Trail Times



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.

Greetings GCTC Members!

September is here, a transition time for cooler weather, and preparing for the winter months ahead. I admit I welcome the autumn months and the tasks associated with winter preparation. At the top of my winter preparation list is finding my hay source for the year. I enjoy the process of talking with the growers, kicking the bales and negotiating the price. I'm encouraged with favorable reports on the price of hay this year. Certainly a simple task but one that I enjoy.

Your board and members have been working hard this summer. Not all of the work has been simple. There have been numerous meetings with representatives from USFS and BONC. Some of the topics covered include Hoot Trail, Skillman, signage, maps and safety for trail users. The encouragement that I want to share with you is that I believe we are all on the same page regarding trail safety and enjoying the trail experience. Without a doubt this will be a continuing dialogue now and into the future as our public trails become more popular.

We are also working with USFS on preparing a contract that would describe our relationship, responsibilities, expectations, and allowed uses that support equestrian recreational activities in the Tahoe National forest. This contract will be very useful for new USFS personnel when reviewing GCTC proposed annual activities.

One thought I would like to leave with you is understanding how much we impact each other in our daily encounters. Our trail world has become more crowded especially on the popular trails. It is likely that we will encounter other trail users. Sometimes we may have a close call without there being malevolent intention. I would encourage you to practice some restraint and not resort to anger. A simple smile can dissipate the tensions. Our trail world is a changing landscape that we cannot completely control. However we can become part of the solution through participation and vigilance. It's not likely that your board can cover everything. When you have suggestions be prepared to offer action plans to address your concerns. We need all of you, our prized members, to participate and support our mission.

I look forward to seeing you at our September 12 meeting. Sincerely,

Your President, Laura Duncan

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. Nevada County Horsemen Clubhouse 10600 Bubbling Wells Grass Valley, CA

Speaker: Dawn Kerr. She will be speaking on the proper driving techniques and drivers license for towing horse trailers.



We have been riding above the heat up at Robinson Flat this summer. It is a Tevis staging area and has very nice trailer parking. There is a pleasant 1 1/2 hour loop trail from there with fabulous views, and there are also much longer rides to be explored. (Bonnie in the photo is my Morgan mare.)

Submitted by Stephanie Collins



Minutes of the Tuesday, June 13, GCTC Board Meeting can be accessed on the GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



Gold Country Trails Council 2017 Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

September 10 Nevada City Constitution Day Parade

September 12 General Meeting – 7 p.m.

NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

September 21-24 Draft Horse Classic Fair

(non GCTC event)

OCTOBER

October 10 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

NCHI clubhouse, Grass Vallev

October 14 United Trails Day, Leader: Irv Mazur

October 21 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ

Leader: Debbie Molloy

October 28 Lone Grave Ride/BBQ (rain date)

Leader: Debbie Molloy NOVEMBER

November 14

p.m.

General Mtg./Thanksgiving Feast - 5:30

NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley

DECEMBER

December 12 Board Meeting - 7 p.m.

NCHI clubhouse, Grass Valley



www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org

Leaders

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Communications, Web Site and Social Media:

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Forest Service Liaison: Willie Brusin

Historian: OPEN

Hospitality: Gail Plakos and Maryann Jorgenson

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Tool Storage & Maintenance: Suzanne & Barry

Vaccaro

Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

Trail Workday Coordinator: Susan Donnelly

United Trails Work Day: Irv Mazur

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SEPTEMBER IS RENEWAL MONTH FOR GCTC MEMBERSHIP

Information on Page 4, GCTC Membership Renewal Form and Release Liability Form are available for download on GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

GCTC Loney Meadows workday 2017

A couple of trips up to my favorite spot and planning was done for the workday which was July 15 this year.

