

MORCA MINUTES for Monday, December 7, 2009 at 6:30 PM at Mountain Mikes in Marina (normal location is English Ales). Minutes submitted by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 12/9/2009.

Our website is: www.morcamtb.org <<http://www.morcamtb.org/>>
<<http://www.morcamtb.org/>>

YOUR OFFICERS FOR 2010:

President: Gary Courtright (also IMBA liaison)

VP: Darius Rike

Secretary: Henrietta Stern (also ESCA liaison)

Treasurer: Bob MacLean

Webmaster: Jim Ryan

Toro Liaison: Ken Chrisman

CSUMB Liaison: Chris Villasenor

ATTENDANCE: 16 adults attended, including all officers except Treasurer.

1. TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS STUFF - Gary reported that we have roughly \$855 in the checking account, and there is nearly \$1,200 in the PayPal account. We owe BLM \$205 for November. We have picked up about 10 new members due to the night riding so far. Yay!

There was an update by Gary on IMBA's efforts to be a 501-c-3 "umbrella" entity for member clubs, which would mean getting only 60% of grant funds obtained (the rest going to IMBA). A continuing interest was expressed by several members to pursue the tax exempt status on our own. Daphne indicated a willingness to assist in this effort if we choose to go it on our own. Additional discussion is needed at our next meeting in January 2010.

DUES-- Recall that we voted last month to increase the "basic" MORCA dues to \$35 per year starting in January 2010 due to increased insurance costs. Jim tells us we can renew for \$25 if we pay before December 31, 2009. Officers need to work up an incremental dues schedule, with different levels of support.

2. ESCA/ FORT ORD "HAPPY TRAILS" UPDATE-- See Henri's separate e-mails on ESCA monthly user's group meeting. Army is still working on formal documents to officially declare the North County MRA as Track 1 and

expedite transfer-early next year is latest estimate of completion.
Note e-mails on December 10, 2009 Community Forum at 6 PM at FORA meeting hall. Free pizza too. Henri plans to attend and hopefully others too, so we can talk to those regulators about reopening Parker Flats area that has been cleaned up.

3. CSUMB REPORT - No report. But members noted how great it would be to get some of that youthful sports team energy and muscle power out on trail days, and not just the one clean up day!

4. TORO REPORT - Ken encouraged us all to come out on Saturday, January 2, 2010 at 9 AM for a Toro Trail Day to work on the new pipeline trail. Now is the time to do tread work. Chris M. asked group members to consider putting more energy into Toro due to the welcoming attitude of rangers and potential to create new trails there, pump track, skills etc. Mapping project is still open for those with GPS units. Night riding also a real potential there. Joel noted that there needs to be an effort by experienced Toro riders to introduce other Morcans to the trails there to generate more interest. Darius led one ride and will likely do more.

5. SEA OTTER CLASSIC ADVANCE PLANNING-- Gary described contact with SeaOtter so far. If six riders are racing, we can get a \$10 discount with a MORCA code. Contact Gary ASAP if you plan to race.

We will be doing Kid's Corral within the Ride Zone, which needs to be confirmed that we are not just babysitting. Also we do the kids race on the short track course. We also get our free booth out in the hinterlands, likely to share with MBOSCruz group. We need to work on getting more volunteers, so starting talking to Scout troops, high school kids who need service points etc. We need to develop a formal volunteer request form, once we are clear on the specific volunteer tasks. Last month, we created a Planning Committee with Gary as lead contact: Committee include Gary, Ken, Jim and Joel (and Henri said she would help out too)-- From last month, SeaOtter confirmed that we would be covered by SeaOtter's insurance and teeter-totters would be OK in the Kid's venue.

6. "BIKES BELONG" GRANT PROGRAM -Gary described \$10,000 potential to do a variety of projects that get people on bikes, but we must be a 501-c-3 organization. We discussed what other organization could be a conduit for these types of funds, but no real answers. This kicked off

discussion of the whole 501-c-3 issue (see Item #1 above).

7. BIKE WEEK-MAY 2010 Jim just wanted us to be aware of Bike Week and think about potential plans, funding through TAMC etc.

8. FORT ORD TRAIL DAY, SATURDAY DEC 12, meet at 8:45 at 8TH & Giggling-Only heavy rain cancels, so come on out and help spruce up our Trail 69, the new trail we created with IMBA's help.

9. NIGHT RIDING UPDATE AND FUTURE RIDES-Rides have been going well. We would like to have a special Dec 23 "Nog Ride" to visit our live Xmas tree. Gary to contact BLM to see if we can get over there for that one night. Gary has contacted Light&Motion re demo lights for our night rides. They are holding a road demo for lights on Dec 15 in Pacific Grove (see e-mails on this).

Note Dec 20, 5 PM "Critical Christmas" in downtown Monterey-costume ride and light up your bike!!! Meet at Custom House Plaza area.

10. WILDERNESS FIRST AID-Members are interested in this training. Ken to provide info from his class. Henri took hers through the Highschool MtnBike League. The instructor is: Bobbie Foster at "Foster Calm" [bobbie@fostercalm.com] Check it out and maybe we can do a class with other locals who are interested. It is a 16-hr all weekend class.

11. HORSES-- Daphne and others expressed thanks that horses did not mess up trails too badly after their big endurance ride. She suggested writing a letter thanking organizers and encouraging them to stay away from single-track as feasible. However, Chrissy suggested confirming that course changes were actually made before we write such a letter. Daphne also noted that lots of money is going into the proposed Horse Park near 8th and G, and some serious advance planning is needed to ensure separate trails for horses and bikes in Fort Ord, especially anywhere blind corners may be present. This can be a topic for the long-term Trail Vision group which should be starting up again next year. Henri will bring this up at the next monthly ESCA meeting-or possible at the Community Forum tomorrow.

OTHER-OLD BUSINESS Members should also e-mail ideas for annual calendar.

Brainstorm ideas from previous meeting included:

all the weekly rides; monthly work days (2nd Saturday BLM and 4th

Saturday Toro); SeaOtter, 24 Hours (if local), Bike Month events (May), Fall BBQ, Kid's Day (Oct), Public Lands Day (Oct); Halloween Ride, Turkey Trot, Christmas Season ride and party.

MARKETING- need to develop a marketing plan for MORCA-outreach of all kinds to get more members and more involved in crucial work, fund-raising/grants etc once we get that 501-c-3 designation.

BUY TEE-SHIRTS-- we still have lots of sizes. Women's order needs to wait until we clear the existing stock.

CAL-STAR MEDI-VAC HELICOPTER INSURANCE-Only \$35 per family per year with MORCA group rate--thanks to Joel who got this group rate together. Need 15 folks signed up to get the rate. Normally \$45 at least. Check it out on website.

NEXT MEETING-- Next MORCA meeting is Mon, January 4, 2010 at 6:30 PM at English Ales in Marina (Reindollar Avenue) -- all welcome.

That's all for now, folks. See you on the trails!

email: henri@mpwmd.dst.ca.us