

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Golden Tee Restaurant, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 2/3/2016

Attendees: All Directors were present; guests included Darius Rike, Ken Howat, Wayne Dominguez, Fred Watson and David Tucker (sp?)

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

Next Board Meeting: The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. The **next meeting is Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6 PM at the Golden Tee Restaurant.**

Next Quarterly Member Meeting: The general membership meets quarterly with emphasis on social time and/or special events. The **next meeting is Monday, March 14, 2016 at 6 PM at location to be determined. Social time and Sea Otter Classic is on the agenda.**

2/1/2016 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. **Opening remarks + Donation Buckets**
2. **FORA/ESCA Update**
3. **County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails/Toro Park Issues**
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 (MPRPD)**
9. **Calendar Review – what's coming up?**
10. **2016 Planning (includes Waiver review and High School Team Fund)**
11. **Sea Otter Classic**
12. **Meet-Up Website**
13. **Calendar Management**
14. **Other Business – Trash cans for BLM; First Aid kits; brochures; Wilderness**

Item 1: Opening Remarks + Donation Buckets – Joel did not have news to report. Instead we heard and saw **Wayne Dominguez' clever** idea for 6 donation buckets for use at events. These include space for sponsors to donate money for cost-effective advertising. REI may provide the “bike tire covers” for free. We concurred that Wayne should move forward and be designated our “marketing representative” as he solicits sponsorships from companies. **Henri** to write a letter of introduction for Wayne for Joel's review.

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, future meetings are May 25, August 24 and November 23). Henri and Brian reported on the January 20 FORA-ESCA community outreach meeting. All field work has been completed; trails have been cleared of munitions; various areas are in different stages of regulatory paperwork needed before transfer to County/cities. Henri spoke with Army representative who indicated that their formal Work Plan for BLM Area B trail closures should be out by April for public comment. They will try to maximize public access but will be strict regarding trespassing during their work. Area B includes 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/Toro Park/Other. Nick has not received response from County rep re status, and work on **trail signage** is on hold. County had previously asked if we would get our grant extended; the grant foundation is 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. We still need to communicate our suggestions to the County. **Fred Watson provided maps** that included his integrated map of Fort Ord and surrounding areas with his personal rating of each trail; and the County FORHA map with his overlay of many trails that exist but are not on the FORHA map (but should be). These desired trails are light purple on his maps. Importantly, Fred was advised that the State Department of Finance has approved County plans to change status of some “Development” parcels to “Open Space” parcels (yet to be formally confirmed). He has mapped these with green dashes. This means that there could be more opportunity for trails, and less mitigation for habitat loss would be needed if fewer acres are developed. We agreed we should meet with Fred and Darius to write up our recommendations on closures as well as unmapped trails that should be part of the trail system. Fred said he would send a link to his maps so they can be perused in detail.

Nick continues to attend **County Fort Ord Committee** meetings (typically 4th Monday) — next meeting is February 22 at 11 AM in Government Center.

Phil volunteered to pick up **Annual Park Passes** to County Parks for those who want to purchase them. The cost is \$80 per year. Buying them together will show support by MORCA.

Thursday Feb 4 at 3 PM is the next Monterey County Parks Commission meeting, where trail damage at **Toro Park** is on the agenda. Phil and possibly Darius plan to attend. A concerned **hiker is blaming mountain bikes for trail damage** though the rogue trail builder may not be a biker at all. David Tucker (sp?) of the Highway 68 Hillbillies summarized their many years of sanctioned trail work with County Ranger oversight, permission and use of tools. He will make a presentation at the meeting and point out trail damage by hikers as well. He emphasized the need to **obey signage about trail closures to bikes after rains** this winter. David has met with Parks Director Mark Mariscal, who is open to having more legal trails for bikes. Joel suggested some sort of joint meeting of the minds and Darius asked how to better coordinate trail work. [Recall last month, Darius asked that we meet with Mark Mariscal regarding creating legal sustainable trails in Toro Park backcountry and Marks Canyon. He has ideas for a conceptual climbing trail and other improvements at Toro Park.]

