

SUMMARY OF MORCA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
July 7, 2014 at 6:30 PM, Black Bear Diner, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary

Attendees: 10 total including board members 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 June activities.

Notes: June activities included a joint ride with San Jose Mountain Bikers (31 folks!), helping the Little Bellas girls mtnbike camp (Mary and Sue were mentors; Darius and other guys helped with skill structures on Father's Day), and a Beginner's Ride. We also welcomed several new riders on a recent Wednesday night ride.

Item 2: FORA-ESCA Update

Action: Henri noted that several meetings had been cancelled in recent months.

Notes: None.

Item 3: Happy Trails Signage Project.

Action: Nick described his continued efforts to meet with Sup. Parker, County staff (and BLM) re grant for trail signage at Happy Trails area. He also prepared a rough draft Grant Proposal. He researched costs of various types of signs and stickers.

Notes: MORCA envisions volunteering to replace and improve signage in Happy Trails. Phase 1 would be replacing the "No Trespassing" signs with "Trail Open" signage so people know where to go. Phase 2 is a trail numbering system with Carsonite signs similar to BLM's, likely using the FORHA plan designations. Phase 3 would be more detailed signage information and nice fancier versions. Nick got cost estimates for different types of signage, such as a large sticker over existing metal. Brian had also provided a sample of sheet metal signage where smaller stickers could be placed.

Item 4: June Trail Day Report, plus What's Next on July 19

Action: Darius reviewed work in June and planned tasks for July 19. We have donated 375 hours to date vs. 420 hours all last year. The IMBA Trail Care Crew plans to be here on November 13-16 with the big trail day on November 15. Mark your calendars!

Notes: With very dry conditions, June work focused on vegetation trimming and good sight lines. Eight folks worked on trails 23, 16, 17 and 20. Special thanks to Brian for his continued poison oak trimming! John and George will lead the July 19 work party, with various trails near Comanche's Grave and nearby areas. We hope the IMBA trail care crew will be able to make a presentation to County and Park District staff. Mike Terry of Los Laureles Lodge will host them (thanks!!) The work project will be to reroute trail 19 so it meanders better and does not run so close by Comanche's Grave.

Item 5: Treasurer Report

Action: Nick highlighted income and expenses (none this past month). Balance is \$9,405 (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: TAKMBD on October 4, 2014

Action: Sue has been working hard on permits, posters and publicity. The next TAKMBD committee meeting will be held on Thursday July 31 at 6 PM at Casa de Cezanne restaurant on Clay Street in Salinas. Lots of help is needed!

Notes: Stay tuned for lots of posters, business cards and other outreach materials to share with your friends, colleagues, local shops etc. We agreed paying for volunteer parking is a nice touch, if affordable (group rate?). Ken is working with guest instructors. Someone needs to volunteer to buy and coordinate food. Sign up to volunteer on MORCA website. Potential need to amend waiver to allow use of photos.

Item 7: Toro Pump Track

Action: Ken C. and AmeriKen are finalizing 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, and Joel will set up meeting . Lots of discussion about difficulty of finding quality dirt to compact, plus ideas for local sources. Need to be aware of maintenance needs such as water. Committee needed as this is a big job to organize build days, once approved.

Item 8: Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway Project

Action: CSUMB professors are presenting this proposal at various venues, including FORT Friends meeting on July 10, 2014. This is a 12+ mile perimeter family-friendly paved trail concept with dirt side trails for MTB and equestrian multi-use. Last month we voted to support, assuming multiple use.

Notes: Pathway is Dunes to MEC to Intergarrison to along Salinas River and back around via Rec Trail. Professors previously noted the possibility that Monterey 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. Darius left our meeting to attend the MPRPD, meeting where Fort Ord strategy options were being discussed.

Item 9: Summer Dates and Trips

Action: Joel reviewed summer fun options!

Notes: Ales and Trails, Marin County, July 12
Bend, Oregon, July 15-21
Guitarfish Music Festival, Lake Tahoe, August 1-3
IMBA World Summit, Colorado, August 20-24

Item 10: Membership and Outreach

Action: Joel noted membership went down from 220 to 182; we discussed possible reasons and how to increase membership.

Notes: 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. We encouraged members to chat up non-members on rides, at trailheads. Invite folks to join us on group rides, trail work or other volunteer options like TAKMBD.

Item 11: Other Business

Action: Joel noted need to review the club goals and “to do” list

Notes: The group did not wish to sell coffee mugs or beer steins; there was interest in pint glasses by a few folks.

From last time:

Palo Corona—Darius, Henri and Tom finalizing a report to the Park District on multi-use trails plan concepts. MORCA members should contact Park District board members to let them know we are voting taxpayers and want access to this large property backcountry.

NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 4, 2014 AT 6:30 PM Black Bear Diner unless noted otherwise

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