

MORCA, A Chapter of IMBA, Summary of June 3, 2013 Meeting

Penny Farthing Restaurant, Salinas, 6:30-8:15 PM

Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on June 4, 2013

Our website is www.morcamtb.org

About 15 people attended, including a new person named Tony, who is interested in getting involved. Welcome! All officers present except Mary Pozzi (out of town).

YOUR CURRENT OFFICERS THROUGH 2013 are:

President: Darius Rike (webmaster too)

Vice-President: Ken "AmeriKen" Howat

Secretary: Henrietta Stern

Treasurer-- Joel Trice

Members-at-Large – Mary Pozzi and Lee Jetton

LIAISONS coordinate extensively with officers (or may also be officers). They are:

==CSUMB and New Member/Beginners: AmeriKen Howat

== FORT Friends and FORA/ESCA liaison: Henrietta Stern

==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.

If you have an idea for an agenda item, be sure to contact officers at morca@morcamtb.org at least one week before the regular meeting. Officers meet the Tuesday before the monthly Monday meeting to review the ongoing task list and set the agenda.

1. President's Remarks-- Darius welcomed the group and thanked everyone who volunteered at May events, including May 11 Fort Ord National Monument celebration bike ride, May 18 trail work day and also the Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse bike ride, and May 25-26 Hammerstein 24-Hr race (with special thanks to Bob and his Taj Mahal RV (and Mary Pozzi RV too!) Darius and Henri reported on meeting with Supervisor Jane Parker regarding transfer of Happy Trails area to County and bike parks as healthy outlet for kids. We would like to meet with Supervisor Potter too.

2. **FORA-ESCA Update** -- Henri reviewed the May 15 FORA-ESCA trails group meeting, including Army burn season starting July 1, which could entail temporary road and trail closures for two planned burns-- date depends on weather. Online registration for burn info is www.fortordcleanup.com/burnprogram/notify ESCA website is <http://www.fora-esca-rp.com/> We also talked about backcountry safety and fire prevention ideas.

At the same meeting, I asked about public access to the Right of Entry (ROE) trails. FORA is hoping to transfer the County North MRA parcel (portion of Happy Trails to go to County as open space habitat) and a portion of Parker Flats area (MPC is recipient agency to do police training center) within 6 months. Thus we need to start working with County and MPC now to arrange for public access when FORA no longer owns these cleaned up parcels. We have asked that County staff attend the next meeting on July 17. Upcoming meetings or events are:

==June 11-- Proposed Plan for Munitions Site 34 -- no further action (near Del Rey Oaks and Ryan Ranch, plus Laguna Seca parking area at Wolf Hill) <http://www.fortordcleanup.com/> for info

==June 19-- Community meeting on plans for CSUMB parcel near 8th and G between Intergarrison and Gigling. This is same night as Twilight Ride but a MORCA member should attend.

==July 13--Guided bus tour of Fort Ord cleanup sites see <http://www.fortordcleanup.com/> for info

==July 17, noon-- FORA-ESCA trail users group at FORA--see future notices

3. Monthly Trail Day is Saturday June 15-- this is a "drive and trim" with emphasis on Trails 50 (north to Barloy) and 49 (north side to Rock). Meet at 8th and G to carpool before 9 AM. No bikes. Watch for e-mail and signup list. Henri will contact other trail groups and invite them. Michael and Lee described our trail signage proposal to put stickers with easy, medium and harder ratings. Eric Morgan must approve. We also soliciting trail names with emphasis on military or natural history names as the National Monument was based on these two components. We also talked about ways to get more participants including outreach fliers at trailheads and bike shops, e-mail outreach, sponsorships (need to quantify benefit to business), tent at CCCX etc. Importantly, we need additional trail leaders to complement the 3 currently approved by BLM-- Gary, Lee and Darius. Several folks come out a lot and would be great candidates. Contact Lee or your officers at morca@morcamtb.org

4. Laguna Seca Twilight Ride June 19 5:30-7:30 and beyond.... MORCA hosts with perhaps a race to the top of the corkscrew, a fun coasting contest down the corkscrew and perhaps a track stand contest to crown king of the Summer Solstice. Our renowned BBQ will be complemented by CHILI tastings and request for food donations. We get a portion of the \$10 entry fee. Should be fun! Come out to support MORCA and help out. No payment required unless you go out on the track.