Item 4: Trail Work Update – Darius described January work and two planned days in February: **February 6, 2016 at 9 PM at Creekside will focus on Trail 30; February 20 will also be out of Creekside and focus on T41 (Goat).** Come out and help give back to the trails we all use.

Item 5: Treasurer’s Report and Other Financial – Nick reviewed our current status (roughly \$31,720 current total balance, including \$17,900 in grant account). Income included night ride fees and IMBA quarterly membership dues; night ride fees to BLM and trail day expenses were the key expenses. FORT Friends has pledged \$500 to help with BLM trash cans (see Item 14A).

Item 6: TAKMBD is Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Sue is asking that someone volunteer to be a co-chair with her and also help with finding raffle items. Joel contacted Evil bikes, who could only offer a 20% discount on a frame. Sue previously suggested a high-end component like a dropper post. Joel asked that we reserve the desired area ASAP. Phil noted there is a river running through the skills area which will need work.

Item 7: Bike Park/Pump Track -- No report; on hold at Toro area. Darius reported that the Marina pump track is slowly moving forward.

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). Fred Watson described his meeting with Tim Jensen about possible MPRPD offices on the Jerry Smith access corridor, which could be a nice trailhead.

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 – Items of note include:

February 6 and 20 – trail days (Creekside)

February 11 – FORT Friends quarterly meeting (BLM/botany presentation)

February 13 – Fat Tire bike demo, 10-3 at 8th and Gigling

February 27 – Army bus tour of cleanup areas

March 7 – Board meeting

March 14 – Regular member quarterly meeting (details TBA) Henri and Joel to brainstorm

April 14-17 -- Sea Otter Classic

October 1 – TAKMBD

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

Note that there will be no Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival this year.

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). Wayne's donation bucket will help with this. Henri to contact George Fontes and George Garibay re ideas. Other goals previously included need to redo website (Joel lead on ideas).

Item 11: Sea Otter Classic (SOC) – Joel emphasized the **need to obtain a major raffle item**; he contacted Evil bikes with limited success. Darius noted that Specialized Team is at Creekside every

Thursday afternoon and Wayne may contact them. Recall Sue suggested a high-end component like a gravity dropper.

Ken Howat will lead the **dual slalom volunteer** effort and will be attending SOC coordination meetings. He will first send personal e-mails to previous volunteers. Brian and Darius to lead on Thursday and Friday of SOC as Ken cannot be there. Joel indicated we need to ramp up on volunteer signups for the **MORCA booth**. The SOC placed us a few booths away from IMBA; Henri will ask FORA and BLM if they do not mind trading spots so we can be next to IMBA. AmeriKen confirmed he has one **camping spot** (tent size) and is on waiting list for something larger (RV size).

Item 12: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com site as a MeetUp host; Henri is interested in learning how to host.

Item 13: Calendar management – AmeriKen currently does nearly all the Google calendar items. Darius has given Henri and others calendar permission. Henri will coordinate with Darius to learn how to properly add an event.

Item 14A: Other Business/Trash Cans for BLM -- **Brian** is leading the procurement and delivery effort for 10 new BLM trash cans/dog poop receptacles. BLM will allow only a 4x6 inch sticker with MORCA and FORT Friend logos as the source of donation. (FORT Friends voted to donate \$500 towards this effort. Ken C's brother may give a deep discount for the stickers.

Item 14B: Other/First Aid Kits -- Sue plans to buy 10 high-quality first aid kits (several folks have expressed interest). AmeriKen says he has a lot of first aid supplies. Henri suggested consolidating a nice First Aid kit to bring to all our major events along with standard box of brochures etc.

Item 14C: Other/Brochures and other outreach – Sue, Darius, Joel and others will inventory brochures and other outreach materials that may be in their possession so we know if we need to reorder for Sea Otter. Wayne is willing to drop off at various bike shops. Having a MORCA hanger for bike shops to put on a new mountain bike they sell was suggested as a good outreach idea!

Item 14D: Other/Wilderness Comments – At the request of IMBA, Henri submitted online comments to US Forest Service re bicycles and Wilderness Plan for Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra Forests.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM. Busy busy!!