



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

Our first workday at Lone Grave was a resounding success. I've already heard from people who really appreciate the work that was completed to clear the trails. Our next workday is at Skillman on Wednesday, May 22. It's always important to have a good turnout for the Skillman workday. There is always clearing to be done around Skillman, and we want the trails in good shape for the poker ride.

For the poker ride, Linda still needs captains for the food and publicity committees. Please, contact either Linda or myself to get more information about what is involved or to volunteer. These committees are critical to making the poker ride a success. We have write ups of the tasks that need to be accomplished to help anyone who's willing to volunteer. We always need everyone to volunteer for the poker ride, since it's our only fundraiser for the year. We just finished using funds to grade both the Gold Country Equestrian Trailhead at Lone Grave and the road into the Overlook Equestrian Trailhead near Skillman. We also added gravel to the Overlook Equestrian Trailhead.

The next group ride is at Cronin Ranch on May 5. The weather should be just beautiful. The board has updated the trail etiquette guide. Everyone on the rides is always very competent and safe, but we decided it was time to clarify our thoughts about group rides. A copy is included on Page 8, of this newsletter. I'd appreciate any comments on the revised version.

We had a wonderful turnout from Gold Country Equestrians for the Board of Supervisors meeting concerning the Emigrant Trail. All the hard work on the part of the Emigrant Trail Conservancy is paying off; now there will be ninety days for the homeowners to work with the Emigrant Trail Conservancy and other involved groups attempt to reach a compromise agreement. There will be another report to the Board of Supervisors at the end of 90 days.

I'm enjoying the wonderful spring weather, and getting out on the trails a much as possible. I hope you are too, and I'll see you at the meeting on May 14.

Lone Grave Work Day

Sunday, April 21 was a beautiful day to enjoy the Lone Grave area trails on foot with pruners and loppers in hand. As one volunteer said "I ride these trails a lot so I am happy to give back to them in trail maintenance."

Fourteen energetic GCTC members met at 9:00 AM at the Gold Country Equestrian Trail Head, and then headed out in 3 groups to work on pruning the Meyers Trail, reconstructing the bottom of the "Zig Zag" trail, and pruning the "Zig Zag" trail (and points in between). By noon, with designated tasks completed, the groups returned to enjoy a hearty worker's lunch provided by Merrill Kagan-Weston.

Thanks to the volunteers: Merrill, Sue and Willie Brusin, Jeff Foltz, Tom Wilson, Helen McDermott, Debbie McKitrick, Allen Appell, Barbara Hobbs, Susie Roush, Ginny Dix, Vicki Testa, Mary Johnson, and Irv Mazur.

If you were unable to attend Sunday's work party, mark your calendar now for Wednesday, May 22 for the Skillman Camp and surrounding trails work day. GCTC is privileged to have over 160 members. Let's try to have more than a 9% turnout for the Skillman workday!



Submitted by, Mary Johnson

GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

GOLDEN EMPIRE GRANGE HALL
 off LA BARR MEADOWS ROAD

Speaker: Brian Bisnett - Brian will be speaking to the group on the trails, history and land of the Blue Point Ranch Mine area.



Jonathan J. Zerín
 Attorney at Law

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Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Bobbi & Roger Giudicelli
 Frank & Cheryl Maricich
 Cyndra McLeod
 Judith Moore & Dale Scoville

Welcome back:
 Merry Law
 Kevin Windrem

Committee Chairs

Camp Cook & Coordinator: Merrill Kagan-Weston
 Email Notifications: Jaede Miloslavich
 Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin
 Historian: Sharon Silver
 Hospitality: Gail and Jim Plakos
 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
 Secretary: Karen Schwartz 470-8790
karen-schwartz@prodigy.net
 Treasurer: Kathy Southgate 478-9813
kathysouthgate@msn.com
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teri@terobmorgans.com
 Board Member: Vicki Testa 273-1735
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**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
2013 CALENDAR**

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

Harmony In Motion



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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.



