust EquiTrek Ride to Blue Point Mine/Black Swan Ranch
Jan 12 & 14, 2012 - 15 riders each day.**

Brian Bisnett & Fran Cole of the Bear Yuba Land Trust put together this wonderful EquiTrek ride which is not usually open to the public.

Our historic tour started on a very sunny warm winter day behind the old Blue Point Mine. Brian, our tour guide, rounded us up at 10:00 and we headed out. We followed the old stagecoach road that brought many of the 49ers to the area.

We passed the stone walls and foundation that once was a booming gold rush town of Sucker Flat, then up the ridge past basaltic rock formations which were 150 million years of geologic history. Wow, now that's old! We rode past portions of the Yuba Narrows Ranch which contains some of Yuba River's most valuable salmon spawning habitat.

We then continued on the old road through the Black Swan private ranch and passed old stone walls of John Rose's stagecoach stop. We actually saw plants that have come back year after year in the meadow where his home once stood.

A wonderful box lunch was awaiting us near Black Swan Ranch ponds. We all scattered to tie our horses to the nearest tree as we worked up quite an appetite. A great lunch was provided by Christopher's Deli in Grass Valley. Good choice! Brian gave us a wonderful map of the area ranches and a brochure of the history of

Sucker Flat & Blue Point Diggings. He spoke of Bear Yuba Land Trust's vision for the conservation of this unique and significant property.

After our wonderful lunch, we were off again riding through the Excelsior Ranch.

We stopped near a cliff that literally dropped off into a beautiful canyon below with a beautiful view of the Yuba River & the Sutter Buttes to the coast range and east to the Sierra Buttes! Needless to say cameras came out in full force to capture that Kodak moment. We arrived back to the

trailers around 2:30. I think everyone had a great ride!

Some of our Gold Country Trails Council members in attendance were:

Thursday: Jaede Miloslavich, Fran Cole, Rose Massara, Nikki Julian-Vasquez, & Gigi Lawton

Saturday: Lynn Mangel & Carol Smith

Check out the Bear Yuba Land Trust web-site for future EquiTrek rides: www.nevadacountylandtrust.org

Submitted by, Rose Massara



Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
February 13, 2012

Coldwell Banker Realty Building
855 Sutton Way
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The board of directors meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:10 PM

Members present/absent:

President: Helen Harvey

Vice President: Melissa Ribley (absent)

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Secretary: Karen Schwartz (absent)

Board Members: John Connelly, Jeff Foltz, Vicki Testa

Members: Willie Brusin (Forest Service Liaison), Sue Brusin, Mary Johnson (Membership),
Patty Bridges-Riedl'

In the absence of the Secretary, minutes were taken by Mary Johnson who arrived at 7:20 PM.

The treasurers report had been given, with the checking account balance reported as \$13,871.24 as of January 31, 2012. (copy attached for archive minutes).

Old Business:

Forest Liaison Willie Brusin presented his report.

Two Way Radios: Two sets of radios have been purchased to facilitate parking at the Poker Ride and can also be used on work days. The cost of the radios is \$85.88. The radios will be housed at the Brusin residence.

Relocation of Pioneer Trail near the Overlook Staging area: The NEPA report of this area is on hold until the "ologists" can check the area which is currently inaccessible due to snow. Joe Chavez was unable to attend the January TNF NEPA meeting, but will attend the February 16th meeting. GCTC is waiting for the okay from Joe on the NEPA process to be scheduled for 2012, before proceeding.

Draft Copy of NEPA grant request: The grant request is directed to AERC (American Endurance Ride Conference) for funds to assist in the Pioneer relocation project. It is requested that board members read the draft and assist in format suggestions (if indicated) and assist in sections where additional information is required which include: verification that Robert Ribley is a trail master, GPS coordinates of the site, number of volunteer hours of GCTC in 2011, length of time that the Wild West Ride has been hosted in the area, permit verification of WWR. The packet with the grant request will also include photos of the area, a map of the area, and letters of support. Willie requested that this needed information and any suggestions on format be made to him within a dead line of two weeks from this meeting date. The grant request letter will be sent when the NEPA meeting is scheduled.

Lone Grave Trail Complex Maps: Sue and Willie Brusin will donate 100 black and white copies of the maps that are made available at the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head kiosk. The maps are placed in the distribution box through out the year as needed by Willie and Sue. Many thanks were voiced to the Brusins.

Trail Clearing: Areas of the “Zig Zag” trail in the Lone Grave Complex and portions of the Hallelujah Trail have been cleared of downed trees by Willie and Sue, but the Hallelujah Trail will need more work. Volunteer hours: three.

The Sierra Nevada Study: The Brusins and the Sorensens attended a meeting for the Sierra Nevada Study in 2011. This study is seeking input from all forest users to pre-plan all aspects of use for the Forest Use Plan. Willie is on the email list for this study but will not be participating at this time. Anyone, GCTC member or not, can participate in this study. Helen Harvey will have Jaede send out a general email announcement so that the information is made available to anyone interested in participating.

Upper Pioneer Trail Ride Date: Sue requested a calendar date change for this ride as she is the leader and will be unavailable at the currently scheduled date. The change was agreed upon. The ride is now on the calendar for September 15 instead of Sept. 8, 2012.

Skillman Work Day: Since there may be a need for use of a chipper at the Skillman work day, Melissa Ribley has emailed Joe, requesting permission to use a chipper if needed.