Several members went up early; Lori Moniz, Gigi Lawton, Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro and Cathy Scott scouted and worked on the trails that needed some lovin'. Mike Peckham and Laurie Sweeney couldn't make our date work for them, so went up a week early and did some trail maintenance on their own. We all managed to make it over the rocky patch that NID put on the road where it had washed out and also avoided several very large potholes in the road. In spite of the road conditions 12 hardy souls made it to camp.

The weather was perfect and the bugs were not out yet. I put out a bee trap and didn't catch a single one! How nice to have dinner when it was still light out and not have to share with the bees!!





We started out Saturday morning and divided into groups going in all directions. The East side of the meadow had some trees across the trail as did the connector trail to Bowman Mountain. The upper Bull Pen trail that we rerouted last year at the Rock Lakes/Culbertson intersection was a disaster!!

There is always brush and branches to be cut back and members did a great job. Since I had recently had my truck painted Val and I went to the entrance road between Bowman Road and Black's Cabin and trimmed back all the brush and branches we could from horseback and then got off and trimmed some more! Lil and Little B offered to help, too. LOL

Volunteer workers included Willie and Sue Brusin and their granddaughter Sabrina; Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro; Cathy Scott; Sharon Silver; Carol Scurria and Merv Krill; Charles Green, Valerie Personeni [my granddaughter] and me.

After a few hours all trails were cleared and we were ready for lunch and a trail ride!! Cathy Scott insisted on staying out to continue working on the road between the Dairy and Bowman Mountain. My Granddaughter Valerie and I rode up that way and discovered Cathy hacking away at the buckbrush [white thorn] which has nearly grown across the road. I understand that the USFS will send a crew up there to clear that. We even found a bit of snow at the Watch Tree. Only saw a couple of watches and they were lying on a rock; none nailed to the tree.





Saturday night we gathered at Brusin's camp for our feast. I've always said GCTC has some of the best cooks and once again I was proven right!! After dinner Valerie brought out the marshmallows and sweet Willie fired up his BBQ so she could make S'mores. Yumm. That girl knows how to roast a marshmallow!! With no bugs or bees to bother us we had a nice evening of company and conversation.

Sunday morning most of us went out for one last ride and then the drive home to real life and hot weather.

Thank you all for your participation!

Submitted by Teri Personeni

IT IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It is time to renew your commitment to keeping our wonderful area trails open for our enjoyment! Your support and participation are both needed to continue the purpose of 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." While accomplishing that task, members also enjoy fun trail rides, interesting informed speakers, social gatherings, a great newsletter, trail information, delicious lunches at trail work days, and wonderful opportunities to camp and ride, all in the company of dedicated, fun loving, hard working, like minded people.

Membership fee is \$25 for an individual a family. (Household/family membership: One or two persons over the age of 18 and children up to the age of 18 sharing one address)

If you joined GCTC in 2017 on or after June 1, your membership extends through September of 2018. You do not need to renew your membership at this time, but if any of your information has changed please fill out a new membership form on the GCTC website or email the changes to mjshasta@aol.com.

Send in your 2018 application today! Don't miss any of the fun! Renewals can be paid online, no PayPal account needed, at www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org. Click on the "JOIN US" tab.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Johnson at 530-477-8501 or mjshasta@aol.com



Picture of the sign put up by BYLT at Rice's Crossing. GCTC made a contribution towards developing equestrian friendly trails and trail head parking.

GCTC NEEDS A POKER RIDE MANAGER FOR NEXT YEAR (2018)

So who would like to step up and be the next Poker Ride Manager for 2018?

HISTORY

Jeff Foltz has managed the Poker Ride for the last two years and wants to step down and pass the reins to a GCTC member who would like to take on GCTC's annual fund raiser and make it their own. You can share the enjoyment knowing you (along with a supporting crew) helped raise money for Gold Country Trails Council.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TRAILS

All the money goes to maintain the trails and camp grounds we all enjoy. There is always lots of help from the members to make the Poker Ride a success - we just need a trail boss to head it up and coordinate the activities.

