

MORCA, A Chapter of IMBA, Summary of January 2, 2012 Meeting
Angelina's Pizza at Toro Park; 6:30-8:45 PM
Prepared by Henrietta Stern on January 8, 2012
Our website is www.morcamtb.org

18 folks attended.

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 alot of work, and coordinate extensively with officers.

They are:

==CSUMB and New Member/Beginners: AmeriKen Howat

==Toro Park and ForU: Jason Campbell (Chris Mack re KFLOW)

==IMBA and BLM: Gary Courtright

You are welcome to contact the liaisons to offer assistance

1. President's Welcome-- Darius thanked Gary for his 2.5 years of service and introduced this year's officers and liaisons, and commented on his goals, especially growing the club. We heard more from Darius in later agenda items (see below).

2. Treasurer's Report-- As of Dec 24, we had \$3,315 in checking + PayPal. We need to think about fund raising efforts, and growing the club via IMBA/MORCA membership is one way. A beer sponsor also is high on the list with various ideas for this --EA, Peter B's etc. Previously we brainstormed on better coordination with bike shops, consider beginner clinics, and assign a committee to formulate an action plan. I do not believe a formal committee has been formed, but progress is already being made on several fronts.

WE HAVE A DONATE BUTTON ON THE WEBSITE 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.

3. 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 Fort Ord Wild and other groups. So much going on!

Jason and Chris M. are active in the the ForU/KFLOW; watch for e-mails about development issues that affect trails. It is recognized that there may be different

viewpoints among members on development issues, and MORCA as a group will focus on trail-related issues as appropriate for a 501-c-3 organization. Individuals are welcome to their respective opinions and affiliations so long as they do not represent MORCA/IMBA.

City of Seaside is the lead on the EIR for Monterey Downs/Horse Park.. no formal Notice to date.

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

A Major issue in 2012 is the reassessment of the Fort Ord Reuse Plan, due by January 2013, which will likely include a supplement to the original EIR.

Efforts continue to have current federal BLM lands become a National Monument for permanent protection with help from the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group that helps communities do this. No group I am aware of has expressed opposition to this concept. MORCA is double-checking to be sure that mountain biking activities are protected and IMBA's attorney may get involved. There may be a visit by Washington DC bigwigs in the near future.

Henri has been tracking Economic Development Committees that relate to eco-recreation/eco-tourism, which the County wants to support. Jim Cook is the new Economic Development Director. I have repeatedly opined that open space as an "economic asset" and the need is to redevelop blighted areas, not forest trails. More jobs will be created by (a) deconstruction of the blight, (b) construction of new buildings in blighted areas, plus (c) ecotourism jobs related to preserved open space and the domino effect of more customers for restaurants, brewpubs, wineries and hotels.

4. BLM/IMBA Update-- Gary reported on several activities-- see National Monument issues above. See Redrock update below. BLM is now allowing MORCA to do unsupervised trailwork if a crew led by specific designated trail leaders advises BLM staff ahead of time of what we plan to do (Darius, Michael and Gary). Having "trainwork ahead" signs to place on trails was suggested. We noted that the Hammerstein 24-hr folks may wish to piggyback on our night ride permit, but we aren't sure about liability issues for folks who aren't "ours." Our insurance is affected if we charge for an event. We'll have to mull this one over.

NEW-- the new trail from Machine Gun Road to Burmese is not yet open, so please don't ride it until BLM signs it as open. They are working to finish it up, but dry weather is not helping as moisture is needed.

It was noted that there is flagging from 49 to Pilarcitos but all is on hold until we get rain!

5. Red Rock--Next Steps: We plan to work more on 3rd Saturday trail day (Jan 21) depending on soil moisture etc. One or two days of a major effort is needed to finish the bottom section. We are asking BLM to minimize sweco work on the top and focus on hand-work to preserve desired rock features.

Matt obtained a sponsorship from technu-- so we have lots of poison oak lotion for those who need it!

6. First Beginner's Ride is Saturday, Jan 7, 2012. We discussed final logistics; see AmeriKens post and pix on a successful event. Using meetup.com was discussed but there is a cost. Be sure our Beginner Ride poster is in all bike shops and tell the staff about it.

7. Calendar/2012 Major Events—see Michael's e-mail at the first of each month on calendar items. Check website. Contact him to add something.

Note monthly regular events: First Saturday Beginners; 3rd Saturday Trailwork; 4th Sunday- interclub ride

Note weekly rides: Wednesday eve ride/BBQ; Sunday social ride; (next Spring) Monday eve Ladies Ride

Big ticket items for 2012 are: Twilight Ride, we host (March 14); SCruz bike festival (4/14-15); SeaOtter (4/19-22); Hammerstein 8 and 24 hr (6/8-10); late June Women's Clinic (MORCA co-hosts); Mtn Bike Tahoe (late July); Mountain Bike Oregon (late August); TAKMBD (October 6); IMBA World Summit in New Mexico (Oct 8-13); NightRide kickoff (Oct 27).

8. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED-- The above events hosted by MORCA need volunteers! First up is mid-march Twilight Ride. Big effort is SeaOtter (Gary to lead booth; Matt to lead dual slolum). Henri to lead women's clinic. Michael to lead TAKMBD. Darius listed several major volunteer ideas: cartographer/map maker; media/marketing coordinator; safety coordinator. If you have other ideas on what you would like to contribute, let us know! AmeriKen discussed ideas for skills clinics though we have insurance constraints.

9. Other Business-- A beer sponsor was discussed further; either donations for events or to host meetings (reduced cost).

Some members suggested moving back to EA for meetings. Pros and cons of Angelinas and EA were discussed. Before voting on venue, Darius or others will check with EA to see if tables can be realigned to better meet our needs. We recognize that if we grow much more, both venues will be too small.

10. Presentation by Chris M re KFOW slideshow — The group chose to stay after 8 PM to see this 30-min slideshow showing Ft. Ord history, current open space, blighted areas, development to date and proposed development primarily in the forested areas rather than the blight. Chris emphasized Keep Fort Ord Wild is not anti-development, but rather that development should occur in the blighted areas, not the forest. He asked that members log into KFOW website to show that hundreds of individuals are interested in this issue and asserted that action is critical this year. Members asked where are alternative sites for the various proposed developments in the blighted areas. Such a slide would be helpful to show options other than forested areas. Additional info

at www.keepfortordwild.org or www.sustainablemontereycounty.org

Follow-up action was suggested to ask IMBA for assistance on how best to address trails issues related to proposed developments.

NEXT MEETING—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 6:30 pm – Angelina’s at Toro Park/7-11 market area).