

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 11, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Golden Tee Restaurant, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 1/13/2016

Attendees: All Directors except Nick Madronio; members included Darius Rike and Ken Chrisman; plus potential member Cookie, who is new to area and wants to get involved

2016 Directors: Joel Trice (P), Sue Benjaram (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Phil Craig (MAL) and Brian Tomasini (MAL)

Next Meeting: The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. **The next meeting is Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6 PM at the Golden Tee Restaurant.**

Agenda Items were as follows:

1. **Opening remarks**
2. **FORA/ESCA Update**
3. **County Update/Happy Trails signage/County Parks etc**
4. **Trail Work Update**
5. **Treasurer's Report**
6. **Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)**
7. **Bike Park**
8. **Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District**
9. **Calendar Review for 2016**
10. **2016 Planning (includes Waiver review and High School Team Fund)**
11. **Sea Otter Classic**
12. **E-Bike donation from Bosch**
13. **Drones at Sea Otter Classic**
14. **Meet-Up Website**
15. **Calendar Management**
16. **Other Business -- Trash cans for BLM; Bike Month is May 2016; other**

Item 1: Opening Remarks/Last Month Review – Joel wished us all Happy New Year and again thanked Ken Chrisman and Matt (the Pig Wizard Apprentice) for being master chefs and Ken's family for opening their home for the Christmas Party.

Item 2: FORA/ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The FORA/ESCA noontime meeting for trail user groups is next scheduled for February 24, 2016 (they are meeting quarterly in 2016 – Feb 24, May 25, August 24 and November 23). There is a quarterly Community Involvement meeting on January 20 at 6 PM at the Fort Ord Bridge Center, 201 13th street, Bldg 2925 in Marina. There should be important info on Army and FORA remediation activities. Henri and Phil are likely to attend. We hope to receive an update on Army closure and burning of Trail 68, Burmese and other popular trails. See also FORA website (www.fora.org) and e-mails for info. www.fora-esca-rp.com or Army site at www.fortordcleanup.com

Item 3: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA/Fort Ord Committee/Other. Nick e-mailed that there has been no action by County regarding allowing us to start work on **trail signage**. County had previously asked if we would get our grant extended as they need to do environmental review; the grant agency was open to this and asked for something in writing from County (pending).

In December, Nick, Henri, Phil and Fred Watson rode potential trails that are slated for possible closure in a recent **County FORHA trails plan**; we identified trail closures that do and do not make sense from our perspective. Henri provided pictures and rough comments to the Board on January 11 (via e-mail). Henri to write a rough summary for review and tweaking by the group, and will ask Fred Watson for mapping assistance. Nick continues to attend **County Fort Ord Committee** meetings (typically 4th Monday of the month) —stay tuned for confirmation.

Phil Craig attended the recent **Monterey County Parks Commission** meeting, where he addressed concerns about recent bulldozing of fire roads in Toro Mark (unsustainable ruts), suggested letting MTBers ride legal sustainable trails in back of Toro Park and Marks Canyon.

Phil volunteered to research if a group rate is available for **Annual Park Passes** to County Parks. Update: there is not a group rate; the cost is \$80 per year. Phil is willing to coordinate a group of MORCA purchases so Parks staff is aware of support by MTBers.

Darius also asked that MORCA request a meeting with Parks Director Mark Mariscal regarding a conceptual **climbing trail and other improvements at Toro Park**. If there is a positive response, we can work on the trail description in more detail.

Item 4: Trail Work Update – Darius described extra work days in December 2015 and planned trail day on **January 16, 2016 at 9 PM at 8th and Gigling**. We will continue maintenance work on Trails 50 and 49 to keep them in good shape. In February we will start our focus on damaged trails. Darius received BLM approval of his rough flagging to reroute lower Ewok (T43) and will set pin flags for their review and approval. Darius's crew also rough brushed the top of T23 (steep section) and awaits BLM approval to continue as another project. **We volunteered about 600 hours in 2015 and 18 hours so far in 2016**. Kudos to Darius for being a great Trail Crew Leader!

Item 5: Treasurer's Report and Other Financial – Nick e-mailed our current status (roughly \$31,541 current total balance, including \$17,900 in grant account). Income included night ride fees and Xmas Party donations; expenses were for Xmas Party and trail day food. FORT Friends paid half of Public Lands Day (trail work) lunch costs (\$60).

Item 6: TAKMBD – Sue and crew will take a break for now. **Sue is asking that someone volunteer to be a co-chair with her and also help with finding raffle items**. She suggested an excellent component like a dropper post. Joel advised us that IMBA has set two TAKMBD days: June 11 and October 1. We will do October 1 only. Recall that we plan to donate money to school MTB programs for each volunteer hour the kids donate, similar to how SeaOtter "pays" non-profits.

