

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.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear GCTC membership:

As our COVID-19 “new normal” continues, the rapid growth of the virus last month in California slowed. However, Nevada County and Placer county are still seeing increases in cases. With that in mind, the board has decided to continue the policy of cancelling meetings, events, and large group workdays. This is aligned with the State's policy of no large group gatherings. In all likelihood, we may be cancelling the annual Thanksgiving potluck. While the final decision has not been made, it is likely that the State ban may still be in place.

We have shifted to a totally different model to achieve the GCTC mission of maintaining the trails. Small group work crews of 3-5 people, using social distancing, are getting the work done. Mary Johnson and her workers are continuing the club's work in these small groups. Kudos to those hardworking members. Be sure to monitor the GCTC official emails to keep up to date with the latest information. It is the involvement of our dedicated members that keeps us going and achieving the goals

of our mission statement, “an organization committed to develop, maintain, and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users.”

I would like to welcome and thank GCTC member Andi Duncan, who has assumed the vital role of GCTC club Secretary.

Finally, a word about membership. Former GCTC Secretary Cathy Chase has resumed the position as GCTC Membership Chair. This is a vital position, and we thank her for stepping back into her role to keep track of our members. Please note, it is renewal time, as our fiscal year is September 1st to August 31st every year. Take the time right now to go online and renew today!

In closing, stay safe, stay positive, and stay close to family!

~ Bernard Molloy, President



**YES,
it's that
time again!**



**Renew
today!
(see pg. 3)**

ANNOUNCING NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND NEW SECRETARY

Cathy Chase is going to resume her previous position as Membership Chair. As a consequence, she is unable to also continue as Secretary. Andi Duncan has graciously consented to be the new Secretary.

Cathy Chase's service as past Secretary is definitely appreciated. Her resumption of the position of Membership Chair is very timely, and will facilitate people renewing their membership for the coming fiscal year.

Andi Duncan's flexibility and willingness to take over the Secretary position will make these changes a seamless transition.

Thanks again to both Cathy and Andi.



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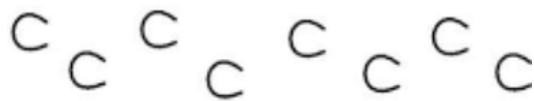
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Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2020 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website
www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



Cathy Chase is back in her role as membership chair.

Thank you, Cathy, for reassuring this important position.

SEPTEMBER IS RENEWAL MONTH FOR GCTC MEMBERS

Have you ever wondered why we renew in September instead of on a calendar year (January-December) basis? The answer is that according to the Bylaws of Gold Country Trails Council, GCTC

was organized as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in the month of August. As a result, the membership period runs from September 1 to August 31 (of the following year).

GCTC's mission is to build and maintain safe trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users. Membership in GCTC has many benefits. Although this year we have had to restrict events and gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to provide information to our members through an informative newsletter and postings via email of trail updates, activities, and items for sale. For the time being, we have had to delay general meetings. Still, we have been able to continue our mission of maintaining the trails by changing the model for work parties from the usual 20 or so into small groups of 3-5 volunteers—no more free lunch for now; instead there are some nifty appreciation awards that the GCTC Board has designed to recognize our members' volunteer hours.

The membership fee is just \$25 for an individual. It is also only \$25 for a household/family membership which, per the Bylaws, is defined as: "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 2020 on or after June 1, your membership extends through August 31, 2021 and you do not need to renew now. If any of your contact information has changed, simply fill out a new GCTC membership form or email changes to chasechc@gmail.com.

Please send in your renewal as soon as possible. It will facilitate the membership process greatly if you renew and pay online. It is easy. Go to <http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/join-us.html>. Payment can be by credit card or PayPal.

If paper is your thing and you prefer to pay by check, you can download and print a membership form from <http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/join-us.html> which can be mailed to the GCTC post office box at: P.O.Box 753, Cedar Ridge, CA 95924. Non-renewal as of December 31, 2020 means you will no longer receive GCTC benefits—among them the member-only email notifications that provide soooo much information, since you will be removed from the list.

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 chasechc@gmail.com.

