

# Trail Times



[www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)

**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-motored users.

**Greetings GCTC members**

The year is drawing to a close and this will be my last message to you as President of GCTC. For the past two years, leading our organization has been rewarding and at times a challenging experience. The task of being President was made easier with the help and support of the Board and dedicated members because without them the business could not get done.

Our member organization is filled with numerous talented and caring individuals. Our mission statement states that "GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motored users". Looking ahead to 2018, I ask you to continue your involvement and support the GCTC mission. When a request is made for volunteers please consider stepping up.

As I look forward to my transition, I am encouraged knowing that we have a strong committed force of members who continue to dedicate time and labor for the trails on our public lands. It's you, the active members who further our mission.

See you out on the trails.

Laura Duncan, President



Minutes of the Tuesday, June 13, GCTC Board Meeting can be accessed on the GCTC Website [www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)

**THANKSGIVING DINNER**  
Come and enjoy great food and visit with fellow GCTC Members.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016**

**DINNER 6:30**

NCHI clubhouse

10600 Bubbling Wells Rd.

Grass Valley Valley

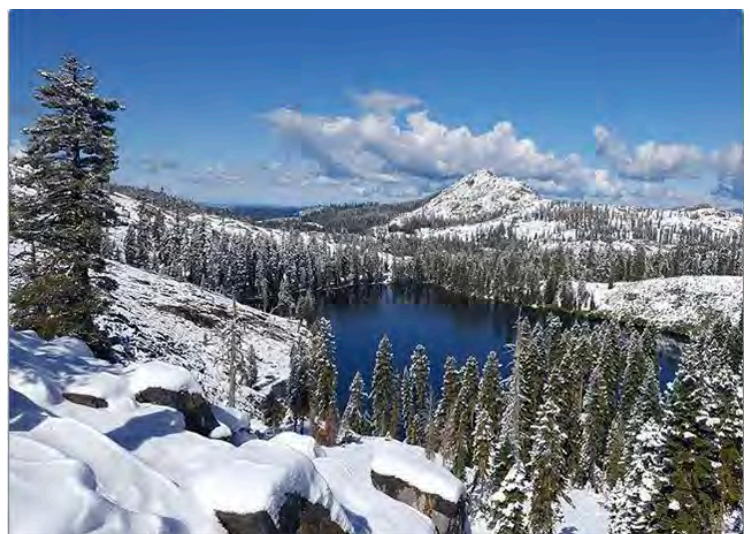
**Doors open at 5:30 p.m. to give everyone time to deliver their dishes and to socialize.**

**Program will include:**

- Top Hand Award
  - Election of 2017 board members
- Members will have an opportunity to vote on candidates nominated for 2017 Officers
- Sonja will give a short presentation on CalStar



**Happy Thanksgiving**



Earliest snowfall in over 100 years for the Tahoe National Forest. Looking NW towards Bowman Mountain.

### 2017 Gold Country Trail Council Annual Members Appreciation "Potluck"

Saturday, October 21st was a beautiful fall day in the tall pines of the High Sierras. The sun was bright, the sky was blue, and the breeze was gentle. The Lone Grave equestrian trailhead, nestled in the Tahoe National Forest near the intersection of State Highway 20 and Conservation Road, was the perfect (and very appropriate) setting for this year's Gold Country Trail Council's annual members' appreciation pot luck feast.



Once a year the GCTC, which normally congregates to maintain and build new multi-use trails in partnership with the Nevada City and Downieville Ranger Districts in the Tahoe national Forest, meets for a strictly social and fun event at the end of each summer - a trail ride, followed by a pot luck feast.

This year approximately 40 people showed up, many with their horses and horse trailers in tow. The gathering started with a trail ride on those same trails that GCTC works so hard to maintain. The ride this year was lengthened from prior years, incorporating some new trails. While no one seemed to know the exact distance they rode, participants informed me that it was about "two hours at a mosey" this year, as opposed to prior years when it was "an hour and a half at a mosey!" Everyone on the ride seemed to have a great time.




After the ride, and after horses were tended to, the people feed began. The main course was a wonderful, club supplied, Tri-Tip Bar-B-Q prepared by our own "BARBQ Barry". Also included were grilled veggie burgers, for those members so inclined. The membership really stepped up with the potluck offerings. There was an enormous spread of salads and side dishes that left no member hungry. For those with a sweet tooth, there were deserts and candy galore. I am convinced I gained several pounds from my gleeful over indulgence!

We had a short business meeting after the meal. We discussed membership, new responsibilities for some members, and the upcoming Thanksgiving Dinner. Finally, being the good stewards of the forest we are, we left the picnic area cleaner than we found it.

Submitted by Bernie Molloy



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#### Gold Country Trails Council 2017 Events Calendar

**NOVEMBER**

November 14    General Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 5:30 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

**DECEMBER**

December 12    Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

GCTC member Rachael Perry, qualified in dressage for the National Pony Club finals in Lexington, Kentucky on a horse that she had rehabilitated 4 years ago. Since they had only competed in a couple of shows previous to the finals, it was exciting that she qualified for the team. The local Pony Club horses left for Kentucky on July 13 and were to arrive two days later. Rachael and her teammates were there to greet the horses and get them settled in before the eight day show. Her team came in second overall in the dressage finals and Rachael was only 1.5 points out of first place in the individual rides.

