

Happy Summer!

#### 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!**

Quiz: What is the name of the horse that is known as one of the greatest racehorses of his day and the sire to more winning horses than any other American Thoroughbred?

GCTC has fun in store for you this summer, and all year long! So, get out your calendars so you don't miss any of the fun events we have planned. It appears the drought is over in California. Of course, all that rain and snow means some rescheduling of happenings may need to take place. Please remember to check the calendar on our GCTC website for updates on events. As of now, everything is a go and the planning for all our events is moving forward.

We have our annual Poker Ride, workdays, campouts and more in the planning stages. We invite you to reach out if you are interested in helping, or even running an event. If you want to be famous, just let us know, and we can make it happen (in GCTC circles).

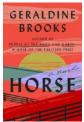
We have guided day rides on the schedule, including the popular Tulip rides at Ananda, thanks to member Jacqueline Debets. As the guided ride coordinator, I must give huge kudos to Jacqueline for planning, coordinating, and guiding these rides. Let me know if there is a place YOU would like to lead a ride. Cronan Ranch is one suggestion. Anywhere else you'd love to explore, or are familiar with? If you want to lead a ride, I will be happy to do all the coordination.

Please be aware that on the weekend of May 6th and 7th the California Dirt Mt. Bike races will be held on the Pioneer, Hoot and Dascombe trails. We advise you to NOT RIDE out of Lone Grave that weekend. Instead, participate in the Tulip ride scheduled for May 7th. Our general meeting is Tuesday, May 9th at the Grange. Come one, come all! A new batch of stickers will be available at the meetings for a donation. Our ever popular and iconic "Big Orange stickers" are back! And now, smaller color stickers are available. Plan on attending and pick up stickers to show your enthusiasm for GCTC on your rig!



Membership Chair Toni Owen issued our latest membership roster in March. It is easily printed at home. If you don't have a printer, you can forward the file to any print shop, and they can print it out for you. I print out two copies: one for home, and one to keep in my horse trailer you never know.

If you like to read about horses and learn some history at the same time, I recommend this book, <u>Horse</u>, by Geraldine Brooks, for your summer reading. (*You'll also find the answer to my quiz question*.) Enjoy!

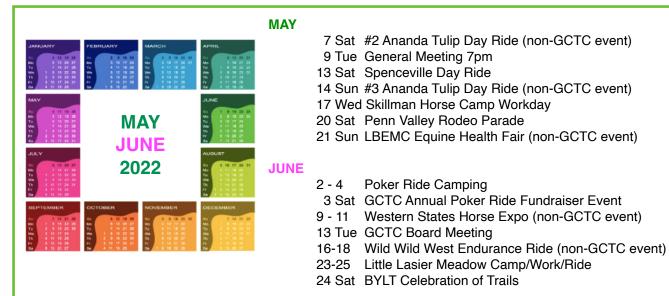


Happy Trails to all! As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas.

President Jamie Canon



Something's not quite right...



PLEASE NOTE: Dates & times may change.

*Changes and an updated calendar is always available on the website. Go to:* <u>www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org</u>, *then click on the "Calendar and Events" tab.* 



AT THE GCTC MARCH GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 9TH 7 PM GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE 11363 GRANGE LANE, GRASS VALLEY

Growing up in India, the Middle East, and Europe, has given Zsuzsu Illes an eclectically global perspective to horsemanship; solidifying her perspective that good horsemanship requires a multi-faceted approach whereby each horse benefits from the expertise of a group of various equine professionals. This philosophy guides her approach to saddle fitting and balance.

Zsuzsu's experience of teaching and training, as well as remaining a student herself, led her to earn certifications with CHA and ARIA, as well as earning USDF university credits for participating in many Charles de Kunffy Classical Riding and Instructor's clinics. Zsuzsu's excellence led her to be recommended by Charles de Kunffy as an instructor, trainer, and clinician.

