



# 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-motorized users.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear GCTC members

To say this year has been a challenge, not just for GCTC as an organization, but for our community as a whole, is an understatement. The majority of our events have been cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions. I am happy to say, however, that due to the efforts of GCTC's USFS liaison Mary Johnson, our mission of maintaining the trails in TNF has continued despite the COVID restrictions. Mary gets our special thanks for her organizing of small, COVID compliant work parties to do the job our now cancelled group workdays would have completed. Mary, the Trail Angels, and Trial Patrol have worked together during this crisis, and identified and fixed issues with the trails. These hardworking members have our gratitude. Well done and thank you.

I would also like to say a special thanks to two more GCTC members for their invaluable efforts on behalf of the club.

First my thanks go to Past President Helen Harvey. Helen has been incredibly involved in many aspects of the GCTC's mission. While she has mostly been involved behind the scenes, her tireless efforts working with USFS management alongside Mary Johnson, and her crusade to help us curb motorized E-Bikes on the non-motorized, multi-use trails have been invaluable.

Secondly, my thanks go to Jeff Foltz. Jeff's efforts to mobilize support for the Hidden Falls equestrian trails expansion in Placer County, have been tireless. Jeff has been an army of one who has almost single handedly energized support for the expansion within the Placer and Nevada County equestrian community. His hard work has generated an

avalanche of letters, emails, and personal appearances at the various public meetings. I feel that any expansion of the equestrian trails will largely be due to Jeff's efforts. While not directly within the purview of GCTC's mission, the expansion is a benefit to those GCTC members who use the trail system already.

Since we have not had group workdays with food provided by the club, the GCTC board has unanimously voted to donate the \$500 we would have spent on food for the cancelled work days to a worthy cause: Nevada County Veterinary Response Team, a 501 C3 organization. This money will be used to help them buy a horse trailer for evacuating animals during emergencies. GCTC wants to be part of this effort.

Finally, I need to address our annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner and general meeting that was scheduled for next month. The Board has decided that it is unlikely we will be able to have it, due to COVID 19. While some groups in our area are starting to have events despite COVID restrictions, GCTC will comply with guidelines set down by the State of California and the Nevada County Health Department. As of this writing, neither permit the kind of meeting necessary for our Thanksgiving dinner/meeting. The GCTC board will come up with a plan for the voting that generally is done at the November meeting. More to come, so stay tuned!

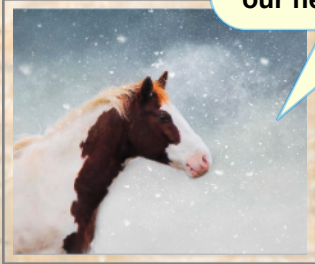
In closing, I would personally like to say, stay safe and stay healthy.

~ **Bernard Molloy, President**



Jaime Nevarez  
 Marjorie McCoy  
 Lynn Reese  
 Shelly Stewart & Any Burton  
 Eric Burkland & Lucy Kataoka  
 Jennifer Eppler  
 Christine Haas  
 Bonnie Coyne  
 Toni & Jeff Owen  
 Terry Hastings  
 Ashley & Thomas Gearhart  
 Marcia Sanchez

**Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!**








**NOVEMBER**  
 10 Tues. GCTC Elections  
 TBD

**DECEMBER**  
 7 Tues. Board Meeting - 7 p.m.  
 Teleconference

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

**Leaders**

Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy  
 Communications, Web Site and Social Media:  
 Jaede Miloslavich [jaede@sbbmail.com](mailto:jaede@sbbmail.com)  
 Forest Service Liaison: Mary Johnson [mjshasta@aol.com](mailto:mjshasta@aol.com)  
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 Historian: OPEN  
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 Poker Ride Fundraiser: Susan Donnelly  
 Program Director: Helen Crawford  
 Publicity: Teresa Dietrich  
 Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning  
 Skillman Water Manager: Barry Vaccaro  
 Skillman Campground: Elicia Kamberg  
 Sunshine: Andrea Duncan [sendmailtoandi@gmail.com](mailto:sendmailtoandi@gmail.com) (510) 295-7600  
 Tool Cache Manager: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro  
 Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

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 Board Member: Jamie Canon 530-265-8326 [tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net)  
 Board Member: Karen Hayden 530-575-5808

Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2020 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website [www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org](http://www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org)

**Laura Berman**

**Homes-Ranches-Land**  
 Broker Associate BRE#934015

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES



**YOU'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME!!**

Did you know GCTC membership renewals were due September 1st? **If you have not already done so, please renew your membership now.** The membership fee is \$25 for an individual. A household/family membership is also only \$25.

The easiest way to renew is to go to [www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org](http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org) and click on the "JOIN US" tab. (Be sure you are on the Membership page, not the Donation page when you are renewing.) You can pay by credit card or PayPal, and you can sign the liability release online.