Don't wait!
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



SEPTEMBER

- 8 Tue. General Meeting/Membership renewal
- 12 Sat. Trail Work Day - **TBD**
- 17-20 Fri.-Sun. Draft Horse Classic - **Cancelled**
- 26 Sat. Spenceville Day Ride (may be in evening if warm) - **TBD**

OCTOBER

- 10 Sat. United Trails Day/Work Day - Tahoe National Forest - **TBD**
- 13 Tue. Board Meeting
- 17 Sat. Ride/BBQ Lone Grave - **TBD**
- 24 Sat. Rain date Ride/BBQ Lone Grave - **TBD**

In the interest of keeping everyone safe, it may be the GCTC Board's prerogative to cancel or postpone some GCTC events. If there are any changes, we will let you know via email.

To see the latest updates, check out the calendar at:
<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/calendar--events.html>

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!



- Julia Kerr
- Cheryl Pritchett
- Carol Willis
- Sheila Kumar
- Gita Matlock
- Tami Clouse
- Brenda Beem
- Joy Venham
- Franceska Saboe
- Amy Carl
- Rebecca Quentmeyer & Sam Bates

Thank You for Your Generous Donations!

- Beverly Milke-hillar
- Hetty Dutra
- Diane Zylka
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Campers Erin McDonald and her horse, Symmetry, enjoying themselves at the GCTC Camp and Ride at Skillman Horse Camp in July

July 18th GCTC CAMP & RIDE at SKILLMAN HORSE CAMP

Despite the constraints of the pandemic, horseback riding has, thankfully, not been discouraged. Three intrepid GCTC members took three groups of horse campers out of Skillman campground on guided rides Saturday morning August 1st. GCTC has been trying to increase equestrian participation at Skillman and our guided rides have done just that.



Each of the guides chose a different route and each of our rides varied in distance. I had the pleasure of leading a group of 4 lovely ladies out on a 4-hour ride. We lunched at a pretty little shady spot on Deer Creek. We then made our way to the Upper

Burlington Staging area and rode back into Skillman on the Pioneer trail, making a nice loop.



I had in my group a youth, Karlee Brown. (So nice to see kids riding.) She did great. Her Grandma, Trudy Lamonica, rode and camped with her. Good Grandmother! We also had Robin Gallowglas and

Hannah Rokni in our group. It was another great day at Skillman.

~ Jamie Canon



GCTC is tentatively but optimistically hoping to have a work/ride/camp weekend in October this year. The weather is a huge factor. Fires are a huge factor. But October in the mountains can be beautiful. There is more work that needs to be done in the same area we worked in last year, and a little further up on the Bowman Mountain trail.

More on this to come as plans develop. Fingers crossed!


~ Jamie Canon



One more photo from the 4th of JULY "Virtual" PARADE



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BEAUTIFUL NEW SIGNS



Although it's always wise to study a map before you embark on a ride, as the GCTC members who rode recently at Royal Gorge did (left), and carry one with you, signs along the way sure help point you in the right direction. GCTC is fortunate to have a master sign maker in member Barry Vaccaro. Barry has been busy making signs for various trails frequented by GCTC folks. As they are finished, they are installed by other members, either on foot or on horseback.

Thank you to Barry's craftsmanship, and to all who are installing the signs. All trail users will benefit greatly from this clear guidance.

