

**SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, December 7, 2015 at 6:00 PM, Golden Tee Restaurant, Monterey**  
**Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 12/9/2015**

**Attendees:** All Board members plus George Fontes  
**2015 Directors:** Joel Trice (P), Phil Craig (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Sue Benjaram (MAL) and Brian Tomasini (MAL)

**Next Meeting:** The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. However, due to Joel's vacation, the **next meeting is Monday, January 11 at 6 PM at Golden Tee.**

**Agenda Items were as follows:**

1. **Opening remarks**
2. **Presentation by Dani Banioinis of The Offset Project re Bike Totem**
3. **Select officer positions**
4. **FORA/ESCA Update;**
5. **County Update/Happy Trails signage;**
6. **Trail Work Update;**
7. **Treasurer's Report;**
8. **TAKMBD;**
9. **E-Bike donation from Bosch**
10. **Bike Park**
11. **Trash cans for BLM**
12. **Regional Parks District**
13. **Calendar Review;**
14. **2016 Planning**
15. **Other Business**

**Item 1: Opening Remarks/Last Month Review** – The key items were several good meetings with County Parks, Regional Park District and BLM, plus the Christmas Party. Special thanks to Ken Chrisman and Matt (the Pig Wizard Apprentice) for being master chefs and Ken's family for opening their home.

**IMPORTANT CALENDAR CHANGES** – Board meets usually first Monday (note could be changed due to holidays in July and September). Remember there are no more monthly regular membership meetings; these will be roughly quarterly as needed. Our General meeting remains each November.

**Item 2: Presentation from the Offset Project re Bike Totem and Monterey Gives Campaign** -- Dani Banioinis described The Offset Project goal to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging more bike commuting and better bike lanes etc. so more people bike. Specifically they are raising funds to construct a "Bike Counting Totem Pole" that counts bicycles only as they go by, to be placed in downtown Monterey area. This non-profit group is part of the annual Monterey Gives campaign. **She brought a sticker that if anyone takes a selfie with the bike logo sticker and posts it with hashtag #MCGives and #BikesCount,** their group will get \$5 toward a challenge grant. People can also directly donate through Monterey Gives. So post some pix on the MORCA site, which she may visit to spread the word.

**Item 3: Select Officers** – The elected board members (see 2015 list above, who were re-elected last month) determine officers for 2016. The Board unanimously voted that Joel will remain as President. Sue moves to Vice President. Nick will remain as Treasurer. Henri will remain as Secretary. Phil and Brian remain as Members-at-Large. Congratulations and thank you in advance of your hard work on behalf of the MTB community.

**Item 4: FORA/ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update**— FORA/ESCA meeting was cancelled for November. Next meeting should be 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in January 2016—stay tuned for confirmation. Joel noted that the Army may be moving more slowly on their closure and burning of Trail 68, Burmese and other areas (likely near end of 2016). There will be public meetings when this begins to move forward. See also FORA website and e-mails for info. [www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org) or Army site is [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com)

**Item 5: County Update/Happy Trails Signage – Fort Ord Committee** December meeting is cancelled. Next meeting is typically 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month for Jan 2016—stay tuned for confirmation. Nick reported that County RMA asked if we would get our grant extended as they need to do environmental review; the grant agency seemed open to this and asked for something in writing. But the County has not provided the written request. **Nick Madronio will be riding the potential trails that are slated for possible closure in recent FORHA plan on the Sunday December 13 ride at 9 AM. Help him map where these trails are** so we can ask County to change some of the trail closures that don't make sense. Nick continues to attend County meetings.

**Phil Craig** attended the recent **Monterey County Parks Commission** meeting, where he addressed concern about recent bulldozing of fire roads in Toro Mark (unsustainable ruts), suggested letting MTBers do legal sustainable trails in Marks Canyon, expressed concern about lack of County staff action on our \$17,000 trail signage grants. There was discussion on potential for Regional Parks District to take over Jack's Peak and Happy Trails management. There will be five separate meetings about Laguna Seca Management in the next several weeks and months.

**New**—After the meeting, **Henrietta** met a fellow from SCRAMP on Tuesday AM who expressed interest in partnering with MORCA or other bike groups to provide trails and other facilities at Laguna Seca. I brainstormed about keeping the dual slalom year-round plus a pump track and skills area year round in that "swale area." He said he would discuss with other SCRAMP folks.