5. **Take-a-Kid-Mtn-Biking Day (TAKMBD) is October 5, 2013.** Sycamore Flats has been reserved but we are sharing space with Keith Defiebre's races for Stanford. County papers are being reviewed by IMBA attorney Jeremy to work out insurance language. **Kick-off planning meeting is Thu June 13 at 6 pm at Mountain Mike's in Marina.** Please attend as this is a major event for us

6. Treasurer Report and Fundraising Update (Joel). We have \$7,293 in the bank with \$1,592 earmarked for trail fund. This includes a \$1,000 grant to MORCA from Oakley for trail work support. We discussed the need to have a new position of Marketing Manager who does regular outreach to public, new members, possible sponsors, donators etc.

WE HAVE MORCA T-SHIRTS in all sizes. Michael is researching online store options for other MORCA goodies and came up with a great logo for a beer glass. He also found a local vendor that can do nice baseball caps.

7. Fort Ord Petition Update -- Jason was absent this evening. Darius noted that the Secure the Promise petition (Vet Cemetery focus, supports Monterey Downs) submitted its signatures. The Fort Ord Access Alliance petition (emphasizes open space) is about half-way. Info at fortordaccess@gmail.com or <http://www.fortordaccess.org/>

In related news, Henri reported on the May 30 mega meeting hosted by Seaside Council-- Monterey Downs presentation, then field trip, then public comment (4 pm-9pm). Lots of different viewpoints on horse racing, vets cemetery, development, jobs, financing, open space etc. Henri spoke about adequate parking and ensuring access for local riders and other trail users.

8. Other Business and Updates

A. **MORCA By-Laws**-- are being reviewed by the board members June 11 at 6 pm at Darius home. If you have suggestions, please advise your board ASAP at morca@morcamtb.org . Michael provided an example of Bylaws from other organization. Henri has FORT Friends bylaws too. Darius would like to concentrate on making our bylaws better and more understandable, not reinventing the wheel -- recall IMBA already approved our bylaws.

B. **Ales and Trails June 29 in Marin Co**-- This is supposed to be a lot of fun, with great food and beer plus guided rides by professionals. Proceeds go to IMBA. Several MORCANS are going and we have free booth space (bring Easy Up and flags)--some are continuing farther north to explore the Lost Coast afterwards! Michael noted that he nominated Henri for the "Local Hero" award sponsored by Ales and Trails each year

C. **Ride 24 Hours to Fight Cancer**-- Nick M. had to work but thanked MORCA members for their cash donations last month for the Coolest 24 hour race which raises funds for cancer research. Ken Howat noted that Nick was \$139 away from his \$1,000 goal and made a motion for the club to write a check in that amount (Michael D seconded). In discussion, concern was raised about using club funds for a non-mountain biking organization given that other options to support Nick existed. Motion failed on a vote of 2 to 13 Henri made a new motion (seconded by Ken) to publicize Nick's quest on google group, Facebook and website and enable online donation to Nick via MORCA's Paypal. Motion unanimously approved. This info is on the website today (6/4). Several members also donated cash to Nick's fund after the meeting. MORCANS are such generous folk!

D. **Upcoming Trips**-- Darius leading two trips to Downieville June 7-9 and 21-23. Camp at Utica Flats and ride the epic trails via shuttle. The annual Mountain Bike Tahoe is 8/15-18 (group camping and riding Thu-Sunday, with a big trail day on Saturday-- lots of food and fun trail fellowship with several clubs. Hole in the Wall in North Tahoe area. Several spots still left for MORCA members for tent camping. Fun stuff and beautiful-- though the altitude and trails are challenging-- it's worth it!.

E. Other-- REI used gear sale June 8 and 9

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY JULY 1 at 6:30 PM-- Penny Farthing in Salinas -- -

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm-- and bring a friend!