

SUMMARY OF MORCA REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2015 at 6:30 PM, Turn 12 Restaurant, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 2/8/2015

Attendees: 14 members attended including all officers/directors.

2015 Directors: Joel Trice (P), Phil Craig (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Sue Benjaram (MAL) and Brian Tomasini (MAL)

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting is Monday March 2, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Turn 12 Restaurant in Monterey. The next director's meeting is Monday, February 23 at 6 PM at Turn 12.

Item 1: Opening Remarks by President Joel Trice – Month in Review

Action: Joel highlighted January 2015 notable events, which included extensive media coverage of the Trail 19 ribbon cutting on Jan. 10 and the all-day Trails Symposium on Jan 22. Several FORA/County actions took place as well (see below).

Notes: Television and newspaper coverage was excellent and showcased MORCA's contributions to local trails.

Item 2: FORA/ESCA Update

Action: Henri summarized the January 22, 2015 is an all-day Trails Symposium hosted by FORA/CSUMB, which was attended by several MORCA members. Feb 2-13 is a series of public Design Charrettes re: future vision for Fort Ord communities. A related presentation on an integrated trails and greenway project is February 10.

Notes: A former IMBA director was one of the speakers for the trails symposium, which emphasized economic benefits of a trails network (paved and unpaved). Contact person for FORA weekly e-mail is jen@fora.org Website is www.fora.org for more info on charrettes and other FORA activities. Trails presentation is Tues Feb 10 at 6:30 PM at Marina Library.

Item 3: County Contacts, Happy Trails Signage

Action: Busy month! Nick submitted our \$17,500 grant application to fund trail signage in coordination with County staff. The funding entity has asked for follow-up info. Nick and Joel met with County staff re MORCA goals and cooperative partnership. MORCA wrote a letter of support for Monterey County's \$998,000 federal grant application to build a new East Garrison area trailhead to the National Monument. The Board of Supervisors approved a habitat easement to Calif. Dept. Fish and Wildlife for 143 acres in Happy Trails, but assured us that public access to trails would continue.

Notes: Nick was asked to reformat our grant application budget, clarify role of Val's plumbing and get a letter of support from the County. County Parks staff appears generally supportive of MORCA goals for a local pump track or possible bike park (may need to be temporary). County may also partner with Regional Parks District. County first needs to fill position of Parks Director. Nick attended the Fort Ord Committee, which usually meets 4th Monday at 11 AM at Govt. Building in Salinas. Our letter of support for East Garrison trailhead was contingent on careful evaluation of options to ensure that CCCX and NorCal High School races would not be impeded. We will participate in environmental review. MORCA secretary (HS) wrote County staff expressing concerns about management of Habitat Area as described in the County documents, and reiterated need for continued public access for all trail users.

Item 4: Trail Work Update

Action: New T19 grand opening was Saturday 1/10/2015 at 11 AM. A good crew (25, including plus High School riders) worked on 1/17 on T34. Next trail day is Feb 21 at 9 AM to finish T34 near Creekside.

Notes: Darius goal for 2015 is to break 1000 hours—we got a good start with 100+ hours in January! Participation by the high school kids makes a difference—yeah! Darius noted the positive relationship with BLM Ranger Kenny.

Item 5: Treasurer's report and 2015 Budget

Action: As of Jan 26, 2015, we have roughly \$8,064 as current balance with \$1,494 in Trail Fund. Nick reviewed income and expenses. He noted a \$500 donation by Jeff Akins of California Custom Sheds in Salinas (thanks!!)

Notes: See worksheets provided by Nick. \$1,000 reserved for pump track seed money. From last time, we need to check if our insurance covers Directors & Officers protection.

Item 6: TAKMBD –Saturday October 3, 2015

Action: Sue will submit application to County for same location at Toro Park. Time to request raffle prize donations. Bay Bikes may wish to participate (per M. DuCouto). Publicity at NorCal High School League races suggested. Phil volunteered to lead goat-head weed eradication before the event.

Notes: Thanks Sue for being the TAKMBD lead again in 2015. The two scheduled local NorCal races are Sat Feb 28 and Sat March 28. See www.norcalmtb.org for more info.

Item 7: Bike Park at Toro

Action: No new info, but keep this on the agenda. Darius noted that there may be a chance for small pump track at Badger Hills area – will meet with BLM in March to discuss concept. Give kids a legal outlet to build jumps.

Notes: John Akeman is current Parks manager contact; Randall “Casey” Nelson is Toro Ranger contact.

Item 8: Sea Otter Classic – April 16-19, 2015

Action: Joel described that we will be in a booth next to IMBA—need good raffle prize and work extra hard due to “competition” with IMBA HQ. We are committed to dual slalom. SOC Night Ride is not happening this year but we will lead our normal Wed eve 6 PM evening ride from the Laguna Seca campgrounds + BBQ.

Notes: We need to send in insurance certificate for SOC to have our booth. Time to reactivate all those volunteer signups. Suggest ask Mary P about Fox Fork. Darius requested help from Rocky Mountain Bikes. Sue to follow-up with Bay Bikes (+ DuCouto).

Item 9: Calendar Review Items

Action: Key events for planning are: SCruz Mtn Bike Festival (April 11-12, location uncertain); SOC (4/16-19), Twilight Ride (May 20 only); Bend OR trip (Aug 14-22), and TAKMBD (Oct 3).

Notes: SCruz festival will need volunteers and likely request our stunts for Kids Zone (they have made a nice donation in the past as a thank you). Twilight ride idea: May 20 is Chili Night. April 29 and December are also open but conflict with other activities. \$250 is due to Ken by Feb 28 for all those wishing to go to Bend.

Item 10: Other Business

Action: Darius noted that a Wilderness First Aid course might be possible through local REI.

Notes: Darius will explore further. Here's to a fun and injury free year!

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

HLS

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