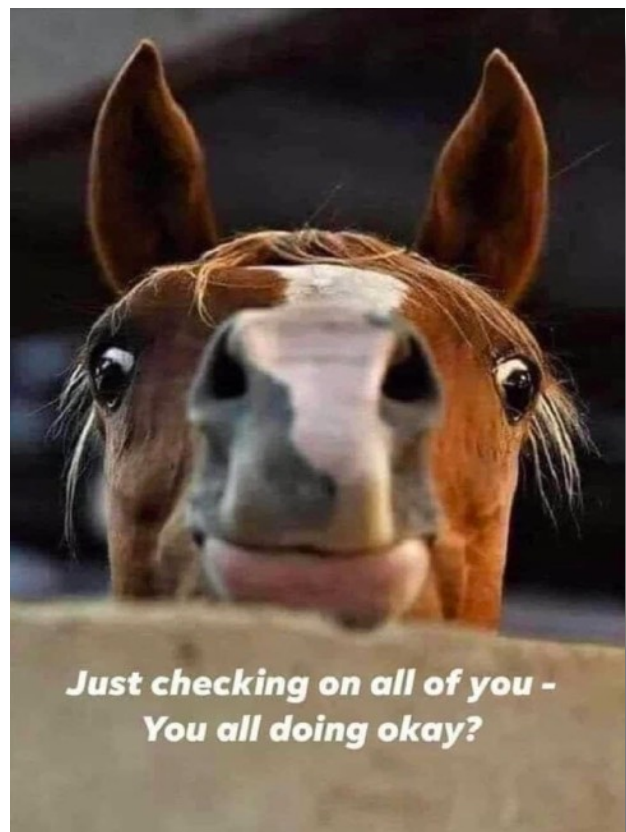


ALL ABOUT WELLS

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New Horse Pens Installed at Skillman Horse Camp



GCTC volunteers gave more of their precious time on July 30, 2020 installing new corrals at Skillman Horse Camp in sites 3 and 11. The portable corral panels were purchased by GCTC earlier this year with the intention of use at Skillman.



Six of the 16 camp sites at Skillman now have 2 horse pens each, and site 4 has 4 pens for a total of 16 pens. Coordination and cooperation between GCTC and the

Tahoe National Forest continues to make Skillman campground a beautiful place for equestrians to camp and ride.



Thank you to members Cathy Chase, Laura Duncan, Tom Fletcher, Jeff Foltz, Mary Johnson, Helen McDermott, and Cathy Scott for making the recent job go quickly. The task was accomplished in 2 hours, giving time for Cathy, Helen, and Cathy, who brought their horses, to have a nice ride after the work! GCTC members know how to mix work and fun!



Great Job!



Complete!

Horse tested and approved!

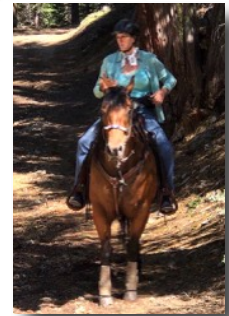




SCOUTING OUT PINE ROCK RANCH



More than a year ago, GCTC member Stacey Estrada extended an invitation to a few GCTC members to come look at her ranch as a possible camping location for GCTC members. Stacey and Mike's beautiful property is located on the edge of the Sierra Valley near Calpine with the Tahoe National Forest literally outside their



Stacey Estrada

back gate. Through the years they have developed their property with the thought of hosting campers with their horses and well-behaved dogs. They have cleared excessive trees and brush, leveled areas, fenced and cross fenced the ten acres and laid down chips creating a lovely shaded area to park a camper or trailer, put up a tent, high line or erect portable pens for horses and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the hosts, including guided rides on trails through the national forest, many of which Stacey and Mike have spent time clearing!



In June of this year, 4 GCTC members took a delightful day trip to be introduced to Pine Rock Ranch. Although it was skeptical that a camp out would be possible this year, luckily a date was set in August

for a small group to enjoy a trial outing at her ranch. Despite a thunderstorm on arrival with half-inch hail, a downpour of rain, and the heat wave that followed, it was a delightful trip! The rain settled the dust on the trails making our morning rides a delight. With Stacey as our guide we enjoyed a variety of terrain, forest roads, jeep



trails and single track. We explored a sheep camp in Carmen Valley, a small reservoir near Calpine, beautiful vistas and even a ride through the town of Calpine.



Our accommodations included a deluxe portable potty with a "flush" toilet and a sink, coffee and sweets early in the morning, quiet time for relaxing or a hike around Pine Rock Ranch, and a safe campfire with popcorn, roasted marshmallows, and Dutch oven apple/blueberry crisp (with ice cream!!).



The trial camp out with comments from the participants has given Stacey and Mike the information they need to go forward with her vision of offering horse camping to small groups in the near future. All of us certainly enjoyed being the guinea pigs and look forward to returning to Pine Rock Ranch. Thank You Stacey and Mike for a wonderful trip!!



Watch for more information from Stacey in the future about camping at Pine Rock Ranch.



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DEADLINE!



Just a reminder: while you're raking your leaf piles, 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: October 15

goodbye
SUMMER
hello
AUTUMN



**Have you already done it?
(see page 3!)**