EVERYTHING IS ALL IN PLACE

It used to be that the Poker Ride Manager had to do everything by hand, but no longer! With online Pay Pal registration and campground reservations, the Poker Ride has been made so much easier. There is a compete check list of things to do along with the positions that need to be filled. Jaede does all the artwork, social media, email notifications, web design and online entry forms for you. Your club members and volunteer managers direct food, cards, parking, prizes, etc. for you. Jeff will help you with everything you need. YOU can make the difference by heading it up!

MENTORSHIP, you aren't alone!

Jeff will provide loads of support to the new Poker Ride Manager to insure a successful transition.

WHAT and WHO IS NEEDED

The Poker Manager will need a computer to keep track of Pay Pal applications and setting up a Gmail account for Poker Ride applications (not difficult, Jeff will show you how).

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU?

Without a Poker Ride Manager GCTC will not be able to put on a Poker Ride next year. This is GCTC's largest fund raiser.

CALENDAR AND INFORMATION

The Poker Ride is normally scheduled for the first Saturday in June. In 2018 the date would be June 2, 2018. The Board would like to have a Poker Ride Manager selected by September 2017.

If interested, please contact President Laura Duncan for question about the position and responsibilities and you can contact Jeff Foltz, last years Poker Ride Manager.

Laura Duncan

<<u>ldhorses@sbbmail.com</u>>

(530) 788-2363



Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



Rowena Ales Erin Bartram Heidi Hansen Chervl Herr Ben Hoover Dawn Humburg Kristen Westhouse

Laura Lester Miriam Lytle Margaret Mickelson Corrie Silva Clint & Caren Wallington

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GRASS VALLEY FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Hi GCTC Members, Happy July! This was the biggest, loudest and most attended parade we've done as the GCTC so far. For me, it was the BEST! So many people cheered us on and some even yelled out, "Thanks for the trails!" as we went by. And please take note of what an incredibly beautiful and diverse group of horses we rode... we definitely looked good and it was a wonderful GCTC representation. And it was FUN! 8 Riders: Sabrina Desha, Teresa Dietrich,

Stacy Graham, Charles Green, Linda Lanzoni, Lisa Swerdlow, Suzanne Vaccaro, Nikki Vasquez

2 Carrying the Banner: Maryann Jorgenson Kathy Scott

1 Pooper Scooper: Barry Vaccaro

Submitted by Linda Lanzoni



Fun Driving Clinic

I joined Golden Empire Equestrians (driving club) in January and would like to share a fun clinic the club put on recently. You may not know that we have several GCTC members who are also members of GEE.

On July 8th, Golden Empire Equestrians (GEE) and West Coast Equine Sports Therapy (WCEST) put on an Intro to Driving clinic at WCEST. This included driving demos with Miniatures, Light Horses and The big Drafts. We had over 40 participants

The day started off with breakfast and registration... followed by a presentation given by Allyn Carman on the "fun and diversity of driving".

In the arena Allyn explained the following types of driving with actual demos in the arena: Mini driving, Competitive driving, Pleasure Driving and Draft Horse Driving.

After we had a wonderful lunch catered by Blue Cow Deli we had all the participants' breakup into four groups and rotated them to each station every ½ hour. Our four stations consisted of: Hands on ground driving Minis, Draft Horse driving with Alyssa Mayo and two horse hitch wagon rides with Nattie Book, Harnessing a Light Horse, and a discussion on the many types of driving vehicles, which we had a few on display, antique to modern.

We ended the day with a Q and A session... I think the participants had a fun filled day!

Learning to drive has been so much fun and opened up a whole new world with horses for me...

Submitted by Rose Massara



Mini Driving, Marcia Patterson

Draft Driving, Alyssa Mayo

Competitive Driving, Ginny



Pleasure Driving, Nancy Rojo





LEAVE ONLY HOOF PRINTS



My Herstory with Horses

At the age of three my father took me to a small amusement park in Los Angeles called Kiddieland. They had ponies that walked, trotted and cantored in circles for 10 cents a ride. I was immediately "in LOVE" with these fabulous four-leggeds. Growing up in L.A. with working-class parents, riding horses was an obsession I could only occasionally satisfy but I did everything I could - from mucking stalls to leading trail rides to exercising other people's horses - just so I could be around my wonderful friends.