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Gold Country Trails Council would like to thank and recognize the following individual for their generous donations.

Merrill Kagan-Weston

Many GCTC members support the purpose of this organization with monetary donations and/or participate in workdays or other activities. We appreciate their donations and support.



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Little Lasier Meadow Campout Coming Soon!

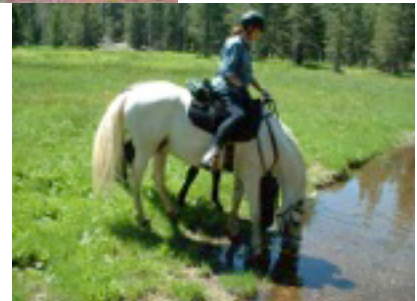
GCTC members, mark your calendars for June 28-30, 2013 for the fun camp/work/ride weekend at Little Lasier Meadow. Beautiful campsites, a great variety of scenic trails with fabulous vistas, delicious potluck dinner, and delightful GCTC members to ride and relax with. All this for only four hours of work on Saturday morning. Here is what Wayne McCarter, California Land Management area manager says about this years project.

"We're looking forward to having your group work on Lasier Meadows Horse camp again this year. I'll have all of the sites blocked for June 28 and 29 departing on Sunday the 30th. We'll be open probably by Memorial day if people want to come camp and ride sooner."

GCTC members will camp at no charge over the weekend, and do not need to make advance reservations on the web site other than for extra days. As many did last year, you can come earlier and stay later, paying the regular camping fees.

The work typically involves repair of the corrals as needed, grooming the camp sites, and clearing the connector trail as well as some of the PCT. Ask anyone who attended last year to get a thumbs up on the fun and sense of accomplishment.

Seasoned campers and first timers are welcome. Corrals are available, areas to high line, and places for picket lines or portable corrals offer a wide variety of "horse housing" options. Come join the fun! Contact Mary Johnson, mjshasta@aol.com or 477-8501 for more details, questions or RSVP. Let's fill the campground again this year!



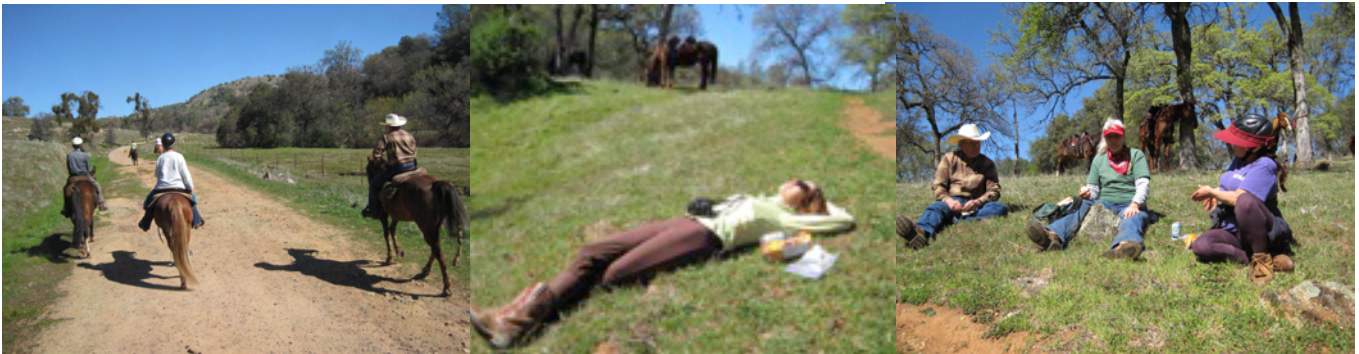
Submitted by, Mary Johnson



March 9, Spenceville Ride

A group of 15 GCTC members rode out to the Waterfall at Spenceville. It was a beautiful for a ride. The group had lunch in the meadow just down from the waterfall. We all had a wonderful ride and all the horses behaved so well! Thanks to all that attended.


