

MORCA, A Chapter of IMBA, Summary of February 4, 2013 Meeting

Penny Farthing Restaurant, Salinas, 6:30-8 PM

Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on February 5, 2013

Our website is www.morcamb.org

About 19 people attended. All officers present.

YOUR CURRENT OFFICERS THROUGH 2013 are:

President: Darius Rike (webmaster too)

Vice-President: Ken "AmeriKen" Howat

Secretary: Henrietta Stern (plus Fort Friends and FORA/ESCA liaison)

Treasurer-- Joel Trice

Members-at-Large – Mary Pozzi and Lee Jetton (also Trails Committee lead)

LIAISONS are not officers, but do a lot of work, and coordinate extensively with officers. They are:

==CSUMB and New Member/Beginners: AmeriKen Howat

==Other Groups: Jason Campbell (ForU) and Chris Mack (KFOW)

==IMBA and BLM: Gary Courtright and Lee Jetton (trails)

You are welcome to contact the liaisons to offer assistance.

1. President Darius remarks-- Your officers are working hard to create a comprehensive "to do" list with priorities, deadlines, etc. Darius will post this on the website soon. If you have an idea for an agenda item, be sure to contact officers at morca@morcamb.org at least one week before the regular meeting. Officers meet the Tuesday before the Monday monthly meeting to review the list and set the agenda. Darius welcomes posts and pictures for the website scrolling news related to MORCA and bikes. We presently have 188 paid members, and have a goal of 250 by the end of SeaOtter. Darius thanks all who take the time to attend meetings, events, serve on committees, volunteer etc. Don't forget the calendar on the website--watch for future events, meetings etc.

2. Treasurer Report and Fundraising Update (Joel). We have \$6,950 in the bank with \$1,041 earmarked solely for trails projects. We purchased Trailbuilder T-shirts to give for 10 hours of service. SeaOtter expenses will include nice banner flags so folks can see "MORCA"-- great for future events too. we may purchase "Caution-Trail Work" signage. Joel described focus of fundraising on business sponsors. Ellie is developing benefits review. Committee will meet in mid-February (date TBA)- watch for announcement. Thanks to Nick M who developed a first draft of a grant proposal for trail funding.

3. **Trail Work Update (Lee)**-- Saturday Jan 19 had 14 folks and great work on Trail 49 reroute. BLM sweco-ed it afterward and now it needs lots of nice handwork to deal with many branches etc. It's gorgeous!! SAT FEB 9 is next trail day (a week earlier than normal). We will carpool to Trail 49 -- please do not bring your bike to the site. Please sign up on the "Trail Day" link on the website so we can plan for tools, goodies etc.

Lee passed out high-quality, long-sleeved **Trailbuilder T-Shirts** for those who earned them in 2012. These are worth their weight in gold (almost)-- you can buy one for \$150 (you read that right) if you can't put in the 10 hours of service to earn one. Money goes to trail fund. The membership felt really strongly about the value of these shirts. So come out and earn your coveted limited edition Tee for 2013!! Lee and others are open to arranging another work day for those who would like to help but work on Saturdays--

4. **Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival**-- April 13-14. **Karl** is lead for getting our great skills structures over there. He will need 3-4 folks to transport and set up Fri April 12 and take down Sunday afternoon April 14. Karl will ask MBOSC to help us out with some swag for TAKMBD or SeaOtter in exchange. This festival is a good opportunity to start advertising TAKMBD as lots of kids participate.

5. **Sea Otter Classic (SOC)**-- **Joel** is lead for fund raising and the **IMBA/MORCA booth**. Joel described focus on posters and other media showing our work and successes; he described nice IMBA swag and goal for 250 members, which means renewals plus 60 new members. Maybe a contest for volunteer who generates most new members or \$\$\$--emphasize family memberships and higher level donations. Also clearly mark MORCA info. 4 volunteers per day (2 in Am, 2 in PM. **Ken** is lead for **dual slalom** volunteers but will need help as he is doing a research project too. We will have our own radios. This is biggest effort--7 volunteers each day (all day). **Darius** is lead for the **SOC night ride event**, which they will need MORCA to lead and sweep an A and B ride + registration at Turn 5 etc. 8 volunteers needed for a few hours around 7-10 pm. Sponsor is MagicShine, a Chinese company. We will ask for a donation from them. Folks will sign up on our website but there is no charge. We just might have a BBQ and beer party afterward with donation bucket. Let's hope for good weather!! We have a campsite like last year. **Lots of volunteers needed. Signup on website soon.** Take a day off from work! SOC will be providing festival passes and/or race entries as "payment" for volunteering along with a sizable donation to MORCA for the dual slalom work.

6. **FORA-ESCA Update (Henri)**-- Henri described FORA Right of Entry (ROE) permit process this year for use of specific Happy Trails for MORCA sanctioned group rides only (not individual members)-- much more formal than previous years with multi-page application form. FORA had considered terminating all ROE but chose to continue them in a very controlled manner. FORA-ESCA is very uncomfortable with general public access to these trails (we have asked many times!). Henri attends bimonthly Trail Users Group meetings re ESCA cleanup status. Next meeting is March 20 at noon. Eric Morgan of BLM noted that there could be future cleanup near Trail 70 ("overflow" munitions from the inland range have been found near there). ESCA cleanup work continues near Eucalyptus, Parker Flats, and Barloy Canyon

(bunkers). ESCA website is <http://www.fora-esca-rp.com/> Henri attend Jan 30 Army meeting on leaving Wolf Hill (SOC parking), MOUT urban warfare site and other areas near Ryan Ranch pretty much as is -- no residential development allowed.

7. **Bike Park Update (AmeriKen)**-- a major multi-year goal is a Bike Park in our area. Supervisor Parker expressed interest in a written initial proposal for East Garrison pistol range area. Ken developed first draft which is being reviewed by officers-- Version 2 will be shared for member input. A future financial decision will be whether or not to hire professional firm to do initial proposal and interaction with land managers...this would entail fund-raising and outreach to other bike groups like BMX folks etc. Members asked good questions about cost-benefit, liability etc. At this point, our goal is to serve as a catalyst for a community benefit and paving the way for land owner/regulatory approval rather than being owner-operator.

8. **Salinas Bike Party Presentation**-- Rob described his fun event ("Courteous Mass") geared toward youth 13+ in age. Emphasis on positive, safe, clean fun for youth and adults. Festive/Fun/Friendly attitude. -- adults needed to be guiders. See <http://www.salinasbikeparty.com/> or e-mail him at salinasbikeparty@gmail.com for more info.

9. **Trail Guide Concepts (Mary P)**-- Mary volunteered to lead the effort to create various routes and/or maps with color coded trails for difficulty. She described various examples and asked for ideas and other examples from other areas. She will call a meeting soon if you are interested in helping develop a game plan before doing a lot of work.

10. **Other Business-- Looking ahead**

==**Ft Ord Natl Monument** meeting **2/14 at 6pm** at Oldemeyer Center, Seaside-- Name and Mission Statement is topic of this meeting for a FONM support group.

==**Hammerstein 24-hour Event** is **May 25-26**-- might be fun to do some teams for 8 hr or 24 event.

==**Joel's Great Adventure weekend of July 20** -- location TBD

==**MTB Tahoe** rides and trail work event **Fri-Sunday August 16-18**--featuring Hole in the Ground near Truckee. We have asked for two group camping sites for MORCA (10-12 people). Some folks plan to go earlier and do Downieville

==Watch the google group and website for other late breaking news

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY MARCH 4 at 6:30 PM-- Penny Farthing in Salinas -- -