

MORCA, A Chapter of IMBA, Summary of August 5, 2013 Meeting

Angelina's Italian Restaurant, Salinas (Toro area), 6:40-8:20 PM

Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on August 6, 2013

Our website is www.morcambt.org

About 18 people attended, including all officers present except Lee Jetton.

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, FONM and FORA/ESCA liaison: Henrietta Stern

==Other Groups: Jason Campbell (FOAA/ForU) and Chris Mack (KFOR)

==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@morcambt.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 reviewed notable activities last month, including (1) July 20 trail work day with at least 10 folks; we are up to 309 total hours to date, well ahead of last year; (2) several separate trips to MTBOregon and Bend, Oregon, a great model for a recreational destination; (3) Lee, Corey and Michael rocked the CCCX series and other races; (4) Mary and Bill won their division in the August 3 "Get Lost" orienteering event.

Darius advised us that the Penny Farthing room will no longer be available. E-mail your ideas for meeting location to morca@morcambt.org. Some ideas at the meeting included Black Bear Diner and the Island Grill. Goals are private room (free), reasonable prices for decent food, and quality beer!

2. FORA-ESCA Update -- (Henri and Ken)

== Wed July 17 bimonthly FORA-ESCA trail users group was canceled-- next meeting is September 18 at noon, where we hope county staff will attend regarding receipt of Happy Trails area and it becoming a County Park (we hope). This is tied to an important effort by County Fort Ord Committee (Parker and Potter) to reinstate work on FORHA= Fort Ord Recreation Habitat Area; this is basically a comprehensive multi-use trails plan. County needs to find money to refine and finalize the report, do EIR and adopt plan; and then more money to fund management of 1300 acres of open space (\$86,000/yr estimated?) Watch for e-mails on next Ft Ord Committee meeting (September).

== On July 16 Supervisors voted to open Intergarrison Road with no safety turnouts for Jerry Smith corridor parking, but there is supposed to be a 3-way stop there. Note construction trucks are moving into East Garrison area, but road is not open to public. Be careful when riding in the area.

== Ken Howat contacted CSUMB and MPC regarding their plans for transferred land and potential use by trail users/MORCA in the near-term. CSUMB area near 8th and Gigling is planned to be open space/recreation, with management details to be determined. CSUMB is concerned about impact of open Intergarrison Road on student safety and traffic. MPC safety training school is south of Parker Flats cutoff; they are discussing our request for an entry permit and will get back to us.

==As a reminder, Army burn season started 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/>

3. Monthly Trail Day is Saturday August 17-- this is a continuation of "drive and trim" with likely emphasis on Trails 61, 62 plus 23, 57, 68 and 70 if time. Focus is creating good sightlines and clearing accumulated sand. Meet at 8th and G before 9 AM. No bikes at the work day. Watch for e-mails and signup list on website. Henri will contact FONM/FORTF and invite them. Sponsors for a pre-work and post-work snack always welcome. Contact Lee or your officers at morca@morcambt.org

4. **Take-a-Kid-Mtn-Biking Day (TAKMBD) is October 5, 2013.** Sycamore Flats at Toro Park is the venue because the County did not commit to the Youth Camp. Insurance almost resolved but expensive (\$800)-- thank heavens for MBOSC grant of \$1,000. Members asked whether cheaper insurance is available; one hurdle is required language by County. **Third planning meeting is Thu Aug 8 at 6 pm at Mountain Mike's in Marina.** Please attend as this is a major event for us. Lisa needs folk to volunteer to lead on specific tasks.

5. **Treasurer Report and Fundraising Update (Joel).** We have \$8,378 in the bank with \$1,592 earmarked for trail fund (includes a \$1,000 grant to MORCA from Oakley for trail work support) and \$1,000 donation set aside for TAKMBD. Not much activity this last month-- June Twilight ride made a little money. Big ticket expense items in next few months are annual insurance, TAKMBD insurance and IMBA regional chapter summit in late October. Joel needs someone to take fundraising lead. WE HAVE MORCA T-SHIRTS in all sizes. See Other business re other marketing options.