Submitted by, Lori Moniz-Waddell



Photos provided by Lori Moniz-Waddell and Sharlene Kelley

Tevis, From The Back Of My Horse

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


A BIG THANK YOU !!!!!

to all of you who remembered to take your cameras along. Keep the pictures and articles coming on the GCTC activities. The submission deadline for the July/August Newsletter will be Sunday, June 30. Newsletter Information should be sent to me at quailhollowpv@me.com.

Lynn Mangel
GCTC Newsletter, Editor

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www.parkwatchreport.org
www.coolhorsetrails.com

East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Ride

Planning is well underway for the 12th Annual East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Ride, scheduled this year for Wednesday, August 28 to Monday, September 2, so here's early notification so that you also can start planning by putting those dates on your calendar now if you are so inclined.



This year's ride will be much like previous years. We will be riding the East Bay Hills from Berkeley to Castro Valley mostly following the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and may incorporate a couple of potential route changes to show you new parts of the East Bay Hills where this ride has not yet ventured. More on that later. Registration will begin in a few weeks.



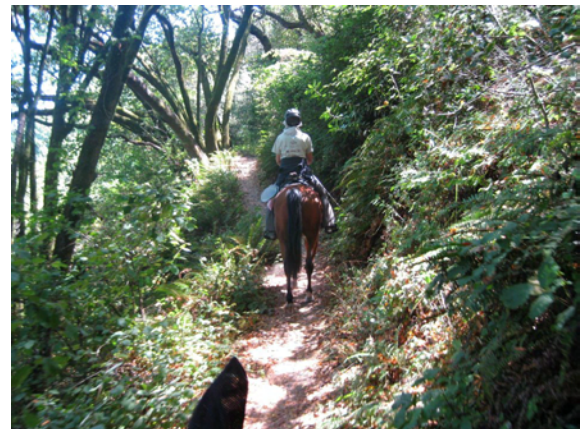
As in previous years, the ride will be about 15 miles a day, with options for shorter and longer rides, there will be some interesting evening programs, and we promise to feed you well... And you can ride just the days that are most convenient for you, or try the whole thing. We'll fill you in with more detail when registration is about to open.

Because we are aiming towards a Greener Ride, we ask you to bring your own water bottle and your own plates, bowls, cups and eating utensils that you can wash after each meal. While we will have some

available for dinner guests and volunteers, supplies will be limited.



If you click on events and then on the 2012 East Bay Hills Benefit Ride at the [TWHHA web site](#) you will find the ride entry, ride flyer and volunteer links for your friends.



If you have to cancel for some unfortunate reason, please let me know so that we can adjust our food purchases accordingly. Otherwise, cancellations after August 22nd will be subject to a 20% cancellation fee.

If you know anyone who would like to volunteer, please forward them this link: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/4045771010>

Feel free to contact me at --925-254-8943 or at ebhillsride@Comcast.net if you have any questions.

In the meantime, have a great time on the trails in this beautiful early spring weather wherever you are!

Happy trails,

Morris Older, for the East Bay Hills Trails Benefit Planning Team

Auditing the Buck Brannaman Clinic

I had the chance to audit the Buck Brannaman clinic on Saturday, April 27. There were several GCTC people also auditing and Marina Tweed rode in it. I had to say I was skeptical about what I would get from auditing. After all, don't we all want to get on the horse and ride?

But, for various reasons I could not go with a horse--first, it is expensive and second it is hard to get a spot. Jaede told me it is all done by lottery! But, auditing was only \$30 a day. What a deal (despite the dead, hot air in the covered and enclosed arena in Red Bluff).

Valerie Logsdon and I drove up for the day and it was great to be able to talk about it all the way back. I did not take notes but I think that could have been useful. However, you can always buy one of Buck's books, which gives you his exercises.

Most of being there is just hearing the ideas--things you already know if you have been paying any attention at all but are just good to soak up again and again.

