

**MORCA MINUTES** for Monday, July 12, 2010 at 6:30 PM at English Ales in Marina.

Minutes submitted by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 7/13/2010.

Our website is: [www.morcamb.org](http://www.morcamb.org)

**Please read carefully-- See website and e-mail group for details on several of these items.**

**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 Villanueva

ATTENDANCE: 13 folks attended, including all officers.

We tried to focus on most important business first. Long agenda, so I will try to be brief.

1. TAHOE TRIP-- This is August 14 weekend with likely rides and fun starting Thursday. Darius plans to go up Thursday eve; Jason Daphne and Henri may try Downieville on Wednesday-Thursday AM. This will be camping, trail work Sat AM, lots of riding and socializing with several clubs. And free beer! Watch for Darius' e-mails. We must send deposits soon, so if you want to go, advise Darius now.

2. FREE PASSES--We secured passes to Northstar (thank you Devian!!) and to Kirkwood,. Ken and others had ideas on raffle at the Wednesday ride.

3. HORSE PARK DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL + MULTI-USE ISSUES -- We had extensive discussion on the challenges of meeting various user needs, and the likelihood of separate trails in the future. Ironically, many of us rarely see a horse out there and wonder where the user conflict is. Or is it a small group of complainers who are the "squeaky wheel?" We agreed that the rights of all trail users need to be respected, but at the same time, trail users should be responsible, do their part to help sustain trails, and be considerate of other users. Otherwise they invite negative criticism by other groups. Despite our serious concern about trail damage by horses that affects all other groups, we agreed that a goodwill effort to meet with BETA and MEC equestrians would be helpful-- ideas include mutual education about horses and biker needs, education about the basics of trail sustainability, reminders about trail etiquette and friendly attitude, doing trail work together, a fun athletic event where biker, runner and horserider are a team, etc.

4. ANNUAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS -- Another long discussion was ideas of how best to do a calendar of events, which is closely tied to marketing and development of an annual budget. We need to set aside dates for major events to reserve on our personal calendars months in advance, define scope and level of effort needed. Our goal is one event per quarter. Already on 2010 Calendar is Take-A-Kid-Mountain Biking Day on October 2 and Laguna Seca Track Twilight Ride on October 20. It appears that Michael and a committee is willing to take a crack at it. It was not clear whether a Marketing Director would be a new Board position or not. More to come. Contact Gary or Michael if you are willing to help. SEE BOTTOM OF THIS E-MAIL FOR OTHER IDEAS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

5. SUMMER NIGHT RIDE special event is now focused for September, likely out of Intergarrison. Gary to coordinate with BLM and FORA re special one-day permit--Friday or Saturday night after September 23 full moon sounds good.

6. JULY 17 TRAIL TRIMMING-- meet at 8th and Gigling at 9 AM, with a bike and your own clippers. We will ride to the trails and trim, using approved techniques so the trail looks natural and plants aren't hacked. Trail 69 upper section or Ellie's favorite Trail 24 lower section were suggested.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS STUFF -- Bob reported that we have roughly \$2,900 in the bank. Jerseys have been paid for-- a few extras are still available. Anticipated expense for sure is \$800 for insurance and \$300 for Take-A-Kid-Mountain Biking Day. Bob provided language for a new Article 7 in the bylaws that has to do with setting annual budget and also limiting unbudgeted expenditures. Approved. Recall in May we agreed that we need a formal budget, required by IMBA chapters; officers to start working on that based on previous ideas from several months ago. IMBA UPDATE RE CHAPTER-- IMBA should be sending out formal applications August 1 and making decisions re chapters by mid-September. We need to be ready to do the paperwork they need. Bob encouraged people to join IMBA to show support and demonstrate growth. Jim and Ken described database to tabulate volunteer hours cumulatively for trail work and other efforts.

8. OCTOBER COMMITMENTS-- Saturday October 2 is National Take A Kid Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD) at Toro Park-- Gary expressed desire to minimize onsite construction of stunts and maximize bike skills and rides for the kids. However, kids really love the structures, so perhaps we can figure out something easy and fun, even 2x8 on the ground. Gary suggested emphasis on bike etiquette education and a longer flat trail section so kids can ride safely. We will need to work on advertising, outreach etc. IMBA provides a press package. Gary has lots of mini Clif bars. Did I hear Ken as designated person to reserve area at Toro Park for us?

Wednesday October 20 Twilight Ride at Laguna Seca-- we need some ideas for some sort of fun race, possible lights demo. Entry is \$10, and MORCA gets \$2 per entry I think. Think raffle tickets and other ways to raise money. Henri to check with Anne Bixler about use of grassy areas etc for fun "slow ride" or cyclo-cross type of event for fun-- maybe BBQ? IMBA has indicated we are on the short list for being invited to submit an application to be a Chapter-- hopefully they will release their paperwork soon.

9. TORO REPORT -- Next workday is July 24 on Pipeline Trail (back of the tree). Cows have taken out alot of the trail. Lots of work next winter. Toro Trail Days are typically 4th Saturday of the month. ANNUAL COUNTY PARK PASSES-- Gary would like to purchase a minimum of 10 passes. \$75 shows support and is good for all County Parks. Contact Gary ASAP to do this.

10. FOX FACTORY TOUR-- AUGUST 27 APPEARS TO BE A GOOD DATE. Must get there by 3:30 or 4:00 PM. Maybe vnpool and ride afterwards and/or beer and eat. Watch for e-mails.

11. ESCA/ FORT ORD "HAPPY TRAILS" UPDATE-- See Henri e-mails on ESCA and FORT Friends meetings. The land managers are encouraging FORT Friends to serve as a means to resolve user group conflicts rather than the government doing it. The County Redevelopment Agency senior staff met with all user groups within FORT Friends, including Gary and Henri of MORCA on July 13. They have a big vision of trail users (as a foundation or formal entity) taking over management of County areas rather than the County itself due to budget/staffing constraints. They have asked all groups to describe who they are, what they want, and what they can bring to the table to make an integrated trail system work. We described IMBA expertise, motivated trail workers, revenue ideas etc. We emphasized sustainable trails and access to quality single-track for bikers. We expressed concern about damage to trails from horses. The future will likely see some trail separation. Hopefully, horsefolk will like a new 8,000-acre section of BLM closer to Del Rey Oaks/Ryan Ranch that is more open ridgelines and sandy trails. It will be several years before it is available. The next ESCA meeting is late July-- lots of changes afoot, so stay tuned.

12. JERSEYS NOT CLAIMED-- Jim and Gary to check records.

FROM LAST TIME-- FALL EVENTS-- We also discussed the concept of a November relay race or time trail or other fun event to raise money for a charity like the Food Bank as we would be close to Thanksgiving. Recall Ken can potentially get some nice prizes, but it must be a quality event-- and avoid others' events.

OTHER MISC--

Darius suggest checking out the Annandale Park (Sonoma) thread on MTBR re illegal trails.

Henri asked if members were interested in potential Monterey County highschool team. Darius, Ken, Michael are curious. More to come on that from Henri and Tom.

Henri to write thankyou letter to Clif bar for all the mini-bars and granola bars.

NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2010 AT 6:30 PM AT ENGLISH ALES IN MARINA.

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