

**SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING – MAY 1, 2017**  
**Turn 12 Restaurant, Monterey**  
**Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 5/6/2017**

**Attendees:** Five of six Directors were present (Sue Benjaram absent); members/guests included Ken Howat, Darius Rike, Joel Trice, Tony Cepeda, Phil Craig and Ken Chrisman.

**2017 Officers/Directors:** Gary Courtright (P), Brian Tomasini (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Mike McGirr (MAL) and Sue Benjaram (MAL).

**Next Board Meeting:** The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. **The next meeting is Monday, June 3, 2017 at 6 PM** at Turn 12 Restaurant, Monterey.

**5/1/2017 Agenda Items were as follows:**

1. **President's Opening Remarks**
2. **Sea Otter Classic Debrief**
3. **IMBA Update and TAKMBD Discussion**
4. **FORA/ESCA Update/Fort Ord Reuse**
5. **County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails**
6. **Toro Park Issues**
7. **Trail Work Update**
8. **Treasurer's Report**
9. **Pump Track Update**
10. **Insurance Update**
11. **Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)**
12. **Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD)**
13. **Calendar Review – major events in 2017**
14. **Meet-Up**
15. **Incorporation**
16. **Other Business – Many topics**

**Item 1: Opening Remarks**– The meeting opened at 6:05 PM. President Gary Courtright presided. The key focus of the meeting was Sea Otter Classic (SOC) review and follow-up. It is noted that 8 MORCANs volunteered as roving Medical Alert folks at the Big Sur International Marathon.

**Item 2: Review of Sea Otter Classic.** Gary asked what went well and what needed improvement. The gross raffle total was \$2,670, but the bike cost \$1,800 (67% of total), so the net proceeds for TAKMBD were \$870, which is OK but not great. Several expressed desire to start earlier in year to get a raffle bike (or other high quality item) for free (or very low cost) from a sponsor rather than having to pay so much for it, which defeats the whole purpose. Thanks to sponsors Bobcat, Fox and Cleary. Henri to write thank you cards. We also thought purchasing a balance bike (\$200) from Cleary for TAKMBD might be a good gesture and would go along with the more expensive bike they donated.

Gary reminded us that a key goal of the booth is memberships, not just the raffle. However, IMBA was very disorganized and not cohesive with us. Putting the Showers Pass (a new IMBA sponsor) booth in between IMBA and MORCA disrupted the close coordination that should have occurred. The electronic membership application process was an improvement as it made sign-ups very easy. The lack of swag at SOC makes membership at SOC itself more difficult as people can join online any time. For next year, Gary suggests earlier coordination with IMBA, an earlier call for booth volunteers, and training in telling people about the benefits of membership to

themselves as well as MTB access as a whole. We all agreed a “membership secretary” would be great but there are no takers to date. A special thank you to Bill Kaelin and Joel Trice, who were at the booth for many hours every day.

Ken Howat said the dual slalom went well except there were no breaks in the action on Thursday or Friday, and they did not have ski patrol staff on course for the Thursday enduro until later in the day. For next year, Ken suggests having overlapping 4-hour shifts on Thursday and Friday.

Ken also raised the issue that other groups had volunteers for only 4 hours, but got the same SOC “credit” as MORCA volunteers who worked 8+ hours. However, we noted that MORCA also gets the booth and other indirect benefits from SOC.

Gary noted there was a large e-bike presence at SOC. This created difficulties as e-bikes are not allowed on the National Monument. BLM was patrolling and stopped people, but made an educational contact rather than issuing a citation.

We agreed to go for the campsite again next year.

**Item 3: IMBA Update and TAKMBD Discussion--** Gary reported on his conversation with IMBA, which is working on “IMBA 3.0” reorganization, getting some new sponsors, etc. Given that our TAKMBD is one of the largest in the region, IMBA indicated its willingness to help us get a bike sponsor for our raffle at SOC next year.

**Item 4: FORA-ESCA/Army/Fort Ord Reuse Update—** FORA-ESCA will host a Community Update event on Wednesday May 10 at 6 PM at FORA facilities near REI. The first FORA-ESCA noontime meeting of the year will be on May 24 at FORA office; then held quarterly. The County/Seaside Oak Woodland corridor assessment within the development parcels is in progress; they have not set a date for a public meeting: <http://oakwoodlands.org/>. There has been no action by US Army on its Work Plan for BLM Area B. See FORA website ([www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org)) and [www.fora-esca-rp.com](http://www.fora-esca-rp.com). The Army site is [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

**Item 5: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA.** Nick Madronio reported that after some promising progress, County staff appears to have put the brakes on the project for unknown reasons. Nick will contact County staff to remind them of our December 2017 grant deadline. He will also contact Sup. Jane Parker’s office. Previously, County staff indicated that they still need to complete the Trail Master Plan, do CEQA environmental review and sign a formal agreement between MORCA and County before we can do any work. The regular Fort Ord Committee meeting for April 24 was cancelled and they will hold a special meeting on May 4 to tour East Garrison.