While managing her own boarding, training, and lesson facility, Zsuzsu became interested in saddle fitting and began to learn this specialized skill which is both art and science. In addition to listening to the many riders and horses that she has helped over the years, Zsuzsu studied under Andy Sankey of Scotland who is a Certified Master Saddler in the Trade (the highest level achievable in the Society of Master Saddlers, Ltd. UK) and Zsuzsu became an independent qualified and certified Master Saddle Fitting Consultant through a program recognized by Utrecht School of Veterinary Medicine (MSFC Saddle Fitters.).

As the speaker at our May General Meeting, Zsuzsu will share her special interest in hoof health and how it relates to a well-balanced horse, one who is better, and more comfortably, able to carry a rider.



#### Please Remember to Bring Your POKER RIDE DONATIONS!





# SPRING HAS SPRUNG



# SPENCEVILLE WILDLIFE AREA



Our Trail Boss Suzanne Vaccaro has been riding at Spenceville and has a great route picked out for us. Spring has sprung in the 11,000 plus acres in Spenceville Wildlife Area. With so much rain this year it should prove to be a super bloom year. Not to mention the number of birds that can be identified. The grass is brilliantly green and the oaks are putting on leaves fast.

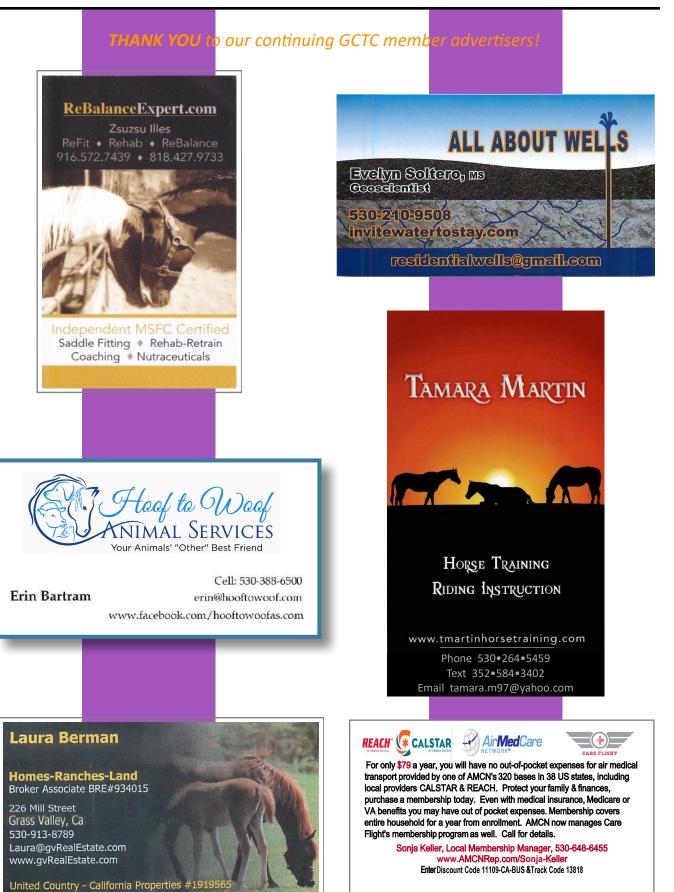
Spenceville is a magical place in the spring. There are several creek crossings that will probably be at their fullest but doable. We would advise shoes or front boots as there are some rocky areas. It's possible there may still be cattle pastured there this time of year, so be aware of that. The drive in on the road isn't as bad as it has been in the past, however plan on going slow through the rough spots.

The staging area will be at the "Corrals" The parking there is LIMITED, thus, we have to limit the number of rigs to 10. Double up if you can. Suzanne has graciously offered to guide a second ride if there are enough people that are interested. Let me know and we can schedule that. (For those that would like a longer ride let me know when you RSVP and we will accommodate you.)

Bring a lunch, something to drink and a halter and lead rope to tie your horse to a tree at lunch. Plenty of water on the trails for horses. Be in the saddle and ready to ride out at 10:30 (Approximately a 1 hour drive from Grass Valley) There are several creek crossings that will probably be at their highest, but crossable. We advise shoes or front boots as there are some rocky areas. We will be in the saddle for approximately 3 hours and at least a ½ hour

for lunch at Horse Shoe Pond. There are picnic tables and trees to tie your horse. The cell reception there is sketchy to non-existent. We do have two Spenceville GPX files on our website, including last year's ride: <u>http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/gpx-trail-resources.html</u>

GCTC members and guests are invited, but **you must RSVP to reserve your spot!** Call or email if you would like to join us or have any questions. Directions can be provided when you RSVP to Trail Ride Coordinator: <u>Jamie</u> <u>Canon</u>.





