

Candidate Statement Mike McGirr

Your Name: Mike McGirr

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member: Fall of 2014

Relevant Professional or Volunteer Experience/Knowledge:

Professional Experience: Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

Business Operations and Grants Specialist

UL is a Safety Science company, a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) and a Standards Development Organization (SDO).

Volunteer Experience:

Mike is a member of IMBA, MORCA, the Salinas Downtown Rotary and is a Board member of the Central Coast VNA & Hospice. Previously Mike was a founding Board member of the Infinity Racing Organization which sponsors a 3 day road bike Gran Fondo in Brevard County FL. When my family was growing up I was involved as a baseball and soccer coach and many years on the Board of our local swim club.

Describe Your MORCA Participation to Date: Trail Work, Take a Kid Mountain Biking (2014 & 2016), Social Rides

Why Are You Running for Director? (Your Goals and Interests): I have been an enthusiastic bike ride since my teens. I enjoy Mountain Biking and Road Biking. Being on the MORCA BOD would be a way to become more formally involved in the local biking community and to apply my skills in organizational development and promoting mountain biking, a sport I am committed to. In my professional life, among other things, I manage the administration of a Federal grants portfolio for UL, which is a skill that would translate well to a local non-profit.

Candidate Statement: Gary Courtright

Your Name: Gary Courtright

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member: 15 years with IMBA+- 10 Years with MORCA (Joined shortly after the club was founded)

Relevant Professional or Volunteer Experience/Knowledge: Owner of a local Kitchen & Bath design company. I have served on the board previously as vice president and president. Have an established relationship with local land managers, other clubs and industry affiliates.

Describe Your MORCA Participation to Date: Some of my past accomplishments with MORCA has been legalizing limited night riding, assisting with trail re-alignment scouting, trail work, assisting in setting up events, assisting in making MORCA an IMBA Chapter, assisting in working groups to make Former Fort Ord a National Monument, helped coordinate Sea Otter Volunteers and similar tasks. I am a co-sponsor of a local mountain bike team and am involved with the Salinas High mountain bike team and volunteer at the NorCal races. I do attend several Wednesday Night Rides when my schedule permits, some board meetings and some trail work days. I also volunteer for the Sea Otter Classic booth with IMBA.

Why Are You Running for Director? (Your Goals and Interests): I would like to help the club to continue to foster relationships with local land managers, stake holders and other riding groups in order to be able to open up more riding opportunities in our local area. Growing the club, gaining more participation in events and helping beginner riders become experienced riders are also some goals that I will have on the board.

Candidate Statement: Henrietta Stern

Your Name: Henrietta Stern

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member: 10

Relevant Professional or Volunteer Experience/Knowledge: As an environmental planner for 30 years, I am knowledgeable about the laws that can affect mountain bike trails, and how to participate in the environmental review process. I used to race and was an assistant coach for a local composite high school mountain bike team, and was trained in instructing new riders plus first aid. I am also a founding member of Fort Ord Recreation Trails (FORT) Friends, which emphasizes volunteerism and friendship among user groups.

Describe Your MORCA Participation to Date: I have been MORCA Secretary as a director since 2007; I have attended nearly every meeting, special event, out-of-state trips, and most trail days. I have led the monthly Beginners Ride for the past 2 years, and often the "C" group on Wednesday nights.

Why Are You Running for Director? (Your Goals and Interests): Mountain biking and my "MORCA family" mean a lot to me, and I like giving back to the group and the trails. There are many potential changes to our trail systems in the next few years, and I hope my experience and "win-win" philosophy can help MORCA find positive opportunities and partnerships during these changing times. I think reaching out to the Latino community will enhance volunteerism and membership.

Candidate Statement: Nick Madronio

Name: Nick Madronio

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member:7 years, on the board since 2014

I retired from the fire service after 36 years of service but remain on the Board of Directors for Fremont Firefighters, Local 1689 as Treasurer for its 123 members

I have been a MORCA member since November 2009 and was elected to the Board in 2014. While on the Board I found liability insurance for the club, regularly attend the Fort Ord Committee meetings and was successful in getting a grant for the Phase One Trail Sign Project.

