**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL, INC.**

**Tuesday, July 10, 2018 7 PM**

**Nevada County Horsemen’s Clubhouse**

**10600 Bubbling Wells Road**

**Grass Valley, CA**

**Officers: Board Members:**

**President Helen Harvey Bernie Molloy**

**Vice President unfilled Helen Crawford**

**Secretary Mary Lundin Elicia Kamberg**

**Treasurer Teri Personeni**

**Past President Laura Duncan**

**A. Call to Order and Welcome**

Meeting was called to order by President Helen Harvey at 7:04. Guests and new members were introduced.

**B. Changes or additions to agenda**

No changes noted.

**C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

May 8, 2018 General Membership Meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Laura Duncan, second by Jaede Miloslavich. Motion carried.

**D. Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Teri Personeni reported net income for the month of June was $1,367.26, and the bank balance $36,322.93. Motions were made by Cathy Chase and Laura Duncan to approve the June Treasurer’s report.

**E. Forest Service Report-Mary Johnson**

Getting Skillman Campground cleaned up after the logging was a worry, but with coordination from the Forest Service, the contracted clean up company and GCTC members, the efforts were rewarded. Heather Newell from TNF was present at Skillman at the work day on May 30, 2018. The campground looked quite good for the Poker Ride.

Celebration of Trails happened the same day (June 2, 2018), with Karen and Harry Wyeth and Helen McDermott with her horse Copper at the GCTC booth. In conjunction with Celebration of Trails, 2 guided rides were conducted on Lone Grave area trails. Leaders were Pamela Swartz and Nicole Schoppe.

The Wild West Ride (non GCTC event) took place at Skillman Campground in the TNF, June 15-17, 2018.

GCTC coordinated using AmeriCorp volunteers for trail work June 27 & 28, 2018. The AmeriCorp volunteers were made available through the Fire Safe Council. This was the first time GCTC utilized the volunteers so it was a learning experience. Harry Wyeth and Helen McDermott were the GCTC supervisors. Lunch was provided to the volunteers by MaryAnn Jorgenson and Sharon Silver. Harry supervised the crew on the Hallelujah Trail, which he felt was mildly successful due to the length of the trail and the areas that needed work. He shared that he was impressed with the AmeriCorp workers, who worked hard and were polite and friendly. Helen supervised the crew on the Pioneer Trail along Bowman Road. TNF crew removed the large downed tree on the trail between Bowman Rd. and Lang Crossing per Paul Hart. Still under consideration is improvement of the water crossings along that section of trail. GCTC will improve the signage along that section also.

The work done on the Little Lasier Meadow work weekend was outstanding. Two gates with new posts were installed in the wooden 4 plex corrals, along with a few new corral boards and other repairs. Major work was done on the connector trail that was badly eroded. Along with widening the trail bed, several water breaks were installed to divert the water from continuing the erosion. Scouting and minor work on the new Pass Trail sections was accomplished. Ed from TNF and Jimmy, the camp host, cut 3 downed trees on the PCT. Sierraville District Ranger, Quinten Youngblood stopped by the camp on June 27th and a brief meeting to report the success of the work day with Mary Westmoreland took place on July 2nd.

Still on the schedule, but date unknown is the trail work to be done on the rock section of the Bowman Mt. Trail. This work is to be done by the TNF crew per Paul Hart.

An area of the Pioneer Trail above Chalk Bluff has been identified as needing some heavy duty trail bed improvement, possibly a reroute in the area. GCTC will consider hiring a crew to complete that work.

A reminder to all trail adopters to report needed maintenance to me, if anything is seen on your adopted section. A new way to report needed work is being created and will be discussed later in the agenda.

**F. Old Business**

**1. Trail Patrol**

63 ½ hours of trail patrol were reported for May. Trail patrollers are responsible for riding the portion of assigned trail at least once a month. Anyone interested in participating in this should talk to Helen Harvey.

**2. Hoot Trail-Cathy Scott**

Bicycle use on the Hoot Trail segment at Lone Grave is down. The trails are dry and dusty right now. In general, user groups encounters are amicable. Parkwatch reports have not been received for June.

The Western Nevada County Community Defense Project 2013 is a multi-year fuel reduction project. Contractors will be doing more work in the Madrone Springs and Lone Grave areas. TNF contracts require that the contractors “leave trails alone.” If you come across trees or debris on the trails, notify the FS (you can use Parkwatch) and they will have the contractors clean it up.

There has been an increase in dispersed camping on the TNF lands in the Harmony Ridge/Pioneer Trails area. This is authorized for up to 14 days in a row. No fire restrictions are in effect at this time. All that is needed is a fire permit issued by TNF. Camping and campfires are prohibited within 100 feet of any stream or body of water. Any motorized camping vehicles on non-motorized trails should be reported to the TNF. Again, you can use Parkwatch.

The TNF crews have patrolled the Grouse Ridge area for the 2nd year. They have chain sawed all known logs blocking trails. Paul Hart wants to do the Bowman Mountain Trail this season and would like some help with heavy rock lifting and possibly packing in equipment and supplies.

**3. Poker Ride-Elicia Kamberg**

The 2018 Poker Ride was a huge success, netting $5,140.93. This year each rider drew a card at the station and the GCTC volunteer wrote it down on the scorecard carried by the rider. The potluck was also a hit, with thanks to Debbie Maloy, Mary Johnson, Gail Plakos and their team, as well as all members who brought food to share. The prizes and silent auction were managed by Laura Duncan, Rose Massera and their team. Thanks to all who donated and solicited prizes.

**4. Celebration of Trails**

The Skillman guided rides that were begun in response to the Celebration of Trails Day contacts have resulted in the Skillman Horse Campground being completely full for the days of the guided rides. More info on this in the Forest Service report.

**G. New Business**

**1. Trail Adopters Reporting**

“Trail adopters” are riding their respective assigned trails, but an easy system to access their findings has not been established. Maintenance issues are to be reported to Mary Johnson, who will then report to the TNF and the GCTC board. Helen Harvey and Mary Lundin are working on an online reporting system that will make it convenient for members to report, and to search trail status before riding them.

**2. Reimbursement Forms-Teri Personeni**

Treasurer Teri Personeni reminds members to please use the reimbursement forms. This will make her accounting of expenses more accurate.

**3. Email Policy**

The board approved email policy was sent by Jaede, via email, to all members. Please review and use this policy.

**4. Official GCTC Email Address**

The official email address is [info@goldcountrytrailscouncil.org](mailto:info@goldcountrytrailscouncil.org). Both Jaede and Helen Harvey monitor this.

**5. Skillman Guided Rides**

Discussed under Celebration of Trails and Forest Service reports.

**6. Horses at Forest Service booth at County Fair**

Bernie Maloy will organize members who would like to have their horses participate at the Forest Service booth about having horses on the TNF trails.

Business meeting was adjourned at 7:35 for the annual Ice Cream Social. No speaker tonight.

Submitted by Mary Lundin, Secretary