WHEN: SIGN IN: WORK BEGINS: WORK ENDS: Wed, May 17 8:30 AM 9:00 AM Noon with lunch provided by GCTC

**WHAT:** The primary work will be cleaning up the horse camp for the upcoming camping season.

**WHERE:** Skillman Campground Approximately 15 miles from Nevada City on Hwy 20. One mile past the Vista Point. Turn off is on the right. Follow the short road to Skillman campground and park in camp site #2.

**LUNCH:** Lunch will be served at approximately 12:00. A delicious/nutritious lunch will be served by our smiling lunch crew, headed up by Debbie Molloy. No charge for GCTC member trail workers!

**RSVP REQUIRED FOR LUNCH:** RSVP to <u>Debbie Molloy</u>. If you require a vegetarian lunch, please let Debbie know when you RSVP.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bring rakes (garden & leaf), tubs or wheelbarrows, loppers, hand saws, pruners, pole pruners, etc. Please bring a chair. Bring WATER and snacks. GCTC will have some loppers available to use.

WHAT TO WEAR FOR SAFETY: Long pants, long sleeve shirts, close-toed shoes, GLOVES.

**RSVP & QUESTIONS?** Contact <u>Mary Johnson</u> to let her know you're coming or if you have any questions.

## Will you be one of the amazing volunteers at Skillman?!





WHAT: T for the up



For those of you who are new to this, your horse should be able to handle a crowd. This means that while we understand some horses will get a bit nervous, they need to be under control and able to stay in line. We will march in twos down the road. Your horse may not step out or go ahead of those in front of you. Then, all you need to do is sit up straight, smile, and wave to the crowd.



Again, we all wear ORANGE t-shirts, long or short sleeved. If you don't have one, Linda has several you can buy or borrow:

This is a really fun parade on a level road, and only one mile from start to finish. We remain at the Rodeo Grounds until all the participants have arrived and then we walk back to the park.

Please let Linda know as soon as possible if you want to join the fun so Linda can give an accurate count to the parade officials. She will send out the Space # (where you will park your trailers) and any other info as soon as she receives it.

~ <u>Linda Lanzoni</u>

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# **CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!**

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 🐣

Saturday, June 3rd is the date for the **32nd Annual GCTC Annual Fundraiser Poker Ride at Skillman Horse Camp!** The Poker Ride is renowned and people come from far and wide to participate. LET'S CELEBRATE! This is GCTC's largest fundraiser (how we preserve and enhance those trails), and we look forward to everyone participating, whether you are volunteering, camping and/or riding, or joining us for a tasty lunch with friends, old and new.

#### THE VERY BEST POKER RIDE! 🜲

The GCTC Poker Ride is expertly managed, and easily navigated, with amazing

volunteers at every turn. Plus, great prizes and fun for everyone. All members, including hikers, are invited. You don't have to be a camper to enjoy the Poker Ride.

#### AMAZING VOLUNTEERS! 📥

If you don't plan on riding, we can always use your help the day of the ride for set up, registration, parking, card stations, poker hand card readers, food service, guitar player or other musical entertainment, prize helper, drag riders, and most importantly, clean up! YOU are the one who makes the event amazing!

#### PRIZES, LUCKY TICKETS, SILENT AUCTION! 🐥

Yes, yes, and yes! Everyone, come up for the day and support our fundraiser efforts!

