



Meeting called to order by Tom Sauret at 10:00am  
 Agenda provided prior to the meeting via email and at the meeting  
 EMBA host chapter

Attending Officers	Position/Chapter
Tom Sauret	Executive Director
Belinda Sauret	Treasurer
Julie Stewart	Secretary
Keith McFadden	Dir Trail Maintenance
Heather Wall	Dir of Membership
Walt Bready	Dir of Competition
Alfred Barker	Webmaster
Craig Hall	Fat Tire Times Editor
Freddy Walker	EMBA
Bill Victor	CRSA
Mike Riter	Atlanta/ Trail Education Specialist
Jay Franklin	IMBA
James Smith	Gainesville
Neal Nichols	Woodstock
Loften Carr (proxy for David Gipson)	RAMBO
Bruce Dickman (proxy for Cal Till)	OMBA

Attending Members	Chapter
Sherry Walker	EMBA
Trey Bolling	CRSA
Dave Hamilton	Woodstock
Scott Willenbrock	Atlanta
Mark Stewart	Gainesville
Larry Mills	EMBA
Bill Adkins	EMBA

**I. Approval of February Minutes**

Minutes sent via email from Julie Stewart

☼ Motion by Walt Bready to approve minutes, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously

**II. Nominations and elections of vacant Board Positions**

1. Melanie Pfautz stepped down as secretary to spend more time with Woodstock Bike Patrol
2. Chris Hurst stepped down as treasurer to go to Europe
3. Tom Sauret nominated Julie Stewart for secretary and Belinda Sauret for treasurer
4. No other nominations offered

☼ Motion by Freddy Walker to elect the nominees, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously

**III. By-Laws: Clarification of wording**

Section IV, C #5: Election of SORBA Executive Board of Directors



- ⊗ Motion by Neal Nichols to change wording to:  
“A vote of two-thirds of the Chapter Presidents is required to elect a member to the Executive Board of Directors.”  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously

#### Section XI, C: Disbursement of funds

- ⊗ Motion by Bill Victor to change wording to:  
“Checks and other orders for payment from any checking/savings account shall be signed by any one of the following:  
Executive Director  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously

#### IV. 5 Year Plan (Keith Owen (absent) and Committee)

- June 8, 2001 meeting to discuss the direction of SORBA over the next 5 years:
  1. Paid staff (very important)
  2. More fun activities at chapter level by providing information and support
  3. Shifting main focus from advocacy to more social programs, like Trips for Kids
- How big of a region does SORBA want to cover?
  1. Suggestions: All states that touch Georgia and Mississippi, everything south of the sweet tea line and region 8 of the US Forest Service (13 states and Puerto Rico)
  2. However, if someone from Florida wants to join should notify Florida Biking Association (strong presence in Florida) as a courtesy
  3. How would SORBA keep track of what chapters are doing if they are too far away?
- SORBA Racing: would like to see it continue to grow (positive feedback from racers that have participated in SORBA racing events)
  1. IMBA also suggesting that advocacy groups get involved in racing
- Paid Staff is very important: Janice Nylander at Gainesville College has been volunteered to do secretarial duties (i.e. data entry, envelope stuffing, etc.) However, can not pay directly but may be able to give a honorarium after awhile
- ⊗ Motion by Cal Till (Bruce Dickman) to give an honorarium (around March) to Janice Nylander for services rendered  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously
- Suggestion: try to make money with some of the programs that are already in place, like Trips for Kids
- Will have tentative plan by December meeting

#### V. 2002 Access Summit: Bill Victor CRSA

- South Carolina State Parks really want to take over Access Summit
- Beneficial for SORBA to step aside and provide a supportive role for the Summit
- Palmetto Conservation Foundation (PCF) have gotten a lot of trail built and will work with the state parks to host
- Summit with support from SORBA
- \$7500.00 to put on the Summit can be used for other events/projects
- Summit will probably not happen in September
- Access Summit will change to smaller mountain bike meeting and multi-user summit will be done by State Parks and SORBA will give monetary support for exposure



- Spartanburg group in South Carolina that would make great chapter (stronger than Sumter Co.)
  1. Already part of a road cycling group but wants to form separate mountain biking group
  2. Suggested that the group organize for December or March meeting to petition for Chapter status
  3. Contact: Eric Turner
  4. Suggestion for some of the \$7500.00 is to promote groups in areas that could get organized and form groups that will get things done for mountain biking
  5. Want to bring group to Hickory Knob, show and ride the trails to demonstrate what could be done
  6. Would like to 5-8 chapters of SORBA in South Carolina over the next few years