As a dues-paying member of MORCA, I have been involved with club rides, trail days, Sea Otter Classic volunteer and Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day. I also started MTB XC racing three years ago and share information about MORCA with people I've met through the racing experience.

My motivation to serve on the Board of MORCA is to continue the efforts of the club to promote the sport of responsible mountain biking. I have involvement with local government officials and want to see the completion of the Phase One Trail Sign Project.

I am asking for your continued support and vote in facing the challenges of being a Board of Director for MORCA.

Respectfully,

Nick Madronio
Treasurer
MORCA

Candidate Statement: Brian Tomasini

Your Name: Brian Tomasini

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member: 4

Relevant Professional or Volunteer Experience/Knowledge: Worked at the same place for 39 years, but little to rattle a résumé. Jack of various trades, master of none. Just old enough to know being present is the essential first step in the practical application of making a difference. I hold MORCA's mission statement to address differences worth making. Entered mountain biking after my blood pressure readings led my doctor to prescribe the sentiment: "start making some changes or start making arrangements".

Describe Your MORCA Participation to Date: Attending group rides, tried to regularly and responsibly sweep the Beginner and "C" rides for the last year or so. Volunteered the last 3 years with MORCA at the Sea Otter Classic, Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day, and The Santa Cruz Mountain Bike Festival, now the Log Cabin Classic. Also participated with Ciclovía in Salinas, Fort Ord Warhorse Events, National Public Lands Days, and as many special build or project days as life allows. Committed to Trail Days with focus on sharp, clean tools, safe trails and sight lines, and a critical, but respectful, eye on the ever encroaching poison oak. As a late comer to public affairs, when time permits, I've frequented meetings and events affecting Fort Ord, including presentations by the U.S. Army, BLM, County, Parks, City Councils, and Planning Commissions. "Member at Large" on the Board of Directors for 2 years.

Why Are You Running for Director? (Your Goals and Interests): I was born in Fort Ord, believe it to be an exceedingly beautiful place, and find mountain biking a healthy, therapeutic, and gloriously satisfying way to appreciate the treasures it provides. I would like to mitigate risks to these treasures both from spoilers within and land sharks without. Many solid souls are engaged in very good works in and around our area and I appreciate sharing their cause and their company. From the encouraging emergence of involved, responsible young riders onto the scene, to the fix is in" melancholy politicians can serve with a smile, Fort Ord runs the gamut. I hope to run with it a while longer.

Candidate Statement: Sue Benjaram

Name: Sue Benjaram, R.N., M.P.A

Years as a MORCA or IMBA Member: About 5, including 3 years on the Board

Relevant Professional or Volunteer Experience/Knowledge:

I am a member of the Working Group for trails at Toro Park, which reports to the staff of Monterey County Parks, and have mentored the Little Bellas.

I also work as an RN at CHOMP's ER; hopefully, no one will require *this* expertise!!

Describe Your MORCA Participation to Date:

As TKMB coordinator for the past 3 years, I have:

- increased involvement of high school teams, coaches, volunteers and other entities (corporate and noncorporate)
- promoted development of a second obstacle course for younger kids
- increased publicity by developing and distributing flyers and e-flyers to schools
- established preregistration options
- gathered and analyzed info to improve TKMBD's outreach efforts
- maintained, with Lisa Rike, TKMBD's Facebook page

I have additionally

- established and maintained MORCA's meetup.com site
- volunteered at MORCA's Sea Otter Classic booth the last 4 years, at the MORCA booth at MBoSC Bike Festival and at the Ft Ord Warhorse Day
- participated in several trail maintenance/building days locally and at Tahoe
- enjoyed many MORCA-sponsored rides

Why Are You Running for Director? (Your Goals and Interests):

To continue, and expand on, my efforts to raise community awareness of mountain biking and access to mountain biking in our community.