#### DONATIONS!

Members have been generous with donations for prizes. However, we are still in need of additional items for the poker hands, lucky ticket winners, and silent auction. If you have a donation, please let Helen know. Horse related items are always appreciated. Check around your house or barn for newer items that you no longer need that make a great silent auction find for someone else. Services and/or homemade crafts are always welcome and appreciated. Another option is to solicit a donation from your favorite vendor. Most are happy to support a non-profit organization such as GCTC. Downloadable donation receipt forms are online at: http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/2023-poker-ride.html

#### FOOD! 📥

One thing that makes the GCTC Poker Ride so popular is the amazing meal served to participants and volunteers. On Saturday, we will be serving a delicious BBQ lunch, planned by our extraordinary Camp Cook Debbie Molloy. Members are also asked to bring appetizers or desserts. Email <u>Debbie</u> and let her know what you will be bringing.

#### GUIDED RIDES! 📥

On Sunday, June 4 there will be free guided rides for GCTC members only. Come up for the day—you don't have to be a camper to enjoy the guided rides.

All information is available online on the GCTC website: www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

Bring a chair for yourself and enjoy a great day in the forest!

Helen Crawford 2023 GCTC Poker Ride Manager PokerRideGCTC@gmail.com Hello GCTC Members!

This is Helen Crawford, your Poker Ride Manager for 2023. The Poker Ride will be held Saturday June 3rd at Skillman HorseCamp. After such a challenging winter, we are all ready to ride and have a great party!

We need all hands on deck for this, as we prepare and conduct our only fundraiser of the year. Spread the word far and wide (print out & post those flyers (page 10)).

We are really excited about the Ride and the prizes we are generating. We will have prizes, prizes, prizes for high poker hands, lucky tickets, and our silent auction. To supply these prizes, we rely on contributions from both our club members and various local businesses. If you have a close relationship with a local business, you could approach them about donating a prize, for which we can provide them a tax-deductible receipt, since we are a non-profit organization.

Prizes can be personal services such as massage, carpet cleaning, car detailing, chiropractic adjustments, yard work, etc, or physical things like gift certificates, or items from their inventory.

We are also looking for new or gently used items you may no longer need for silent auction items. Not just horse or barn items, but also yard art, or household decor items.

There will be Debbie Molloy's awesome meal preparation, with the membership asked to contribute side dishes and desserts. We are known for the best poker ride around, due to our well-organized ride, the beautiful scenery, and delicious food! Live music is planned midday with me stepping in on my fiddle when I can. We are even toying with the idea of a live auction. Anyone out there with auctioning experience?

But, first, we need to get the Skillman campground and trails ready! So please come out in force for our workday at Skillman on May 17 (see page 6).

The email for Poker Ride question, donation, volunteering, anything is: <u>PokerRideGCTC@gmail.com</u>.

Let's all make this a great celebration of our club-and have a great time doing it!

See you there, Helen Crawford (McDermott)



Ride 2-3 hours on easy to moderate, wellmarked trails. Options available for shorter and longer loops. Check in starts at 8:30 am Ride out begins at 9:30 am

# HORSE CAMPING SITES SOLD OUT! GET YOUR ONLINE ENTRY NOW!



GREAT PRIZES! Lucky Tickets!! Tasty Food! OVERNIGHT camping in the famous SKILLMAN HORSE CAMP!!

Entry deadline May 26, 2023 GCTC members \$35 - \$40 non-members Juniors, 17 &under FREE includes ride, hot lunch, and 2 lucky tickets Non-riders/hikers welcome \$15 lunch, 2 tickets

#### FOR ONLINE ENTRY FORMS: www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL RIDE MANAGER, PokerRideGCTC@gmail.com

THE GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL ANNUAL FUNDRAISER RIDE

benefits the building and maintenance of local trails, staging and parking areas, Skillman and Little Lasier Meadow horse camps, and non-motorized trail advocacy. Event by NFS Special Use Permit; US. Dept. of Agriculture. Please feed weed and seed free hay. The Forest Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



#### LITTLE LAISER MEADOW WORK / CAMP / RIDE JUNE 23-25, 2023

The workday is Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 to noon

Little Lasier Meadow is located north of Truckee near Jackson Meadows Reservoir,

approximately 100 miles from the Grass Valley area. The horse camp was created in the early 1980's by GCTC members and the Tahoe National Forest.

The Forest Service reserves the camp for us in exchange for the work we do, and there is no cost for GCTC members to camp Friday and Saturday (June 23, 24) nights. Several members do start their campout earlier in the week. Those extra days are at your own cost.