Item 7: Bike Park/Pump Track -- No report.

Item 8: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – We noted that MPRPD continues to work toward 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 members are very anti-bike.

Palo Corona Management Plan. Ken C is attending Regional Parks meetings; a consultant is being selected to prepare a Management Plan. Henri will draft a **letter requesting several**

permitted MORCA rides into the Palo Corona area (leaders and sweeps) so citizens can see the property for themselves and be better able to comment on the plan. One issue is the rain, as those trails become very muddy. Access may be limited until it dries up. Previously, Darius was asking for IMBA assistance on the State Parks access issue to Palo Corona. Darius will draft a **letter requesting that the State Parks Management Plan for the Point Lobos area be consistent** with the Regional Parks Management Plan for Palo Corona regarding consistent public access through State Parks coastal property (San Jose Creek) to reach inland Regional Parks property.

Item 9: Calendar Review – Joel will focus on this more next meeting, but some items of note include:

March 14 – Regular member quarterly meeting (details TBA)

April 14-17 -- Sea Otter Classic

October 1 – TAKMBD

October 5—Twilight Ride at Laguna Seca (we host)

Item 10: 2016 Planning – Two issues that we will pursue are: (1) **Waivers** – Brian to take the lead; we agreed it was important to get feedback from a legal person early in the process. IMBA should help us with this. IMBA does have some printed guidelines on waivers that we have. Brian has several examples of waivers. Goal is text on one side and signatures on the other. (2) We previously stated a goal to create a fund for **high school scholarship** (bike or race fees for deserving student). Other goals previously included need to redo website (Joel lead).

Item 11: Sea Otter Classic (SOC) – Joel emphasized the need to obtain a major raffle item; he will contact Evil bikes as they are highly rated but do not have a local presence. Later in the meeting Sue mentioned another idea such as a high-end component like a gravity dropper. Joel will also confirm that we will be with the IMBA booth. After the meeting, AmeriKen confirmed he will lead the dual slalom volunteer effort and will be attending SOC coordination meetings. To our knowledge, no one was able to secure a campsite; hopefully MBOSC got theirs.

Item 12: Determine whether to Accept Donation from E-Bike Company (Bosch) -- Last month the board was split on this issue and decided to get a vote from the full membership via the IMBA database, similar to a regular election. Over 150 ballots were sent out and 28 members responded by the December 31 deadline. **The vote was 13 “yes” and 15 “no”**. After noting how split the membership is on this issue, **the Board unanimously determined it would not accept the Bosch donation of \$6,000**. Henri will check with the FORTAG group to see if they are interested; if yes, Joel will suggest that group as a recipient.

Item 13: Drones at Sea Otter – Brian raised the issue that there will likely be many more photo drones this year due to their popularity, and expressed concern about potential effects on racers or volunteers. He suggested that the SOC folks develop a policy about drones. Phil said he would contact Frank Yohannan about this issue.

Item 14: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue volunteered to post MORCA rides on the MeetUp.com site as a MeetUp host; we need to reimburse her for \$89.94 for 6 months (though June 7). This fee allows several “hosts”. Henri is interested in learning how to host. A recent Sunday ride included a new rider who learned about us via MeetUp. There are thousands of MeetUp folks in our region. Joel asked if there was a way to link MeetUp info with Facebook or Google groups so information is not needed to be repeated, or folks don’t get a ton of e-mails. Sue will check into this.

Item 15: Calendar management – AmeriKen currently does nearly all the Google calendar items. In case he is on vacation or is not available, and a best practice to have duplication of knowledge, Darius has given Henri and others calendar permission. Henri will coordinate with Darius to learn how to properly add an event.

Item 16A: Other/Trash Cans for BLM -- In late 2015, we received a \$2,200 donation from BETA to further good works on Fort Ord trails. We previously asked Eric Morgan about needs on the National Monument, and trash cans are desired. 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. Henri reported that FORT Friends voted in December 2015 to donate \$500 towards this effort. We can put our logo on them. One possibility is www.stickermule.com Ken C also noted his brother owns a large printing outfit. Both MORCA and FORT Friends can put a logo on the trash cans with a brief message such as “Trash cans courtesy of...”

Item 16B: Other/Bike Month is May 2016 -- We were asked by a Bike Month organizer if we planned any special events. We determined that we do plenty already, and our Beginner’s Ride, Trail Day, and Ladies Led Rides in May can be part of the celebration.

Item 16C: Other/First Aid Kits -- Sue noted that IMBA sells First Aid kits of various sizes and will post information about this.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM. Busy year ahead!