Specifics, you say? Well, be light, but firm. It is all about feel. Be quick on your corrections but also, in some exercises, if your horse is thinking about your request and has not said "No!" yet, then be patient, and wait on your horse. Keep your feet to yourself (mostly) but remember to open and close with your legs, and use your seat and intent more than your reins. The reins and bit are really just a back-up operating system. Work on a rhythmic back - do this a lot.

Buck especially encouraged walking at different speeds asking your horse to really feel for the rate you are asking. I was only there for one day but it was worth it. I think, I would go for the first day next time to see how it all starts but I would definitely bring one of those small personal fans. Also bring a seat cushion! (Thanks Jaede for sharing one with me).

Submitted by, Helen Crawford



Auditing the clinic was very inspirational. Besides what Helen shared, I offer the following tips. If your horse is too wild, start with very close loops, back and

forth, maybe 6-8 feet in length, head turning in at 90 degrees, horses' back feet going underneath in front of the other back foot. If the horse isn't listening, maybe you go in a circle.

It's about listening. Listening to your horse. Your horse listening to you. A simple practice of leading, then going towards the horse and him respecting your bubble and backing appropriately. Buck had the horse rocking forward not even a step, backwards with his feel. And he could place the foot in a different place than where the horse had started the step. His guidance went to the foot. Rein up slightly, that front foot went out.

It is about timing. If you are listening, you can see the incorrectness as it begins, and make a correction. He spoke a lot about making the good, sweet offer. Always expect the horse to respond with a feather's touch. Then the offer can have an "a" and "b" selection. If the horse does not take what is offered, the "b" selection is the correction.

The more advanced clinics were asked to slow the walk down with their seat. At a walk, ask for the back end to turn, then the front end. Walk the horse in a backwards circle.

Now, it is a gorgeous day, off to practice what I learned.

Submitted by, Valerie Logsdon



Pamela Bryars

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**Gold Country Trails Council
Trail Etiquette Rules
DRAFT**

Date Adopted

This safety policy and rules apply to at all GCTC activities involving horses.

Before the ride:

1. Contact the Trail Boss to RSVP that you plan to attend and to ask any questions you may have. You are responsible to judge your horse's fitness and conditioning level. Do not attempt a ride that requires a better level of conditioning than you or your horse has. Take into consideration the distance of the ride, your horse's muscular and aerobic fitness for hills or mountains, and your horse's heat tolerance. Sometimes arrangements can be made for a second, shorter, less difficult ride for less conditioned horses.
2. Arrive at the trailhead well before the ride is scheduled to start. When parking your rig, leave plenty of room between rigs so that horses tied to trailers next to each other can't kick. If camping, don't park near someone's campsite with your rig unless you talk with them first.
3. Be ready to ride out at the time the ride is scheduled to begin. It is recommended that you carry a halter and lead rope, hoof pick, drinking water, and a sharp knife or Leatherman-type tool. Helmets are strongly recommended for all riders and are required for riders under age 18. Riders must use appropriate riding footwear, e.g., no sandals or bare feet.
4. Riders are responsible for the conduct of their horses. If your horse kicks, put a red ribbon in its tail and warn other riders. Inform the Trail Boss before the ride begins if your horse is inexperienced on trails, kicks, or may engage in any other behavior, which could represent a threat to other riders and their horses. The Trail Boss will carry extra red ribbons for riders needing them. For safety reasons, the Trail Boss may assign you and your horse to a particular group and/or may specify that you are to ride at the back of the group. No horses may be ponied during group day rides. No stallions may be ridden on group day rides. Keep your horse's safety and well-being in mind at all times and check with the Trail Boss if you have any concerns.