Come and enjoy this beautiful area on the workday or spend a few days camping. There are many riding and hiking trails as well as nearby boating and fishing opportunities.

**WORKDAY Saturday, June 24th:** Typical work includes cleaning campfire rings, raking debris, pruning branches, cleaning and leveling tables, trail brushing and some trail bed work. Please wear appropriate clothing (long pants, long sleeve shirt, sturdy boots, gloves, and hat) and bring trail trimming tools (loppers, hand saw, etc.) GCTC will provide large loppers and trail tools. Bringing rakes and shovels can also be helpful.

**CAMPING:** The campground accommodates tents, pick-up campers, LQ trailers, as well as small RV's. There are no hook-ups. There are 9 campsites. Participation in this event is limited and sites will be shared and assigned according to size of rigs. There are a limited number of horse pens available, so it is best to have an alternate method to confine your horse if a pen is not available (high line, portable corrals, electric corrals, Hi-Tie to trailer, etc.) Water for horses is available from a central well with a hand pump. You will need to carry/transport water to your horse. In order to achieve best use of the camp sites, they will be assigned according to the size of rig and other factors. There are two vault toilets, but no showers. The available water is from a hand pump (well) and it is not labeled as potable.

**\***\*\*

**RIDING:** The trails in the area are a mixture of logging roads, gravel roads, single track trails, and the Pacific Crest Trail. Footing is a mix of soft dirt and rocks. Some trails are quite rocky in places. A couple of the trails involve crossing a creek.

#### **RSVP REQUIRED!**

Mary needs to know these things in order to coordinate the event:

- When you plan to arrive and leave.
- Your contact number(s) and email.
- How you camp: tent, camper on your truck, sleep in your trailer.
- Size of your rig. truck & trailer (pull or gooseneck, LQ, length or how many horses does it hold).
- How many people and horses you are bringing.
- How you will accommodate your horse: high line, solid portable corral, electric fence corral, tie to trailer, need a camp corral. It is best to have a back-up plan as there are not enough camp corrals for everyone.

Please email <u>Mary Johnson</u> if you would like to be part of this event or with any questions.





A huge **THANK YOU to ALL** who came out to clear our beloved Lone Grave trails on the GCTC workday in April.

It can be a big letdown to find a trail closed off by a downed tree. Thanks to the 40 GCTC members who participated on our workday helping to keep our trails clear for ALL to enjoy.



We'd love to see MORE PARTICIPATION of our over 500 current GCTC members at these workdays! If you are out there enjoying our trails, and all the other benefits GCTC provides, please join in on a workday. It's only 3 hours of work and then a delicious lunch!



If you are not able to join in on a workday, YOU can still be of tremendous help to the GCTC commitment to keep our trails open and clear. It's simple: carry pruning shears, a small saw, or small loppers to help clear limbs as you ride, hike or cycle. This contributes to our club's mission and helps keep the trails in shape for everyone.

While you're out on the trails, please REPORT the location of obstacles that need larger equipment for trail clearing. Take photos as well. Make note of the GPS position, if possible. All this information can then be shared through

Be sure to keep TRACK of all your trail work HOURS. All of the reported volunteer hours give GCTC credit with the Forest Service and that credit

the GCTC web site: http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/incident-report.html.



gives us a voice about local trails, staging areas, and horse camps.





Page

# LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

I know everyone in California had a rough winter. But where I retired, it's been epic! I live in the Sierra Valley about 40 minutes north of Truckee on 10 acres that back on to the Tahoe National Forest.

I have been a proud member of GCTC for about 5 years. The closest horse camps for me to assist with, and participate in, volunteer activities are Pack Saddle and Little Lasier. I trail ride and horse camp with King (on the left) and Bailey (laying down). Pnut, on the far right, is my husband Mike's "ranch dog" (19 year-old gentle, retired, Shetland pony) Mike is not an equine enthusiast, but Pnut and he have a special bond and are good buddies.