**Item 6: County Update/Toro Park.** No Toro Park Trail Committee meetings have been scheduled since June 2016. There was a news article about starting up again but no communication from the County has been received. MORCA previously wrote a letter asking the County to let us organize a volunteer brigade to address damaged Toro Park trails. Gary will ask IMBA for a copy of the new Trail User’s Guide to give to the County; it has detailed instructions on how to build, maintain and manage multi-user trails, similar to the Forest Service. Our understanding is that Keith Defiebre has been given permission to prepare trails for the California Enduro Series race in late May. Limited trails are now open in Toro, but many damaged trails are still closed.

**Item 7: Trail Work Update –** Darius reported that we have nearly 400 volunteer hours to date this year. The major Ewok Re-Route is nearing completion and the new trail could potentially be ready by

late May, depending on progress on May 7 and a big day (with machinery) planned for May 20. There is also a potential press event (Darius and Eric Morgan to coordinate). Key tasks are putting in a culvert in swampy area, connecting to usable parts of existing trail, and closing/disking the old trail. Thanks to Stowe Construction for their commitment. After Ewok, the primary goal will be repair and maintenance throughout Fort Ord as soil conditions allow. We will continue with two days per month as long as there is interest and available leaders. BLM will have a CCC crew for two weeks starting May 22 and is asking for ideas. Removing root balls on Chain Gang and fixing top of 36 are ideas.

**Item 8: Treasurer's Report**— Nick reviewed our status as of May 1, 2017 we have roughly \$33,944 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,902, with roughly \$16,042 in checking+Paypal. Major recent expenses and income are related to Sea Otter (see Item 2). There is \$809 in the trail fund currently. We received a \$500 donation from Michelle and Paul Thomsen.

**Item 9: Marina Pump Track**— A pump track is now part of the formal city plan for Gloria Jean Tate Park. It will go to the city council for approval in June, and MORCA reps should attend. Darius will provide the date when scheduled. The estimated cost for construction is \$15,000-30,000.

**Item 10: Insurance**— Annual insurance for the club was paid on March 12. He still needs to submit the application for director's liability and get a quote. (This was done a few days after the meeting; see e-mail from Nick). Recall from last time that waivers for rides and trail days should be done annually. Regarding use of our skills structures, we want MORCA to be named as an "additionally insured" entity on the borrower's insurance certificate.

**Item 11: TAKMBD Update October 7, 2017**—Sue was absent so no report. She has been working with Lavonne Chin re new application for the Travel Camp. We feel Specialize should donate a bike due to its heavy corporate use on our local trails; Ken noted it is coming out with a special Little Bella version that might be a nice idea. Brian to attend a May 24 meeting to receive a Golden Helmet Award for MORCA from TAMC for our TAKMBD efforts.

**Item 12: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – Ken Chrisman** attends all MPRPD public meetings that may affect bike access. Ken noted that the Park District will entertain special events such as running races on its property. Major storm damage has derailed certain planned land transfers and the **Palo Corona** Management Plan. MORCA to write letters when timely. There has been no reported action on Park District plans to take over management of **Happy Trails**, Jacks Peak and Toro Park from County. MPRPD seems supportive of bikes in the future **Fort Ord Regional Park** concept.

**Item 13: Calendar Review – Major events in 2017** include:

**May 13—Old Cabin Classic (MBOSC at Wilder)**—Karl will deliver structures for kids

**May 18—THURSDAY Twilight Ride—MORCA is hosting.** "All American Picnic" theme; (I later read that vintage cars are racing so maybe bring a vintage bike).

**May 27-June 4—Darius trip to Durango**

**July 15-23—Latino Conservation Week (trail work day on 7/15) at Fort Ord**

**October 7-- TAKMBD**

**Late October – Public Lands Day and Night Ride Kickoff (TBD)**

**November 8-- Laguna Seca Twilight Ride we host**

**Item 14: MeetUp.com Hosting** -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com. We now have over 140 “members” and have met some nice folks, many from out-of-area. Recall we need to RSVP attendance for Sunday rides (especially at Creekside or on trail days) to be sure there is a leader for the Meetup folks. This raises the question of whether we should continue to have Sunday AM rides as attendance has been spotty.

**Item 15A: Other Business— Letters of Support:** Henri noted Trump action against National Monuments and will forward Facebook posts. MORCA previously wrote US Dept. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke supporting public lands remaining in public hands

**Item 15B: Other Business—June 3 Beginners Ride.** Henri and others will be gone that day. Mike McGirr committed to attend but we need another leader to have the ride.

**Item 15C: Other Business— Brian suggestions re SOC website.** We suggested that Brian contact SOC directly as these are good observations and will improve the event.

We adjourned at roughly 8:02 PM.

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