During the ride:

1. The Trail Boss leads the group unless he or she designates someone else to be in the front. Do not ride ahead of the group or the Trail Boss without permission.
2. Riders are responsible for maintaining control of their horses. If your horse kicks, you may want to consider riding at the back of the group. If your horse is unruly, continues to jig, or is upset and unable to relax, consider moving to the back of the group so you do not distract the horses behind you. Or consider getting a partner and separating from the group to give both you and the rest of the group a safer, more pleasant ride. Be sure to notify the Trail Boss before you leave the group. If your horse engages in other objectionable behavior, the Trail Boss may prohibit you from participating in the ride in the interests of maintaining safety.
3. Keep at least one full horse length between horses, especially on single-track trails. Always keep at least one full horse length, preferably more, between horses when going up or down hill.
4. Use hand signals to notify riders behind you that you are stopping or slowing. Watch for hand signals from those riding in front of you.
5. Don't pass another rider without calling for the trail and telling them that you are coming by them on the right or left.
6. Never speed up going up a hill when riding with a group, unless the entire group has agreed to do so. You may upset horses behind you and create a dangerous or uncontrollable situation for yourself and others.
7. If you want to ride faster, ask permission from the Trail Boss. If you are given permission to ride ahead, wait until you are out of the group's line of sight before you increase your speed. Wait at the next intersection for the group to catch up so you do not get lost.
8. If a rider dismounts, wait until they are back in the saddle before riding off. If you don't wait, they may not be able to mount. This is especially important when opening and closing gates.

Continued on next page

9. Practice responsible trail stewardship. Stay on designated trails at all times. Do not ride on trails which are in poor condition (such as deep mud), which may cause permanent trail damage or endanger the soundness of your horse.
10. Attempt to ride on the uphill side of trails whenever possible, but especially if there are blind corners, so it is easier to avoid an accident if other trail users surprise your horse.
11. When encountering other trail users, always slow down to a walk. Make verbal contact with them to alert them that you are approaching. Watch for a response. Be very courteous and careful when approaching and passing bicycles, hikers or other horses.
12. Do not dip sponges in water troughs. Other horses won't drink salty water.
13. When tying your horse on the trail, always double check to be sure you tie only to sturdy objects such as large trees and fence posts, not cross rails.
14. Always carry out everything you brought in.

After the ride:

Leave the trailhead as least as clean as you found it. Clean up all manure and hay before leaving and dispose of it in an appropriate manner (bag it, spread it, etc., as required).



GCTC CALSTAR Group Membership

GCTC members are eligible for membership with CALSTAR for the group membership rate of \$35.00 a year. CALSTAR is a nonprofit air ambulance provider serving Northern & Central California. Bases are located geographically to serve all communities-urban and rural. CALSTAR works cooperatively with medical facilities throughout the service area to transport patients to the most appropriate facility for their condition.

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Submitted by, Mary Johnson

	<p style="text-align: center;">THE WESTERN STATES TRAIL FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE 2013 TEVIS EDUCATIONAL & FUN RIDE JUNE 1ST & 2ND</p>
<p>Join us for a weekend of fun at the Foresthill Mill Site in Foresthill, CA. Riders will enjoy spectacular springtime flowers and gorgeous views along the scenic Western States Trail from Robinson Flat to Auburn.</p> <p>Tevis Educational & Fun Riders will enjoy the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Camping included from Thursday, May 30th through Monday, June 3rd. ◆ Qualified Speaker talks on related topics, including Melissa Ribley DVM, Rob Lydon DVM, Jamie Kerr DVM, Kevin Myers, Chuck Mather ◆ Delicious BBQ dinner and live music around the campfire by Delta Crossing ◆ Raffle drawing with many prizes, including a 2013 100 Mile Western States Trail Ride Entry <p>In addition, Tevis Educational Riders are offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A personally guided ride from Robinson Flat to Auburn, by very experienced Tevis mentors including Kathie Perry, Alyssa & Jennifer Stalley, Cory Solteau DVM, Rob Lydon DVM, Tom Johnson ◆ Opportunity to earn Tevis mileage credit toward the 300 mile requirement <p style="text-align: center;">Tevis Educational Riders \$200 for 1 day /\$300 for 2 days Tevis Fun Riders \$100 for the Weekend</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Please inquire about family discounts)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proceeds will assist the WSTF with trail maintenance and improvements on the Western States Trail</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact: The Western States Trail Foundation Terryl Reed (530) 852-2111, hraflame@hotmail.com</p>	



Gold Country Trails Council
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 9, 2013
Memorial Park Annex Building
415 Central Avenue
Grass Valley, Ca 95945

The executive board meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:07.