6. **Fort Ord Open Space Initiative Request for MORCA Endorsement and Donation --** Jason Campbell presented an overview of the Initiative and answered questions from the group. Highlights: Donations would go primarily toward mailers and printing yard signs. Open Space/Recreation would allow trailhead improvements, bathrooms, stables, visitor center, soccer fields, recreation services, and roadways etc, but Initiative language prohibits arenas and sets parking acreage limit (i.e., no horse racing track). Open Space initiative would not harm Vet Cemetery or MPC facilities, or roads to them. Vets Cemetery is being downsized due to safety concerns about burials and endowment needs are now closer to \$250,000. Jason stated that the "Secure the Promise" Initiative specifically enables horse racing track and they are disseminating misinformation about Open Space Initiative. Each initiative should get a letter by Aug 15-- the one with the most yes votes wins. Jason reiterated grass roots campaign and spreading the word, and described various volunteer options.. Info at <http://www.fortordaccess.org/> this also has Donation button via Paypal or checks to FOAA, PO Box 321, Seaside CA 93955. Jason is requesting MORCA endorsement and \$2000 donation. Members will vote on Jason's requests next meeting. President checked with IMBA and our 501-c-3 can participate in initiative about open space/access, endorse or donate as a club.

7. **MORCA By-Laws--** Your board members and George have met twice to work on existing bylaws and compare them to other models that were suggested. Darius reviewed each section and highlighted important changes to be reviewed by membership in September (also to be reviewed by IMBA). There were lots of Q&A on specific sections, especially need for termination of member and new way of electing directors/officers. Most sections are substantively the same, but formatted better. There will be an associated Standard Operating Procedures manual that lays out the details of how the Bylaws are carried out. Lots of grueling detail work but an important task. The most important proposed change is to use a model followed by many swim clubs, Little League and local cities-- Members will run for being one of 6 directors, and not for a specific office like President. Let's assume 10 people run for office. The top 6 vote-getters are the 6 directors. The six select the President from among them. The Pres works with the directors to assign VP, Secty, Treasurer and 2 members-at-large). The "final" revised Bylaws and other details will be available before the next meeting for member review. If you have comments, please advise your board ASAP at morca@morcamtb.org .

8. Other Business and Updates

A. **Upcoming Trips--** 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. See Darius recent e-mails-- lots of options for different skill levels. Though the altitude and trails are challenging, it's worth it!.

B. **Palo Corona Assessment --** Henri described how she, Darius and Tom are part of a Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District focus group doing a prelim trail assessment (trail suitability,

feasibility and sustainability) on Palo Corona Ranch-- a hilly but beautiful area east of Monastery Beach/Point Lobos area. Park District is considering multi-use trails in the back-country. Also lots of free range cattle out there. Teams of mtnbikers, hikers and equestrians are out doing assessments via special permit. Please, No Trespassing!! It will likely be about 2 years to do detailed plan, EIR, public hearings etc.

C. **FONM--trail user safety**-- Ranger Tammy has expressed concern about potential conflict as the trails become more crowded. Darius reminded all to be extra courteous to all. Board agreed to buy 50+ cheap bells and hand them out at Creekside as an outreach event--Easy Up with MORCA literature and bells. Still working on fancier MORCA-logo version on bigger bells. Henri previously noted possible "safety summit" at a future meeting of FONMSupport Group.

D. OTHER--

==Board agreed that buying the "hydrate" logo would be good if cost is reasonable (awaiting final detail on cost); we would buy beer pint glasses and other items separately through a cheaper vendor.

==Aug 8--FONM support group, 6 PM Oldemeyer Center

== Cyclovia Salinas last weekend in August-- await details Sat 10-2 community event near Hartnell college

== Sept 25 evening seminar at Bobcat on bike maintenance, nutrition, fitness etc

==Oct 18-21 Kernville Fat Tire festival

==October 26--BLM Public Lands Day

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY SEPT 9 at 6:30 PM-- Note changed date!! Angelina's Restaurant near Toro Park. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm-- and bring a friend!