#### **VI. Yakima: Trey Bolling CRSA**

- Association with Mitsubishi car dealer that can get Yakima racks at cost
- Idea is that could use as reward for members that give a lot to mountain biking (can set up sliding scale of how much discount they offer for the rack systems)
- Discussed many ideas of what could be done with this deal that could generate income for SORBA
  1. Raffle off a complete rack system
  2. Neal Nichols raffling takes a considerable commitment and time and is not easy to meet goal (Neal and Lori have spent a lot of time doing a raffle with a bike)
  3. Offer product in online store to members (may create problems with local bike shops that provide support to SORBA)
  4. Reward for member with most trail work hours (similar to pay dirt)
- Need Sub-committee on how to deal with Swag
  1. Maybe could use it to generate income for the general operating funds
  2. Sub-committee to present proposal at December meeting
  3. Sub-committee: Bruce Dickman (chair), Joanne (last name?) (possibly) and Scott Willenbrock

#### **VII. SORBA Racing: Trey Bolling CRSA**

- Wants to produce a race team that is SORBA based, similar to previous Saturn team
- Wants to limit size to 6 to 7 sponsored riders
- Set up definitive qualifications that are not necessarily based upon speed of racer, but based on:
  1. Amount of time spent doing volunteer work (Trips for Kids)
  2. Amount of time doing trail work
  3. People that will positively represent SORBA at the races
  4. Would be required to attend a defined number of races per season (based on the total number of races held)
  5. Would be required to stay at event for duration and when not racing promote SORBA at tent (promoting memberships)
  6. memberships)
- Race team proposals by September 15 to potential sponsors
- Discussion that this type of team might alienate people that already do the races and promote SORBA who would not be on the team, but the amount of time that would be required of the racers might deter people from applying
- How would this benefit SORBA?



- Tabled until December meeting, however, Trey will continue to write letters to potential sponsors and will present a proposal with all the guidelines for the team
  
- Walt Bready: comments
  1. People already race and use SORBA as team name, very loosely organized.
  2. Depending on finishing place riders wearing SORBA jersey are reimbursed part of their entry fees, however the maximum over the season is the cost of the SORBA jersey.
  3. Also, a lot of people turn in pay dirt hours, not only for points but also for prize (\$500.00 gift certificate for 1<sup>st</sup>, \$250.00 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$100.00 for 3<sup>rd</sup>).

### **VIII. Interbike: Tom Sauret**

- Feb 24, 2001 meeting: approved to send 2 representatives to Interbike at the end of September (Sept 28- Oct 1)(to include airfare and accommodations) Mike Riter and Tom Sauret
- Michigan Mountain Bike Society asked Interbike for space gratis for a booth (Tim Bloomenthal thought why not all groups attending to have a booth)
- Tentative: If we're able to get space, we need to develop promotional materials (will have to put money into advertising)
- Thought is that we may get more and larger sponsorships, if we can get our name out and recognized by groups in other parts of the country
- Currently, SORBA is financially sound and may be able to assist others in attending Interbike to help man a booth (This is all contingent upon having free space at Interbike) If there is no booth, will go with current plan of sending Tom Sauret and Mike Riter
- Craig Hall has volunteered to help with graphics for brochures to give out at Interbike
- Jay Franklin: Notion of having advocates row at Interbike for groups like IMBA, SORBA, etc.
  1. Need gimmick to give away that will get SORBA's name out and remembered (example: urinal mat with logo)
- Ultimately, want to send as many people as possible to promote SORBA, hopefully putting faces with the SORBA name when requesting support from sponsors
- Lots of ideas of things to hand out at Interbike to get SORBA recognized: urinal mat, brochure showing a map of area marking the trails with distance from Metro Atlanta, etc.
- ♻️ Motion by Cal Till (Bruce Dickman) to spend up to \$3000.00 to send people and develop promotional materials
  - Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously
- The \$3000.00 does not include the executive directors discretionary funds

### **IX. Financial Report: Belinda Sauret and Tom Sauret (for Mark Goldman)**

- Mark Goldman: CPA has volunteered to help SORBA with financial records and filing 501(1)(3) for a nominal fee (any where from \$0.00 to \$300.00)
- Mark Goldman will be at December meeting to give presentation explaining tax designation and to answer questions
  1. Most chapters will not have to fill out tax forms as long as monies are run through the SORBA account
  2. Chapters that will have to fill out tax information by January 30<sup>th</sup> are: CRSA, Ellijay (EMBA) and Macon (OMBA) in order to fill out joint tax return
  3. Packets with copy of presentation and tax forms (information) handed out to Chapter Presidents
  4. Standard report from Quick Books all that should be required at year end



