

SUMMARY OF MORCA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
June 2, 2014 at 6:30 PM, Black Bear Diner, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary

Attendees: 12 total including officers Joel Trice (P), Ken Howat (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Sue Benjaram (MAL), and Phil Craig (MAL)

Item 1: President's Opening Remarks --

Action: Joel briefly summarized May activities.

Notes: May activities included a thank you pizza party for SeaOtter volunteers and a \$1,000 donation from MBOSC for our help with the Santa Cruz Mountain Bike festival. Henri to write thank you letter. We also hosted the Laguna Seca Twilight ride (with Chili from Sue Benjaram and hubby Dave) on May 14.

Item 2: FORA-ESCA+ County Lands (Happy Trails)

Action: Nick described his continued efforts to communicate with Jane Parker/County staff re grant for trail signage at Happy Trails area. We discussed what parts of Happy Trails have completed all munitions cleanup and FORA-ESCA release, and which parts haven't and are still owned by FORA. (Henri later wrote a separate e-mail about this).

Notes: Nick and Phil attended Fort Ord Committee on Monday May 12, and were part of an e-mail exchange with County staff about MORCA volunteering to replace signage. Nick attended the May 19 informal pizza meeting with Sup. Parker in May and will attend again on June 16 in Marina. Henri noted that the 2012 FORHA draft plan has a good map with a trail numbering system (and later provided a copy to Nick). Nick to make a rough estimate of costs to replace signs with large sticker over existing metal. Brian has some ideas re sheet metal signage.

Item 3: Happy Trails signage project.

Action: See #2 above.

Item 4: Trail work for May and future day for June 21

Action: Darius reviewed work in May and planned tasks for June 21. 339 hrs to date vs. 420 all last year. Special thanks to Brian for his ad hoc poison oak trimming!

Notes: May work focused on natural rock armoring on a sand pit on Trail 36. June work may focus on the area of T47 near the Laguna Seca track. Trails are now super-dry, so future work will likely be vegetation trimming.

Item 5: Treasurer Report

Action: Nick highlighted income and expenses. Balance has been replenished and was \$9,259 (includes \$2,422 in trail fund). Amazon Smile donation program is up and running.

Notes: If you buy via Amazon, go through the Amazon Smile program and choose IMBA—Marina, CA. MORCA will get a small donation from every purchase.

Item 6: Toro Baseball fields

Action: MORCA was asked to submit a letter in support. We declined as this is not a mountain bike advocacy question. We do plan to suggest better master planning for Toro trails as part of future bike park proposal.

Notes: The group concurred with the Board's decision to not insert ourselves in the middle of disagreeing factions (runners and ball sports). We discussed lessons learned about communications with various stakeholders as folks do not like surprises.

Item 7: Little Bellas (request for structures)

Action: Due to late request and the only available date being Father's Day, we declined putting structures together this year. Next year we can plan earlier.

Notes: About 20 Little Bellas have been learning to mountain bike—fun stuff! Kudos to Mary and Sue who have been helping as mentors. They are learning great ideas for TAKMBD.

Item 8: TAKMBD on October 4, 2014

Action: Sue updated the group on publicity and ideas for swag. A TAKMBD committee meeting will be held on Thursday June 26 at 6 PM at Casa de Cezanne restaurant on Clay Street in Salinas. Darius will contact Subaru. Henri will contact Winning Wheels. Sue will coordinate with Lisa re REI. Ken is contacting possible guest instructors.

Notes: We really hope a pump track could be ready for TAKMBD—if not feasible, we will use our simpler structures. Little Bellas have provided good game ideas for kids on bikes. Ken to determine if instructors need to be paid or if they are donating time.

Item 9: Toro Pump Track

Action: Ken C. and AmeriKen are working on proposal to submit to Ranger Jason and other park officials; current focus is simple pump track with larger bike park in future. We previously voted to allocate \$1,000 Oakley money toward this project. We discussed best strategy regarding when best to engage other stakeholders).

Notes: We concurred that we should start with County staff to see if idea will fly, with list of stakeholders to contact and engage in future if County thinks it is a good idea initially. Joel will set up meeting with County Parks staff; AmeriKen is lead on proposal file.

Item 10: Marina Greenway Project

Action: Henri and Darius reviewed our meeting with CSUMB professors regarding this 9-12 mile perimeter family friendly paved trail concept with dirt side trails for MTB or equestrian multi-use. Henri directed to write short letter of support, assuming multiple use.

Notes: Pathway is Dunes to MEC to Intergarrison to along Salinas River and back around via Rec Trail. Joel noted need for good trailhead access as part of the plan. Henri suggested skills stops (like a par-course) for bikes. Professors noted the possibility that Montrey Peninsula Regional Park District might be land owner for a large chunk of Happy Trails—given that the Park District board has not been MTB friendly (at least in Carmel Valley), it is very important to ensure continued bike use in Happy Trails.

Item 11A: IMBA Summit August 20-24 in Colorado.

Action: Joel will attend as President and will fly out. Other MORCANs may drive out as a bike vacation. We voted to allot \$500 to Joel to help defray expenses.

Notes: None.

Item 12: Summer Road Trips

Action: Various dates for Bend, Oregon were mentioned. A later e-mail designated July 16-20.

Notes: See future e-mails on this. Sue may have alternative dates. Sue is also driving to Montana in August. We noted that Mountain Bike Tahoe has not been organized this year. Note that there is a big Tahoe MTB festival later this year (Guitarfish) featuring shuttles to Hole-n-the-Ground.

Item 13A: Other Business—AmeriKen’s Summer Solstice Druid B-Day party June 22 after social ride (2 pm onward)—watch for e-mails

Item 13B: Palo Corona—Darius and Tom did a recent permitted ride; final report on MTB opportunities due June 30 (Henri/Darius and others). Ken C and Darius are tracking progress of Master Plan at Park District meetings (due December 2014) to ensure MTB access is part of it. Soon MORCA members should contact Park District board members to let them know we are voting taxpayers and want access to this large property backcountry.

Item 13C: Demo Forest Flow Trail—Sections 3 and 5 are now open. Several MORCANs attended ribbon cutting ceremony June 1.

Item 13D: Other Business—Membership went down last quarter (now 182 from 225)—reasons may be new IMBA clubs in our area, difficulty designating more than one club as an IMBA member; natural variation, etc. Darius/Nick to research IMBA data base to see if a list of dropouts is possible to contact and invite to re-join.

Item 13E: Other Business—IRS paperwork for non-profits – Henri noted IMBA e-mail with IRS info—each club is responsible for its own paperwork—Nick and Joel to double check we filed the proper form for a 501-c-3 non profit

NEXT MEETING – JULY 7, 2014 AT 6:30 PM BlackBear Diner unless noted otherwise