

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, April 4, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Golden Tee Restaurant, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 4/6/2016

Attendees: All Directors were present; members/guests included Darius Rike, Ken Howat, Wayne Dominguez, Tony Cepeda and Ken Chrisman.

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 board meeting is Monday, May 2, 2016 at 6 PM at the Golden Tee Restaurant.**

Next Member Meeting: The general membership meeting emphasis is on social time. The date for a **picnic/pool party is April 10.** See separate communications for details.

4/4/2016 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. Opening remarks
2. FORA/ESCA Update
3. County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails
4. Toro Park Issues
5. Trail Work Update
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)
8. Bike Park
9. Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD)
10. Calendar Review – what's coming up?
11. 2016 Planning (includes Waiver review and High School Team Fund)
12. Sea Otter Classic
13. Meet-Up Website
14. Calendar Management
15. Other Business – Trash cans for BLM;

Item 1: Opening Remarks + Donation Buckets – Joel noted key issues are Sea Otter planning and Toro Park.

Item 2: FORA/ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The next FORA/ESCA noontime meeting is scheduled for May 25 (then August 24 and November 23). On May 7, the Army is hosting a hike in the closed impact area. Brian attended an Army-hosted meeting on the cleanup efforts in the Parker Flats area—no action needed. The Army is slowly moving forward with formal Work Plan for BLM Area B trails that we use but no information is available at present. 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. Nick submitted a formal letter to the County and the Monterey Foundation requesting a 12-month extension. County is open to **trail signage** on trails marked “open” in the draft FORHA plan. Foundation is open to an extension but wants the timeline on the complete project, which depends on feedback from the County, which depends on completion of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). County is willing to receive our suggestions re FORHA “closed” trails, which often don't make sense given the flow of the trail

network. **Nick, Henri, Phil and Fred Watson** (and Darius if he wishes) need to meet again to write this up. We discussed creating temporary kiosks on skids as the County is worried about any post-hole digging. The March 2016 **Fort Ord Committee meeting** was cancelled and hopefully they will have an April meeting, which may include transfer of management duties of County land to the Regional Park District.

We agreed it is too late to have a group purchase **County Park Passes** as people have already purchased them individually. Darius suggested that the County have a web-based purchase and renewal for passes and they will get a lot more business—they make it hard to buy at present.

Item 4: County Update/Toro Park. We heard report from Darius Rike, the MORCA rep on the Toro Trail Committee. The committee's first task is to identify all official and unofficial trails that exist at Toro, and identify all the different types of users who enjoy these trails. This will be presented to the Parks Commission by County staff in early May. It was interesting to learn that there is a network of unofficial hiker trails near Indian Springs that we did not know about. We are assuming a future task of the committee will be to make some recommendations on an integrated trail network. It was suggested that features oriented for youth (e.g., small pump track) and beginners (easy trails in front area) be an important part of any future trail plan. Phil and Henri have hiked some of the back-country trails in the past few weeks and many are excellent multi-use trails. Phil has spent years hiking in Toro Park 2-3 times per week and really knows the area. Notably, Parks Director Mark Mariscal is retiring in July, and is handing off the Toro task to John Akeman and Richard Riddle.

Item 5: Trail Work Update – Darius described our work in March with 256 volunteer hours logged to date. There is not an official day in April due to Sea Otter. NOTE: Trail day in May will be the second Saturday (May 14) due to the Old Cabin Classic on May 21. Future work will likely focus on lower Goat, depending on soil conditions. Once it stops raining, it's back to veg trimming.

Item 6: Treasurer's Report and Other Financial – Nick reviewed our current status (roughly \$29,320 current total balance, including \$17,900 in grant account). Income included IMBA quarterly membership dues (\$998) and \$500 donation from FORT Friends for the trashcan purchase. Major expenses were trail day food (\$309) and annual insurance (\$874, which is much lower than last year!) We briefly discussed tasks associated with incorporation. Darius noted we have 198 paid members.

Item 7: TAKMBD is Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Thank you Kelly Lesanti (sp?) for volunteering to be co-chair with Sue. Sue has received a receipt from the County for our application. Do we still have insurance questions?

Item 8: Bike Park/Pump Track -- No report except for that Keith Defiebre had some ideas, and his expertise would be very helpful.

Item 9: 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).