I was fifty years young before I could afford to buy my first horse, Sullivan's Travels, a beautiful buckskin Appendix Quarter Horse. Two years later, while living in the Oakland Hills where I boarded Sulli, my wife and I bought our ranch in Chicago Park. Since then we have had up to six horses, including two Paint foals that we bred from our two mares. For the last twelve years, my wonderful horses have blessed my life in innumerable ways.

When I was stricken with a terrible cancer diagnosis four years ago, I could barely walk but I would go and sit in the loafing area and my horses would gather around me, inviting me to share their unconditional love and healing energy. They have a way of knowing when they are needed to heal whatever is causing an inbalance in my life. At first, I wasn't sure if I would ever be able to ride again but within two months of radiation treatment I was back in the saddle and thrilled!

From my bond with my horses and their tremendous compassion and patience with us two-leggeds, I returned to my other great love, the Piano, and composed music that I have recorded on my new debut CD aptly named "Equus Rising". I dedicate this compilation of music to Sullivan's Travels who changed my life in more ways than I can say but all for the better.



I will be performing these original compositions live in concert at St. Joseph's Cultural Center on Saturday, September 23rd at 8:00 PM. My CD is available now on Amazon and iTunes and will also be available for sale at the concert. I am honored to be sharing the stage that night with the award-winning group "Gypsy Soul" on their 20th Anniversary Tour! Tickets are available at Briar Patch Co-op, online at GypsySoul.com and on my website LisaSwerdlowPiano.com.

I know horses have contributed greatly to all of our lives and continue to each and every day. There is no bond that is more intimate and more dynamic than the one we share with our beautiful "beasts"!

Submitted by Lisa Swerdlow

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

Robert and Melissa Ribley

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.



SEDUCENTE RANCH

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- * Stalls with turnout, semi-private pastures and field board.
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 For more information contact Leslie Prevost at 301-742-0534 or lprevost1964@gmail.com

Silver Lake Adventure

In early August Carol and I spent a few days riding at Silver Lake. We stayed at Plasse's Resort located about 100 miles from Grass valley and situated at the south end of the lake. If you want to avoid most Tahoe traffic take the Mormon Emigrant Trail off Highway 50 and then go north on Highway 88 for five miles to enter the resort. Be advised that signs for the horse camp area are somewhat suboptimal so drive slowly and don't hesitate to ask folks for directions (are you listening all you alpha males?)

The campsites were full but we were able to camp in the meadow adjacent to the reserved sites. It's quite large and, most importantly, fairly flat, making set up relatively easy. There are 22 equestrian sites that can be reserved, as well as many other amenities: general store, restaurant, dumping station, propane station etc. Check the resort's web page for details (http://www.plassesresort.com/). We were able to piggy back off equestrians in the reserved sites to use their water spigots. We brought a splitter and 50 ft of collapsible hose (works great, light weight and easy to store). There are very few trees to highline and we saw all other types of horse confinement: trailer ties, ground ties, hobbling and portable corrals.

Weather was very cooperative being about 70-80 Fahrenheit during the day and 40-50 at night, not surprising because the camp sits at about 7300 feet elevation.

A big caveat is that trails are very poorly marked, if at all. We were very fortunate in that a fellow camper shared with us a map of the area with superimposed "trails" made with a GPS. We input the coordinates into our own units to (roughly) follow the trails. Going north from the camp site you can ride the east shore of Silver Lake and go on to Granite Lake (aptly named because most of the "trail" is over granite, elevation about 7600 ft.). Shoes or boots are strongly recommended. Most of the ride is relatively accessible if your horse is fit and watches where they put their feet. At Granite Lake there are natural outcroppings of platforms into the lake giving easy access to horses for water. We tried to "make" a trail from Granite Lake to Thunder Mountain (elevation about 9400 ft., provides a view of Silver Lake on the west and Kirkwood Ski Resort to the east) but had to put it off for another day with more daylight.