**If your renewal is not received by December 31, you will no longer receive all the great GCTC benefits – among them the member-only email notifications, since you will be removed from the list.**

If you joined GCTC in 2020 on or after June 1, your membership extends through September 2021 and you do not need to renew now. **If any of your contact information has changed, however, please fill out a new GCTC membership form or email changes to [chasehc@gmail.com](mailto:chasehc@gmail.com).**

If you have questions about the status of your membership or anything else related to membership, do not hesitate to contact Cathy Chase at 530-205-0900 or [chasehc@gmail.com](mailto:chasehc@gmail.com).



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**COMPLIMENTARY PLAN REVIEW**

Medicare Open Enrollment began October 15, 2020. Now is your chance to review your coverage and see if you can save money next year.

Wondering what's new this Open Enrollment? Starting in 2021, some plans may offer a month's supply of insulin for as low as \$35.

Catherine Pegeron with Coast to Coast Health Insurance Solutions, LLC (see business card above) is offering a complimentary review of your plans for next year. There are new plan options available for 2021.

She is also available to help if you are turning 65 or retiring and need information to get yourself set up with Medicare.

**ALL ABOUT WELLS**

**Evelyn Soltero, ms**  
Geoscientist

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**Alexis Brasier**  
Trail Horse Trainer, Western Riding Instructor,  
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## BIKE TRAIL THROUGH HARMONY RIDGE MARKET PICNIC AREA

A heads-up if you ride the Lone Grave trails and make a stop at Harmony Ridge Market and tie up your horses for lunch or refreshment in the picnic area. The neighbors next to the market have installed a fence to keep people and bikes off their property. With that access removed, cyclists have cut a new bike trail below the market, right through the horse hitching and picnic table area. The palomino horse in the photo is hitched to a tree with his rear feet on the new bike trail. In fact, in October while the GCTC patrol was there eating their lunches, four cyclists rode through, right behind that horse.



GCTC will be asking for a relocated bike trail for cyclists to circumnavigate this area, to keep cyclists and horses safe.



In the meantime, just be aware of cyclists who may use that trail while your horses are tied to the hitching rings, and kindly let them know of the possible danger of riding up behind horses.

*Photos by Suzanne Vaccaro*

### Make it so horses and equestrians are **ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Please do not clean out your trailer at staging areas. Carry a manure fork and scoop up your horse droppings and place them in your trailer to dispose of at home.



LEAVE ONLY HOOV PRINTS



## CHANGES TO CASTLE PEAK PCT SECTION NEAR PETER GRUBB HUT



This summer, Jamie Canon, Suzanne Vaccaro, Helen Crawford, Caren Wallington, Nikki Julian-Vazquez and I completed several rides on sections of the Pacific Crest Trail close to I-80 in the Tahoe National Forest. All of the rides have been great adventures with fantastic scenery and a deep appreciation for this area we call home.

One of the sections we ride frequently is on the Castle Peak side. Recently it was a surprise to find some changes to the trail that none of us had heard about. The section of trail beyond the Peter Grubb hut at the entrance to the meadow has been blocked. A new section of trail veers off to the left into the forest. There is a new footbridge spanning the creek crossing. Continuing along the new section it rejoins the trail at the far end of the meadow. There is new signage indicating the changes.

The information we read states the creek and meadow are sensitive habitat for the Yellow-legged frog. Dogs are to be leashed and kept out. Horses may no longer drink from the creek or graze in the meadow, as they are also banned. Our horses were not thrilled with the changes. However, we found another grazing area for them and we continued on down the trail. The work was done by the U.S. Forest Service.

This is a great ride and we encourage others to get out and enjoy our beautiful backyard.

*Submitted by Laura Duncan*

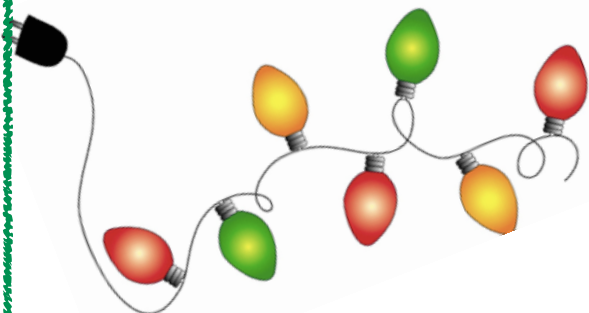


### **Members can Plug In to GCTC and Advertise their Business in the GCTC Newsletter**

Place your business card advertisement in the GCTC Newsletter for just \$5 per issue, or \$25 for the entire calendar year (6 issues).

The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on the GCTC website.

To place your ad, contact GCTC Newsletter Editor:  
Pamela Warmack [cows2horses@gmail.com](mailto:cows2horses@gmail.com)




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A tree was down blocking the Dascombe Trail west of Rock Creek Road. Thank you so much, Barry and Suzanne Vaccaro for removing it.

*Great job!*

**The Sharper Edge**  
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More signs being installed near, and around, Skillman Campground by the Vaccaros and the Brusins. Signs hand-crafted by Barry Vaccaro.