When the rains began in October, our horse stalls flooded, and then the snow commenced, and the freeze came. We had an average of 5 feet of snow, which caused damaging ice dams on the roof edge of our house. The snow levels and temperatures were extreme for our area at the 5,000 elevation (usually below freezing temps for most of the winter). The snow started melting the beginning of April, then began flooding again. So the sump pumps came out a second time.

Around the beginning of March, the two big guys started getting white line disease. The outer hoof wall started to chip and separate in spots from all the moisture and hard freezing ground, plus bacteria migrating in between the laminae. My farrier came, trimmed them up and cleaned it all out. I've been treating them with a mixture of 7% iodine tincture/coppertox. They seem to be doing better now and will be getting shod very soon

As you can see from the photo I took on April 8th, the ground was just starting to peek out. I wanted to share it with the group because I thought it was darling.

I'm looking forward to many rendezvous with GCTC friends this summer, beginning with our upcoming Little Lasier Meadows work/camp/ride. The second picture attached is the Jackson Meadows Reservoir dam in mid March (located close to Little Lasier). I am praying the snow will be gone by the end of June for the first campout of the year!

Happy Spring and Happy Trails!

Stacey M. Estrada Pine Rock Ranch







#### ARIZONA: NOT JUST A DESERT

I decided to visit my friends in Arizona since I hadn't been there since 2020. My first stop was Joshua Tree National Park. This was Trixie the Poodle's first ride, and Lil B's first time packing a Poodle!

After taking a day to ride around there, we headed to my friends' place, just outside of Benson, Arizona. They live east of Tucson, so quite near the southern border of the USA. On one of our rides, we could see a mountain range in Mexico. Benson is not just a hole in the wall, it is a destination! Nearby Tucson has sights to see as well as Kartchner Caverns, Mescal Movie Set, Saguaro National Monument, and other parks.

The bar is at the Mescal Movie Set where so many westerns have been filmed: "Rawhide," "Monte Walsh," "Bonanza," "Gunsmoke," The Outlaw Josey Wales," "Little House on the Prairie," "Stagecoach," "The Quick and the Dead," "Desperado," and many more. It has recently been purchased by the Kartchner family who own Kartchner Caverns (another great place to go). They are fixing up the town in the hope of drawing more filming and allowing visitors to come for tours, as we did. Really fun!





I was so surprised to find that Arizona is not just a big flat desert. It has an abundance of canyons and hills and

mountains. We even crossed streams! I thought it was a desert!





HAPPY TRAILS! Teri Personeni

But, there are certainly plants you don't want to tangle with!





#### 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 <u>Pamela Warmack</u>.

Then, send a check for your advertising to: Attn: Advertising GCTC P.O. Box 753 Cedar Ridge, CA 95924



### **GPX LIBRARY OF TRAIL TRACKS IS LIVE**

Start riding trails with confidence knowing exactly where you are in real time! GCTC is excited to announce the GPX library has now gone live and even includes a video tutorial.

By downloading tracks to your phone and favorite GPS app while you still have cell service or Wi-Fi, they'll be ready to use on the trail even in the most remote areas. Unlike paper maps, you'll interactively know whether you're on or near the trail. Feel free to share this with friends and, of course, encourage them to join GCTC.

Our immense gratitude goes out to Toni Owen who spearheaded this GPX project, the GCTC Board for seeing the importance of this project, the GPX committee who spent many hours helping coordinate, and to Jaede and Britney (Punk Rock Web Design) for their website help.

If any of you would like help learning one-on-one, there are several folks who are ready and willing to assist.

To access the new GPX Trail Resources page, go to: http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/gpx-trail-resources.html



Remember!
<b>Collect your Poker Ride donations</b> (page 4, 8, 9, 15)
Attend the General Meeting-take your donations (page 3)
RSVP for the Spenecville Day Ride (page 4)
Participate in the Skillman Workday! (page 6)
Ride or walk in the Penn Valley Parade! (page 7)
<b>Ride and/or volunteer at the Poker Ride!</b> (page 8, 9, 10)
Attend the Little Lasier Work/Camp/Ride! (11)
Have fun! (all pages!)



## **DEADLINE!**

Just a reminder: while you're currying off the last horse hair or still repairing winter's damage, 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: JUNE 15



May your summer be cool, calm, and relaxed.