If you'd prefer more forest and meadows than mountains, ride south from the camp. Here you can also stop at Hidden Lake or Mud Lake (again, aptly named). These alpine meadows are absolutely stunning and well

worth the ride. Going up Connie's Slide we were able to get to the ridge near Highway 88 (elevation about 8200 ft.) that provides a great overlook of Silver Lake. Be warned this is a popular spot for off road ATVs and mountain bikers but everyone we met was extremely considerate. They'd stop when they saw us and, if signaled to advance, did so in a very slow (and relatively quiet) manner. Also along this ridge there is a natural rock formation with an opening (Porthole Gap) that provides an interesting framing of the lake.

All the fellow equestrians we met were friendly and helpful adding to a very enjoyable experience.

We plan to return to take another crack at reaching Thunder Mountain and checking out some of the other nearby areas like Blue Lake and Red Lake. Stay tuned.

Submitted by Merv Kril



PERFORMANCE

Deborah Guelinas

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Little Lasier Meadow

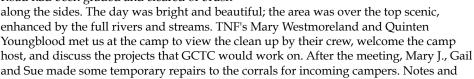
The rainy/snowy winter delayed GCTC annual work outing to Little Lasier Meadow from the end of June until the end of July. Although disappointing, it was worth the wait! Blue skies, green meadows, flowers of all colors, and water in the rivers and creeks greeted GCTC members at LLM. The weather was fabulous! Even the rain shower on Sunday... no dust on the drive out!

As in most of the GCTC events, a degree of planning is involved, and the LLM work outing is no exception. Contact is

made early in the year with Tahoe National Forest's Mary Westmorland to arrange for the date, so that the campground can be reserved for GCTC. This year, as the original work date in June approached, calls were made to check on access to the camp, which was hampered by late snow. It was decided to move the workday to an available date in July.



The reconnaissance trip to Little Lasier Meadow was made June 30, by Mary and Gail. The TNF workers had recently been able to get to the camp and clear all of the trees that had bent or fallen during the winter, the camp host, Sue (new this year) had moved in, and Pass Creek Loop Road had been graded and cleared of brush



work project materials were listed for the work

weekend.

The next steps involved gathering needed supplies, loading them on a trailer and transporting them to Little Lasier Meadow prior to the work weekend. Mary, with

the help of Tom Fletcher met Thursday afternoon, hitched up the trailer (use courtesy of GCTC member Katie Guilliat) and picked up the supplies along with 20 portable corral panels. The next day, Mary, accompanied by Barry and Suzanne Vaccaro, transported and unloaded the supplies and set up the portable corrals at LLM, which could be left there under the watchful eye of the camp host.

The next week GCTC members began arriving at LLM to enjoy some time before the weekend... riding and "relaxing!" True to form, dedicated GCTC members began clearing trails so that riders who came later could negotiate the trails with out hindrance. It is very rewarding to be able to ride and enjoy the trail that you previously cleared!

It was great to welcome the GCTC members as they arrived, direct them to their campsites, help pump water for their thirsty horses and let everyone take a deep breath and "drink in" the beauty of the area. GCTC members were ready to work on Saturday as they listened to their assigned chores. A great deal was accomplished, including building another permanent corral, repairing the wooden corral and installing 2 new gates, brush clearing the connector trail, remarking and clearing both the Pass Trail and the Blue Trail. GCTC members were busy bees going several different directions! WOW! Sounds like a lot of work, but many hands made it happen, allowing ample time on horseback.