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**TEACHER:**  
 GIVE ME A SENTENCE USING THE WORDS DEFENSE, DEFEAT, AND DETAIL.

**STUDENT:**  
 WHEN A HORSE JUMPS OVER DEFENSE, DEFEAT GOES BEFORE DETAIL.

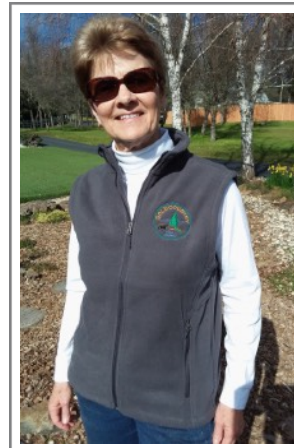
**A FABULOUS GIFT**



**For that special someone,** GCTC items are available in clothing, hats, and now water bottles. Clothing comes in various colors and sizes, and are available in short sleeve (\$12) or long sleeve (\$15) T-shirts; jackets and hoodies (\$35); fleece vests (\$30); ball caps (\$12); 20.9 oz. bottles (\$15); and GCTC trailer decals for just \$1.00.  
Cash or checks are accepted.



You can get them in time for the holidays – or anytime, by contacting GCTC Apparel Manager, Lea Zivic @ 530-748-9960.



**GIVES \$\$\$**



Yes, the season of upon us! **Did you know when you purchase items on Amazon, you can also benefit GCTC?** Have some stuff in your Amazon cart? Be sure to put this URL into your address line: [www.smile.amazon.com/](http://www.smile.amazon.com/). Then, when you check out, a donation comes to GCTC!

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## SAFE TRAILERING ~ TRAILER BREAKAWAY SYSTEM

Here in our area, we're often fortunate enough to be able to horseback ride for most of the year. That's one reason it's so important to stay on top of trailer maintenance. This information comes from the the Horse Trailer Accessory Store website.

**The Trailer Breakaway System** is designed to bring a trailer safely to a stop by activating the electric brakes on the trailer, should the trailer become disconnected from the tow vehicle while driving. You must have operational electric brakes on the trailer, the 12-volt battery must be charged, and the switch cable must be attached to the vehicle.

**It is very important to have your breakaway system working**, as there are several ways the trailer can become disconnected from the tow vehicle. An accident or a mistake in hitching the coupler to the ball can cause the safety chains or ball mount to break or come out of the receiver. If that happens, the heavy trailer with your animals in it could roll into oncoming traffic, leave the roadway, or smash into your tow vehicle. If your breakaway system is working, the second the trailer becomes disconnected, the pin pulls out of the switch & engages the electric brakes ---and the trailer STOPS. This gives you 10-25 minutes to chock the tires and stabilize the trailer before the battery charge depletes.



**Battery:** At the front of your trailer is a black plastic case that holds a 12-volt battery. There are two wires connected to the battery at the top. One wire is the "ground" wire. The second wire (hot) connects to the breakaway switch. If there is a third wire, it is hooked to a small charger that charges the battery from the tow vehicle through the trailer plug. If there are only two wires, there is no way the battery can be recharged from the tow vehicle, and you must charge it by hooking an electric or solar battery charger to it. Or, you can install a small maintenance battery charger inside the battery box.

These 12-volt batteries often have a life of only two years, and since new batteries are not always fully charged, you must charge them before connecting the system. If you have a charger installed, it can charge the battery by plugging the trailer plug into a running tow vehicle for twenty minutes. Check the battery charge frequently. The entire battery can be depleted if the pin is pulled out of the switch for 20-25 minutes, if it's fully charged. If it's not fully charged, it can deplete in 10 minutes or less. When checking the charge on the battery, first disconnect the trailer plug or you will be checking the tow vehicle's battery charge instead.

**Switch:** The breakaway switch is wired to the battery in the battery case & is mounted between the battery and the tow vehicle. It contains a pin that is attached to a wire cable, 44-48 inches long.

**Pin & Cable:** The pin must be inserted into the switch, facing the rear of the tow vehicle, with the attached wire cable in a direct path to where you secure it to the tow vehicle. The wire cable must be fastened to the tow vehicle independently. Never loop it through the safety chains! If the cable is not attached to the tow vehicle, the breakaway system will not work in case the trailer becomes disconnected from the tow vehicle. Pulling the pin out ANYTIME depletes the battery, and that's why we recommend clipping the cable to the tow vehicle with it's own clip. We never pull the pin from the switch, except to check if the switch is working or if the battery is charged.



*Happy—and safe—trailerling!*



**DEADLINE!**

Just a reminder: in the midst your holiday fun, please keep in mind articles, letters, and photos are due by the 15th of the month before the newsletter issue to Pamela at [cows2horses@gmail.com](mailto:cows2horses@gmail.com)!

**The next newsletter deadline:  
Dec. 15**



*Thank You*

to EACH and EVERY GCTC Member  
who contributed to the success of the club and its mission in 2020!

Your time, talents, and generosity  
are sincerely appreciated!