Members present included:

President: Helen Harvey

Vice President Melissa Ribley

Secretary: Karen Schwartz

Treasurer: Kathy Southgate

Board Members: Jeff Foltz, Don Soto, Vicki Testa

Members: Mary Johnson (Membership Chair), Robert Ribley

Absent:

Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Teri Personeni (Past President)

Helen requested approval of the March minutes. Secretary Karen Schwartz reported that no revisions were offered, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Kathy Southgate reported that the bank balance as of 3/31/13 was \$16,342.30. She reported that no billing has been received for the Grange rental.

Old Business:

In the absence of Forest Service Liaison Willie Brusin, his report was not available. The board discussed various questions and concerns regarding the proposed improvements being considered for Skillman campground by Joe Chavez of the Tahoe National Forrest, especially those which significantly would limit trailer parking spaces if barriers are installed. Parking at Skillman would be limited to two rigs per camping spot for a total of 32 rigs in the campground. Additional rigs would need to be parked in a new parking area to be developed at the far end of the campground, or in a potentially new parking area before the entrance to the campground. Several members expressed concerns that this could make events such as the GCTC Poker Ride fundraiser and other large equestrian events financially unfeasible. Vice President Melissa Ribley presented a report on a comparable campground, Dru Barner in El Dorado County, where several large events are held annually and no parking barriers are used. It was agreed that after the GCTC Skillman campground work day on 5/22/13 board members will survey the parking situation and develop recommendations for alternative parking improvements, e.g., leveling existing campsites, using gravel to delineate parking spaces, etc., to be submitted to Joe Chavez. In June several members of the GCTC executive board will meet with Joe Chavez to discuss the proposed changes.

Melissa reported that David Higbee has agreed to spread the gravel presently at Lone Grave and to spread a new delivery of gravel at the Overlook. The cost for the gravel and a roller to spread it will be \$1060.00. David Higbee's services will cost \$600. The board agreed unanimously to pay for the expenses.

Helen reported that a publicity chair and more phone tree volunteers are still needed.

New Business:

Membership Chair Mary Johnson proposed a Top Hand award to recognize members who have been outstanding volunteers, especially those who work on trails. The board approved Mary's proposal unanimously.

Helen proposed several additions to the GCTC Trail Etiquette Guidelines to address recommending safety helmets, using red ribbons to mark horses that kick, and banning stallions and ponying from day rides. Karen will send a draft of the proposed changes to Helen, who will ask Email Notifications Chair Jaede Maloslavich to send this to all members.

Karen asked if CalStar information is included in the packet of information provided for new members. Mary agreed to include it in the future. Information regarding CalStar will also be included in the May/June edition of the newsletter. Don Soto proposed that we provide members with a small laminated card with their identification information which they can carry when riding. He agreed to inform members about this at the May membership meeting.

Helen suggested we participate in the celebration of National Trails Day on 6/1/13 at Robinson's Plaza. After discussion, the board agreed to have a booth, and volunteers will be sought at the May meeting.

Helen noted that the update of the membership directory contains some errors. After discussion, the board agreed the directory will be corrected. Mary will proof read the membership directory and will send Helen the corrections. Helen will make the corrections to the current membership directory, and Vicki Testa will proof read the revised version of the membership directory, which will then be distributed to the membership.

Helen announced that the deadline for the May/June newsletter is 4/30/13. She reviewed upcoming GCTC events including the work day at Lone Grave on 4/21/13 and the day ride at Cronan Ranch on 5/5/13.

Helen asked if there were any announcements or questions. Don asked about the possibility of a crosswalk being installed across Highway 174 at Empire Mine. Mary and Helen suggested he talk with Mary Lundin, who tried to arrange this several years ago but CalTrans refused.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Schwartz, Secretary