The best part of this whole scenario is the back story on her horse, a 17 year old 16.2 hands Selle Francais with a barn name of Dinero who came in ninth in the 2013 Rolex four star competition and won his rider, Buck Davidson, a new Range Rover. Buck tried to continue riding him, but Dinero started to pull some very dirty stops and Buck came off so he was put to pasture at Buck's. Since no one was riding Dinero, his owner was looking for someone who could possibly rehabilitate him and bond with him. Rachael was recommend by another four star rider and Buck was supportive of having her work with the horse. So he was shipped from Pennsylvania to Galway in So. California. When Rachael first saw him he was in terrible shape. His feet were so bad that you could literally squeeze water out of



each hoof. His neck and back were sunken and he had a ewe neck in front. Most important, he stood in his stall and turned his back on anyone who tried to come into his space swishing his tail wildly. Rachael hit up all the vendors for free horse cookies and samples and gave them to D. Soon he was looking out his stall door for the girl with the goodies. This was the beginning to get his trust. When she finally was able to ride him, she took him to a couple of trainers for a lesson. He would not even walk over a ground pole much less jump anything. They said he would never be able to work again. So she continued on her own working with him until he regained more fitness and trust. She was able to ride him in a few three day shows but only rode him at training level until she was sure he was comfortable. He seemed happy in the work, but after several months he started to stop in the show jumping portion of the competition. Rachael talked to his owner who was happy to let her keep him at her place for the remainder of his life. Rachael knew if she returned D they would continue to try to jump him. Rachael made the decision to retire D and promised him he would never have to jump again. Rachael figured that he must have some injury that was bothering him, so she brought him to her home pasture and just let him be

a horse. He had other horses on the property, but always preferred to be in a pasture by himself because he had a history of body slamming any horse put in his pasture.

Rachael continued to work with her young mare that she bred and raised and at five years old was starting in three day events. They did well for a year and then the mare sustained an injury in her groin and Rachael put her in pasture as well to heal. She recently leased a new facility for training and teaching with several barns, indoor and outdoor arenas and lots of pasture. One day Rachael was watching Dinero out in the pasture, over the last year plus there was an overall transformation in D-- he looked fresh and energized and his whole body had changed. So she decided to move Dinero over to the new facility after 14 months of being retired. Rachael decided to hop on him and was amazed at the difference in his movement and energy and how he elevated himself in work. He seemed so happy to be working at dressage, she decided to take him to a few Pony Club dressage events. She rode him without spurs or a whip. He gets stressed if they have to do a "switch ride" and someone else gets on him or if he thinks he's going to jump. Then he tenses and chews his bit, but still performs. They did so well that her dressage instructor wanted her to ride him at third level dressage in a few shows. They did well enough to qualify for Pony Club finals in Kentucky and the state CDS finals.



He is the consummate international traveler who loaded perfectly for the two day trip to Kentucky. Rachael was there when the truck arrived with all the local horses and Dinero spotted Rachael and watched her every move. They settled the horses and he is always an easy cooperative barn guy who does not stress himself.

The last part of this story is that Rachael's mom, Cindy, recently rehomed another GCTC member's Arabian horse to be her riding horse. He is such a good boy and everyone at the barn likes him, including Dinero. Rachael was finally able to put Dino in the same pasture with the Arabian and they are best buddies able to enjoy life just being a horse.

Submitted by Gail Anderson

## November Thanksgiving Meeting Reminder

It's coming up soon- The November 14 GCTC meeting, the most popular event of the entire year. It's almost a party with just a side of business limited to elections of officers and board members and presentation of the Top Hand Award. A fundraiser raffle will also be part of the evening festivities. Everyone who buys raffle tickets supports GCTC and has a chance to win some prizes.

It's the one time of the year that our GCTC family sits down together and shares a special meal. It takes a lot of planning to produce this delicious event. A special thank you in advance to Debbie and Gail and their kitchen volunteers who have been hard at work to make it just right for you. An email will be sent out this week with requests for members to bring side dishes.

The doors open at 5.30 pm. We all look forward to seeing you.

Laura Duncan, President

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Trail Rides: Jamie Canon  
Trail Sign Manager: Sue Brusin  
Trail Workday Coordinator: Susan Donnelly  
United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazu

### Gold Country Trails - Council Officers

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**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR GCTC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018**

If you have not done so already, please renew your GCTC membership today. Your renewal and participation keeps our wonderful area trails open. Members enjoy trail rides, camping adventures, trail work opportunities with lunch provided, a great newsletter, general meetings with informative speakers, an outstanding network of information through the web site and communications, and much more.