We all reconvened Saturday evening for the pot luck feast, recounting of the days rides, past LLM moments, (early history-remember the cow? -borrowed blanketshuge trees cleared-unsurpassed wild flowers-cold creeks-tall fish tales-enjoying the peacefulness), stories of adventures, friendship and laughter. The trip to LLM is an opportunity to greatly enjoy the mission of GCTC. See you next year!!

Thank you to the 2017 participants:

Gail Anderson, Sue & Willie Brusin, Krista Ericson, Tom Fletcher, Merv Kril, Mary Johnson, Gigi Lawton, Mary & Worth Lundin, Irv Mazur, Bev Milke-Hillar, Lori Moniz-Waddell, Teri & Valerie Personeni, Gail Plakos, Mike Peckham, Carol Scurria, Laurie Sweeney, Sharon Silver, Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro, Laura & Mike Zieman

Submitted by Mary Johnson



TEVIS UPDATED RESULTS:

8th! Ribley, DVM, Melissa -12:02AM
Auburn Staging Area - IN Finished
13th! Rowe, Michele - 01:42AM
Staging Area - IN Finished
40th! Drost, Natalie - 04:09AM
Auburn Staging Area - IN Finished
87th! Farkas, Molly - 05:00AM
Auburn Staging Area - IN Finished

Our Tevis riders do what they always do...they prepare, they work hard, they RIDE through the mountains, and into the night.

Congrats to all the riders, but especially to this group. To finish is to win, and no where is this more appropriate than Tevis.





Lone Grave Workday

A big THANK YOU to Laura Duncan and Jeff Foltz for a fantastic LUNCH. Also, a sincere nod to member Bobbi Giudicelli, CULTURE SHOCK YOGURT, for delicious brownies. Wow.

VOLUNTEERS

The following toughed it out on a very dusty trail, working their tails off while laughing and socializing at the same time. Fun. THANK YOU

The Sierra Trailblazers (PHOTO) were our special guests. They were very enthusiastic about the work and ready to join again.

Leaders: Irv Mazur, Suzanne Vaccaro, Barry Vaccaro

Sue & Willie Brusin, Vicki Testa, Lea Zivic, Teri Personeni Ginny Paschke, Charles Green, Tom Fletcher, Ginny Dix Nikki Julian Vasquez, Laura Duncan, Virginia Lewis Jeff Foltz, Julie Marin Korich, Dee Dee Carlini, Gail Plakos, Sharon Silver, Barbara Hobbs Michelle Brown (Sierra Trailblazer) Bette Pierce (Sierra Trailblazer) Peggy Davidson (Sierra Trailblazer)

Submitted by Susan Donnelly



Cowboy Dressage Clinic Hosted by Hidden Gait Ranch Sponsored by Northern California Walking Horse Association

On July 15 and 16 the local Northern California Walking Horse Association sponsored a two day Cowboy Dressage Clinic at the beautiful Hidden Gait Ranch in Grass Valley, California. Cowboy Dressage is a rapidly growing show discipline that focuses on the relationship between horse and rider with an emphasis on the principle of soft feel. The first day focused on the basics of straightness, transitions, bends and stops, which are all elements of riding the tests and good horsemanship. The second day focused on improving the elements and then putting principles to purpose in riding a test. The clinic was taught by one of the founding members of the group, Lyn Ringrose-Moe, and was attended by 12 riders. The majority of the horses were gaited breeds, but in keeping with the inclusive philosophy of the discipline, non-gaited horse and rider teams were encouraged to, and did participate. Fun was had by all.

If you're interested in learning more about the Northern California Walking Horse Association, you can find their page on Face Book. If you're interested in learning more about Cowboy Dressage, visit Cowboy Dressage World.com. The Hidden Gait Ranch, located in Grass Valley, is run and owned by Nicole Schoppe and her husband David Korn. Nicole and David not only train and board all breeds of horses, with an emphasis on the gaited breeds, they also train riders. If you'd like more information about their programs, you can contact Nicole @ entireequine@gmail.com.