New Business:

First Aid Kits: A question was raised regarding the purchase of additional first aid kits, citing the need to make kits more available for trail work days and rides since a first aid kit should be present at GCTC functions. Discussion followed with the decision to not purchase additional kits at this time. It was noted by Jeff Folz that he has first aid materials available when he uses the chain saw, and others indicated that first aid materials are a usual addition to their horse trailer equipment. It was noted by Mary Johnson that the “official” GCTC first aid kit should be present at every GCTC work day and trail ride and the kit needs to be given to each function leader.

Poker Ride: Helen Harvey announced that Linda Lanzoni will chair the poker ride for 2012.

Robinson Flat Camp: A date change for this outing has been requested by Kandi Kost-Herbert who is the ride leader. The new date will be August 10-12, a change from August 17-19, 2012.

Porta Potty at Empire Mine: As reported by GCTC member Lynge Simoni at the general meeting, the porta potty at the Empire Mine Penn Gate has been removed. Teri Personeni did some investigative work on the missing pot, finding that the new owners of Grass Valley Hay and Feed reportedly had to pay a sizeable sum of back costs, so are currently not paying for the rental of the porta potty. After discussion a motion was made by Kathy Southgate to continue the support of rental of the porta

potty. It was proposed that GCTC pay for 2 months of rental of the porta potty, and donations for continued rental payment be requested of GCTC membership and other user groups and that a donation request be placed on the outside of the porta potty. The motion was seconded by Jeff Foltz and approved by all. Patty Bridges-Reidl volunteered to supply a information box for attachment to the pot.

Policy and Procedure Manual: The revised Policy and Procedure Manual were distributed by Mary Johnson. The information in the manuals was compiled by Karen Schwartz and Mary Johnson. The objective of the manuals is to make uniform and ongoing information about the function of GCTC available so that Executive Board Members have a clear understanding of Bylaws, History, Contracts, Insurance, Budget, Officer and Committee duties, Guidelines at functions, Inventory and Forms. And to aid in the transition of officers by having these general details in writing to pass from current officer to incoming officer. The contents of the manuals were presented by Mary Johnson. Helen Harvey suggested that in the future the information will also be available electronically.

Insurance Review: It was requested by Helen Harvey that the current insurance policy be reviewed to determine what the coverage is, in general and specifically to investigate the coverage of non-members at the poker ride and other functions. John Connelly volunteered to review the policy. Patty Bridges-Riedl' volunteered to scan and send the policy electronically to John.

Sign Boards: Previously, Karen Schwartz suggested that GCTC consider purchasing plastic sandwich signboards for use at functions. Self constructed wooden boards are currently used. Since these tend to be heavy, it was thought that new boards might be lighter and easier to use. Research by Karen Schwartz and Mary Johnson discovered that many types are available, varying in cost and type. Most of them have permanent signs stamped on them and so not have a means to staple the directional signs that GCTC currently uses on the wooden boards. It was decided that further investigation is needed before a decision is made about purchase.

Publicity Chair Person: Helen Harvey brought up discussion about the need of this chairperson. She will contact GCTC member(s) to fill this position.

National Trails Day: National Trails Day is on the first Saturday in June. Discussion ensued about GCTC participation of this event. In the past, the poker ride occurred near the day, and GCTC joined with other local organizations to promote National Trails Day and listed the poker ride as an official event. The poker ride date this year is in July and will likely not be a NTD event. However, it was discussed that Willie Brusin will keep GCTC informed of developments with other local trail groups as the date approaches.

Membership Directory: Helen Harvey reported that she is making progress with the inputting of information for the 2012 membership directory. She will request help in proof reading with the hopes that this duty can be passed on to someone else for 2013. The book is on target for production to be available at the March general membership meeting.

Promoting Membership: Helen Harvey reported that there has been recent email discussion with GCTC members on how to promote the involvement of youth in care of trails in general and in GCTC. Willie Brusin noted the other local groups such as YBONC is catering to youth. A suggestion was made about GCTC presentations to youth groups such as scouts and 4-H just to make them aware of trails and the need to preserve them. The question of promoting GCTC member involvement in scheduled events was brought up by Jeff Foltz. Willie emphasized the importance of the phone tree. Jeff stated that it is important to emphasize the nature of the work on trail days, most of it being minimal manual labor. He also pointed out that with the number of members the load can be shared if all that are able will commit to one work day a year. Helen Harvey mentioned that many members help out in other ways, as well. Jeff mentioned that creating a CD that could be played at meetings, showing pictures of the work days and accomplishments would be beneficial. Kathy Southgate made the suggestion of posting an announcement of up coming work days with pictures of the work that is done, at Harmony Market inviting all trail users to participate. A posting on face book was also suggested as well as sign up sheets as meetings along with a designated person personally contacting members at the meeting.

Horse Expo Publicity: Jeff Foltz made the suggestion that GCTC have some information available for the Horse Expo that could possibly be displayed in other trail groups booths such as Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association or Back Country Horsemen of California (as suggested by Mary Johnson).

Status of Pioneer Trail, Omega Section: Vicki Testa asked about the status of part of the original Pioneer Trail located on the Omega Rest Stop side and east of that area. It is presumably a non-motorized portion of the trail that crosses Hwy 20 to join the new reroute section. According to Willie, Joe Chavez possibly decommissioned that trail when the new trail was created. Vicki questioned if we can afford to give up any trails. She stated that the trail was being used but not maintained. Willie responded that hikers and horse back riders are allowed cross country travel in the forest but mechanical vehicles are not, so it is not illegal to use the trail. He suggested that Vicki as a forest user (not a member of GCTC) inquire with Joe Chavez about the trail and its continued use.

Before adjournment Helen Harvey and all board members thanked Patty Bridges-Riedl for the use of the Coldwell Banker office for the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson, acting secretary