Renew through [www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org](http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org) using Pay Pal or use the fill in form that you can print and mail, or contact membership chairperson Cathy Chase, 530-205-0900, [chasechc@gmail.com](mailto:chasechc@gmail.com)  
Membership fee: individual/family \$25.00  
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**SUPPORT GCTC AND BE SEEN AT GCTC FUNCTIONS**

**Check out the new GCTC T-Shirts**

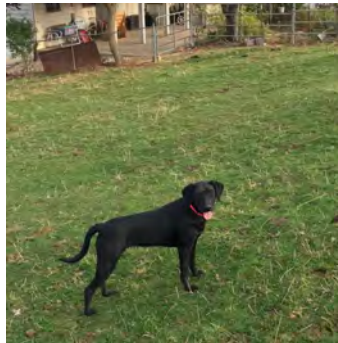
T-Shirts are available in short or long sleeves; sizes Small, Medium, Large and X-Large; in green, gold, orange and grey. Short sleeve Ts are \$10, long sleeve Ts are \$12.

They are available for sale at the General Membership Meetings, special arrangement by contacting member Lea Zivic 530-748-9960. Be sure to pick up the GCTC trailer decal for just \$1.00.



I just got a new dog. Sadie is a 7 month old Catahoula Leopard. Known mostly as hog hunting dogs, they can be trained to hunt nearly anything. The one I had before was a great cattle dog as well as a protector of my truck and home and family.

Just in case anyone else would like one, this litter did not get the desirable "leopard" spots and white, so will be sold at lower prices. Still great dogs. Sadie's mother just came back from Louisiana with a championship in her division.



I hope to take Sadie to obedience lessons so I can bring her with me on horseback rides!!

Submitted by Teri Personeni



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### United Trails Day

United Trails Day was a success again this year; due to 28 trail users (mostly GCTC!!) belonging to several local organizations. Members of Gold Country Trails Council, Bicyclists of Nevada County and Youth Bicyclists of Nevada County, Nevada County Woods Riders Motorcycle Club, and Bear Yuba Land Trust worked side by side with Forest Service personnel to perform finish work on a portion of the rerouted Pacific Crest Trail near Packsaddle Campground in the Gold Lakes Basin and re construct the horse corrals at the campground. Paul Hart, TNF was in charge of the workday, along with Nathan Alcorn from the Camptonville Forest Service Office.

The day started early with ride sharing from the Nevada Country government center for the two hour trip. Travelers were treated with a cool but sunny day and beautiful fall colors along the route. Paul gave the safety talk and a little history of the reason for the PCT reroute, which included a place to water and camp as well as separating a portion of the trail that was too close to another motorized trail. Packsaddle will also be a trailhead for the PCT, allowing hikers and equestrian's access for use. After the talk, workers headed out on the trail to perform finish work and to the corral renovation site.

Packsaddle Campground has long been a horse camping site and the corrals were in need of repair. With the help of many volunteers, the existing 4-plex was disassembled, and reconfigured into two double corrals. Most of the metal pipe corral panels and gates were in reasonable shape and were reused. Some of the posts in place were usable, but many had to be re set. Special thanks to Mike Peckham (and Laurie Sweeney) who brought a generator and jack hammer and a multitude of other tools! They enjoyed camping there with their horses for a few days as well as being a major help on the workday. The ground was quite rocky so digging holes was a challenge!

A break, with delicious food of chicken kabobs, a tasty layered dip and chips, salad, drinks and Jet Lowe of YBONC provided dessert. Many volunteers stayed to help after lunch until the corral project was completed. It was a BIG job completed by a fantastic crew. The annual United Trails Day setting allows trail users of various outdoor sports to work together and appreciate our similar goal; to enjoy the beautiful place we live and play.

Submitted by Mary Johnson



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Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



- Ann Carlini
- Susanne Carrington
- Sonja Conklin
- Andrea & Frank Fenn
- Marilyn & Wayne Forsell
- Jacque & Fon Holly
- Elicia Kamberg
- Midori Morgan
- Joanna Proctor
- Debra & Gary Richard

**PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT**

Hard work and practice paid off for GCTC member Stacy Guerrero and her handsome quarter horse partner. A slew of ribbons including blue were the payoff for their time and effort training in the arena. This success was attributed to having a talented trainer/coach, GCTC member Tia Cook owner of Triple C training, and her supportive family. A humble Stacy encourages others to follow their dreams and enjoy the journey with your horse

Submitted by Laura Duncan



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GCTC members Valerie Logsdon and Karen Schwartz on their Red Rock Ride. Valerie says, "Here are Karen and I at Brayton Point."

This area is close to the Butch Cassidy trail.



The Gold Country Trail Council would like to recognize the following individuals for their generous donations 2017-2018

- Judy Askins
- Laura Berman
- Stephanie Williams Collins & Keith Collins
- Ann & Jim Driver
- Patricia Gibbs
- Bobbi & Roger Giudicelli
- Mark Heuser
- Sharlene Kelley
- Kandace Kost-Herbert and James Herbert
- Dee Meredith
- Sherry Warren

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

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