**Item 6: Trail Work Update** – Darius plans work on Trail 42 (Redrock) or T43 (Ewok) on **Saturday December 19, 2015 at 9 AM** to smooth out the turns and braking pumps.. Several high school racers plan to volunteer. Work on lower Ewok re-route will start in January 2016 pending BLM approval. Darius has rough flagging out there now.

**Item 7: Treasurer's Report and Other Financial** – Nick reviewed status (roughly \$32,000 current total balance, including \$17,900 grant account). Income includes night ride and Twilight Ride cash and fees. There was some remaining expenses for TAKMBD. FORT Friends paid half of Public Lands Day (trail work) lunch (\$60). See item #11 re use of BETA money for more trash cans to help reduce dog poop and plastic poop bags on trails. Joel noted that BETA needs additional info about our non-profit status. We are not a separate non-profit as we are a chapter of IMBA, which has our paperwork.

**Item 8: TAKMBD** – Sue and crew will take a break for now. Recall that we discussed a separate future fundraising and donation to a scholarship fund to help pay for a bike for a worthy student. Also we plan to donate money to school MTB program for each volunteer hour the kids donate, similar to how SeaOtter “pays” non-profits.

**Item 9: Determine whether to Accept Donation from E-Bike Company** -- The board was split on this issue and determined that it should be **taken to the full membership via the CMS database, similar to a regular election. Henri to write Measure with board review first. Yes or no. Accept or not a potential \$6,000 donation from Bosch, from the proceeds of the planned E-Bike Race at SeaOtter next year. Need to publicize this upcoming vote on website, facebook and google group.** The race will be primarily industry types for fun and bragging rights. “No strings attached” except MORCA Prez. be at SeaOtter to receive the check in a public setting. Board members in favor emphasized the good that could be done with money, and that planned uses for the money (MORCA initiatives such as TAKMBD, pump track etc) need to be clearly enunciated, as well that accepting the money does not mean support of e-bike on local trails. Board members against (or leery) expressed concern about harm to MORCA due to strong feelings about e-bikes expressed in media/local blogs to date, and that taking the money would be akin to supporting e-bikes, and their use on local trails. IMBA declined to accept the money due controversy. BLM issued a statement that e-bikes are considered to be motor vehicles and are banned from the National Monument at this time. A separate future issue is MORCA taking a position on what e-bikes uses are appropriate as BLM develops its Transportation Plan and responds to requests by e-bikes and Segues for access.

**Item 10: Bike Park/Pump Track** -- No report.

**Item 11: Trash Cans for BLM** -- **We agreed to advise Eric Morgan that we will purchase trash cans.** Due to leash laws, more dogs poop on trails rather than in bushes off-leash, so more and better trash cans are needed to encourage user cleanup. The cans are \$185 each plus shipping and BLM wants 10 of them. We can put our logo on them. Henri to check to see if FORT Friends willing to share this expense (Dec 17 meeting). Note the source of money is a \$2,200 donation from BETA to both MORCA and FORT Friends for good works on trails.

**Item 12: Regional Parks District** – We discussed recent meeting of Joel, Henri, Ken C. and Phil with MPRPD General Manager, who asked for support of their plans to take over management of Happy Trails, Jack Peak and Toro Park from County. (They already own Palo Corona near Highway 1/Carmel Valley). We are generally supportive but want to be sure that MTB access and use is the same or better; sometimes we receive mixed messages from their staff and some of their board are very anti-bike. **Watch for e-mails from Ken C re Palo Corona Management Plan.** It is time for MTBers to get involved to request access to see the land in order to comment on Management Plan (presently only hikers are allowed in a limited area) and to demand future permanent access as tax-payers to this huge swath of public land. Previously, Darius is asking for IMBA assistance on the State Parks access issue to Palo Corona.

**Item 13: Calendar Review** – Future items in December not discussed above include –

**December 16—Wednesday Night Ride—Christmas Ride!!** Dress up bike and body with lights etc and light up our Christmas Bush at Kyles Bench. We await announcement of Critical Christmas ride in Cannery Row as well.

**Item 14: Future Planning** – We briefly reviewed need to do new waivers, the high school team fund, need to redo website (Joel lead) and Sue volunteered to post MORCA rides on the meetup.com site.

**Item 15A: Other Business/MORCA Jerseys—(from last time)** Phil will provide Darius the Voler info to consider. Note that Mary Lawson made a nice kit in Bend and she can share details too.

**The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.**

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