Palo Corona Management Plan. Ken C attends Regional Park's meetings and reported that their consultant continues to work on a management plan. Ken indicated it should be completed in

Fall 2016 then goes to their board vote after public review and comment. As an individual, Ken suggests that there be a bike trail adjacent to Carmel Valley road and also requests temporary access for cyclists to see Palo Corona (via a permit system similar to hikers). Darius prepared a letter to the State Parks Commission asking that the **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 Park's property. Joel needs to sign and mail ASAP.

Item 10: Calendar Review – Items of note include:

April 10— member social picnic

April 14-17 -- Sea Otter Classic

April 30 – FONM Birthday Celebration

May 21 – MBOSC Old Cabin Classic at Wilder Ranch (plus MORCA stunts at kids rodeo)

October 1 – TAKMBD

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

Item 11: 2016 Planning – Three issues listed are: (1) **Waivers** – Evaluate current waiver (Brian) and now the insurance company wants us to keep all waivers for 2 years, so address file management (Henri). (2) **High school scholarship** (bike or race fees for deserving student). Wayne's donation buckets at Sea Otter and other venues will help with this. Henri suggested a scholarship for a younger girl to the Little Bellas would be another nice option. Henri to contact George Fontes and George Garibay re ideas on scholarship distribution (once we have the money!). (3) **Website upgrade**. Darius said he is willing to do the tech part but needs design help. He will meet April 21 (Thursday after SOC) with folks who wish to discuss. Check out other websites and also templates available via GoDaddy. Henri has some names of local professionals who helped FORT Friends do the same thing.

Item 12: Sea Otter Classic (SOC) – Key items are volunteer signups, fund-raising raffle and logistics.

Volunteer slots are all filled for dual slalom, and there are a few slots in the booth. Joel indicated we would share staff to help in the IMBA booth re memberships.

Wayne Dominguez reported on his efforts to find sponsors and locations for **donation buckets** at Sea Otter and beyond (proceeds to our scholarship fund).

Raffle—we agreed on spending up to \$1300+ to split the cost of a lower-end medium Stumpjumper bike with BobCat as a raffle item with proceeds to TAKMBD. Wayne also secured raffle items from Oakley (2 pair of high end sunglasses) and Light & Motion (2 Taz bright lights), and has contacted Dainaise (knee pads), REI, Subaru and others. Thanks to Wayne as our “marketing representative” as he solicits sponsorships and raffle donations. Tony Zepeda of Cyclepath Outfitters indicated he would like to donate some nice gear too. Thanks!

We agreed **Raffle tickets should be \$5 each**. We talked about 3 for \$10 or 6 for \$20, but we would need to sell 390 tickets just to break even at that \$3/ticket rate. **May I suggest just \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20 (i.e., buy 4 and get 1 free)**. For raffle winners, we must maintain a list of who won and who picked up their prize. Sue suggested starting to sell raffle tickets at the April 10 picnic. **We need to find the actual roll of raffle tickets.**

Important—we need to start thanking these sponsors now in social media and tagging them on Facebook etc. Do we have a list of all the sponsors and donation items?

Wayne and Darius inventoried **outreach materials** in storage; we are **short on brochures** and must print them now if there will be any for SeaOtter—Darius and Sue to coordinate. Don't forget the **IMBA member challenge**—if we increase membership by 30% (e.g., more signups or \$50 membership rather than \$35), we split proceeds 50-50 rather than 40-60. You need a \$50 membership to get swag this year, so that is a good selling point for a higher membership selection.

Phil, Joel and others are coordinating **set-up on Wednesday**. You need to work with Sue as she must work through SOC.

AmeriKen confirmed he has one **camping spot** (tent size).

Item 13: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com We have 50+ members and have met some nice folks.

Item 14: Incorporation -- We continue to be a 501-c-3 nonprofit in the eyes of the IRS as a chapter of IMBA, but we need to incorporate in the State of California ASAP for liability reasons. Henri noted that FORT Friends is willing to help with this.

Item 15: Wednesday Night Rides – Due to changes in BLM policy, we will have all night rides at 8th and Giggling through May 2016. We then will alternate with Creekside once the days are long enough to enable a post-ride BBQ at the Creekside trailhead. The April 13 Wednesday night ride will be at the SeaOtter venue (Laguna Seca day-use lot, delay to 6:15 to let SOC staff depart.)

Item 16A: Other Business/Trash Cans for BLM -- **Brian** has 10 new BLM trash cans/dog poop receptacles; we now need to get them to BLM ASAP. Brian also worked on sticker graphics. Thanks Brian for leading this effort!!

From last time: 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.

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