

MORCA, A Chapter of IMBA, Summary of December 5, 2011 Meeting
Angelina's Pizza at Toro Park; 6:30-8:00 PM
Prepared by Henrietta Stern on December 18, 2011
Our website is www.morcamtb.org

19 folks attended. As a reminder, your officers through December 2011 are:

President-- Gary Courtright

VP-- Darius Rike (webmaster too)

Secretary-- Henrietta Stern (plus Fort Ord liaison)

Treasurer-- Joel Trice

Member-at-Large – Michael Do Couto

OUR NEW OFFICERS starting January 1, 2012 are:

President-- Darius Rike (webmaster too)

VP-- Matt McPharlin

Secretary-- Henrietta Stern (plus Fort Friends and FORA/ESCA liaison)

Treasurer-- Joel Trice

Member-at-Large – Michael Do Couto (plus extensive public relations)

LIAISONS are not officers, but do a lot of work, and coordinate extensively with officers.

They are:

==CSUMB and New Member/Beginners: AmeriKen Howat

==Toro Park and ForU: Jason Campbell

==IMBA and BLM: Gary Courtright

You are welcome to contact the liaisons to offer assistance

1. Treasurer's Report-- As of Nov 30, we had \$3,665 and need to deduct the IMBA Crew expenses (\$400+). There was \$616 in the PayPal account, which goes to BLM for night rides, which indicates a good turnout (15-20 riders each week). Joel noted that money is going out faster than it is coming in and it is time to think about fund-raising. This elicited a good brainstorming session on ways to enhance membership and get more money, including support by bike shops. We need to show bike shops what we are doing for them rather re: encouraging new riders and potential new customers rather than just asking for swag. Need to build loyalty for and by shops. George spoke about some concerns he has about how we interact with the shops, and will write down his ideas re advertising policies, weblinks, events, etc. Other ideas centered around beginners clinics such as the Ladies Ride and Yoga weekend we helped with last June. It was also suggested we learn from MBOSC and get a food and/or beer sponsor for specific events. Finally it was agreed that officers or a committee develop an action plan for review by the membership. WE HAVE A DONATE BUTTON ON THE WESBITE for worthy causes as you see fit or to MORCA in general. Use the "Notes" section of Paypal to designate a particular interest in how money should be used. We will accommodate as we can. Reminder—be sure you always list MORCA as designated chapter when you sign up for IMBA.

2. FORA/ESCA/FORHA/County News-- Henri encourages you to read her e-mails on the monthly FORA/ESCA meetings, the Fort Ord Committee (Supervisor Potter and

Parker), the FORT Friends minutes and news from the ForU/Keep for Ord Wild group. So much going on!

Jason and Chris M. are active in the the ForU/Keep Fort Ord Wild activities. Watch for e-mails about those groups and development issues that affect trails.

City of Seaside is the lead on the EIR for Monterey Downs/Horse Park.

January 24, 2012 is an important County Supes meeting re Whispering Oaks referendum.

Work continues on effort to have BLM lands become a National Monument with help from the Conservation Land Foundation, a national group that helps communities do this. Effort now is focused on outreach to Veterans as a component will be military history, along with recreation and habitat values.

Henri has been involved with Economic Development Committees that relate to eco-recreation/eco-tourism, which the County wants to support. Jim Cook is the new Economic Development Director and someone new may be doing the Redevelopment Agency tasks in the future. I have noted the importance of open space as an economic asset and the need to redevelop blighted areas, not forest trails.

Henri and Gary will meet again with Desert Gold Equestrian Endurance Event promoter re review of action to minimize trail conflicts this year, which went much better than last year. We have forwarded ideas to BLM re: ideas about minimizing impacts in the future.

3. IMBA Trail Crew Weekend, Dec 2,3,4-- Red Rock Reroute Project— This weekend was a success and thank you to all who worked hard to make it a success, especially the extra work on Friday in dense poison oak. More than 40 folks attended the class, including several BLM staff and a Hwy 68 Hillbilly contingent, and 1500 feet of trail were blazed (a record). This will be a great trail through some wonderful oaks. Still lots of work to do on lower and upper sections, including ways to preserve rock features and provide safety. Once the whole thing is done, we will stage a grand opening, hopefully.

At the Dec 14, 2011 FORT Friends meeting, Eric Morgan praised MORCA/IMBA for this effort.

IMBA Trail Crew Visit-- Lodging-- Thanks to **Mike (and Les) Terry of Los Laureles Lodge** for donating a room for the IMBA trail crew! They really appreciated it.

4. Red Rock--Next Steps: We discussed efforts to get a formal trail work agreement with BLM so specified crew leaders from MORCA can lead trail crews out to continue the work. An example was Dec 18 work. MORCA could also help BLM by advising them on trail conditions and areas that need work.

5. Calendar—see Michael's e-mail at the first of each month on calendar items. Check website. Contact him to add something. He has quite a list going—thanks Michael!! Items include races, events, government meetings, MORCA activities etc. Coming Soon-- Dec 21 Solstice/Hannukah/Christmas/Kwanzaa Holiday ride to the Christmas Tree to decorate it. We have special permission from FORA/ESCA.

First Beginner's Ride is Saturday, Jan 7, 2012.

Big ticket items in the future are: SeaOtter (midApril), a new 24-Hour Race June 15; Mountain Bike Oregon (July and August); Mountain Bike Tahoe (usually late July); TAKMBD (October).

Michael to check on Twilight Ride date.

6. BBQ Master-- discussed how to arrange getting MORCA BBQ to events, perhaps trading off this responsibility. I did not get specific person signed up for this.

7. End Of Year Events-- New Year's Eve sushi event at Gary's (his last day as Prez!) January 1, 2012 afternoon ride and BBQ-- 8th and G, start the year right on a bike!

8. Other Ideas — We mapped recurring events over the month:

1st Saturday -- beginner ride

2nd Sunday-- MBOSC ride at Demo

3rd Sat-- Trail Day at Fort Ord

4th Sun-- suggest ride to invite MBOSC and other clubs to visit us!

Note also opportunities to do trail work at Wilder and Coe, and help other clubs.

MORCA trails days are typically the third Saturday of every month.

Ellie and Karl led a trip to Montano del Oro in SLO. Cool!

We talked about trail ideas for Toro Park and distinguish our projects from more advanced Hillbilly projects.

From last month, Gary has info on Salinas High Mtn Bike Team sponsorships and clothing.

NEXT MEETING—MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 6:30 pm – Angelina's at Toro Park/7-11 market area). Let's jump out of the starting gate with a bang!