5. Need to have quarterly reports from the chapters that have and manage own accounts (CRSA, EMBA and OMBA)
  6. Based on criteria, SORBA should fill out 990EZ
- Belinda Sauret:
    1. Increase in SORBA funds has come from membership money (a lot of which are renewals)
    2. Bill Victor: need to write letter to IRS stating that we are still 501(3)(C)
    3. Will be sending out Thank you letters with receipts for people who have donated money
    4. Online Store start-up costs approximately \$2000.00 last year (have almost made up the start-up costs)
  - Chris Hurst: this would have been last meeting and wanted to suggested to alter the ratio of funds that stay SORBA
    1. Currently, individual memberships \$20 (\$12.00 stays with SORBA and \$8.00 goes back to the chapter)
    2. Question: Should we raise membership dues?  
Thought was that should not raise membership (may deter people from joining or renewing)
    3. Rather alter the amounts that go back to the chapters and the amount that stays with SORBA  
Discussion: To leave all with SORBA and if the chapter needs money can request if it is there, as long as the general operating fund for SORBA is sufficient or pro-rate the amounts that goes back to the chapters based on t the number of years that the chapter has existed
- ☼ Motion by Cal Till to change the amounts that stay with SORBA to \$15.00 and the amount that goes back to the chapter to \$5.00  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried unanimously

## **X. Keith McFadden Trail Update**

- Hands on Atlanta has a tool bank for volunteer organization
  1. Can get specific tools at a discount
  2. May looking into partnering on grant with SORBA
- Volunteer Database
  1. Freddy Walker and Dave Hamilton are the only ones who have been entering data
  2. Janice Nylander will enter work hours into database (can send directly to Janice or through Keith)
  3. Chapters can continue to enter in hours but need to report to SORBA for purposes of grant writing, etc
  4. Will be adding more fields to database to increase the information that the database will provide
  5. Also need for volunteer rewards program
- Bull Mountain and Chattahoochee Forest Area: Atlanta Chapter
  1. Working on new grant proposals
  2. Met with Becky Bruce (Recreation Planner), RE Van (District Ranger) and Sharon King (Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association)
  3. Planning to add trails to get users of the Forest Service Roads, priority for safety and erosion control and maintenance, proposals focused on these areas would probably get approved faster



4. RE proposed to close all forest roads to bikes and horses once these alternate trails are in place (Would not be supportive of this, also this would not be legal because they are public roads)
  5. Road less Areas: problem that effects all user groups (prelude to wilderness area), one area north of 77 & 77A is included in the road less area, while there is no regulations prohibiting trail building it will not be approved due to scrutiny of the road less area (per RE Van). Existing trails are alright.
  6. This policy may change when District Ranger changes hands, RE Van will be relocating to NC and the person replacing him may not be opposed to trying to get trails built in road less area
  7. Suggested going to a group like Forest Watch or Sierra Club for support
  8. The proposed trail is to connect Turner Creek to Bare Hare and Bull Mountain, unfortunately goes through road less area. (Would get people off 77A)
- Road Less Areas
1. Jay Franklin: IMBA has supported road less areas as long as would still have the opportunity to build recreational trails (Gary Sprung may have copy of letter supporting road less areas with the contingency that mountain bikers would still have access to these areas)
  2. Alan Polk: Mountain Town will probably not go wilderness because local government is against it (but nothing definite)
  3. Mountain Bikers don't fight Wilderness areas but rather want boundary re-adjustment and compromises so that trails will stay open for mountain bikers
  4. IMBA scheduled to come to Georgia, RE Van should be replaced by then
  5. Alternative to get people of 77A, forest service (?) suggested to build side path along 77A (gravel bike lane), however, cost would be exorbitant and not very desirable for mountain bikers
- Pigeon Mountain: Supporting Cavers opposition to Quarry expansion?
1. Does come close to Ellison Cave
  2. Quarry is proposing to expand from 140 acres to 800 acres to mine for lime salt aggregate.
  3. Land is owned by the state of GA and managed by DNR, however, Vulcan Materials has the mineral rights to the land
  4. Appears that the expansion will not effect the bike trails substantially but is important to preserve public lands
  5. It does not really matter, SORBA should oppose the expansion as a matter of solidarity with other land users
  6. Tom will write letter and route it through Keith with subordinate clause (If the information provided to us is correct), to get more information
  7. Vulcan Materials has donated 2 dump trucks of gravel to construction of Blankets Creek
  8. Suggest to donate mineral rights for an alternative

## **XI. Fat Tire Times: Craig Hall**

- Back to recycled paper and can use old logo
- New printer that can offer one color at no extra cost
- Requesting pictures that can be dropped in with chapter notes to show people actually doing things (rides, work parties, etc.) showing that it is a social fun group, needs to be perpetuated in the news letter



- Wants to create a fun section similar to the Buzz section in Bike magazine also demonstrating the social fun activities of SORBA
- Deadline for chapter notes and pictures is August 10<sup>th</sup> (this issue goes to Interbike, need to get something in the issue from each chapter to make it spectacular)
- Growth over next 5 years for Fat Tire Times and SORBA
  1. FTT needs to be paying for itself
  2. Advertising (display) has not generated enough revenue, questionable if it will be a big enough source of fund
  3. Wants to develop a classified section for members to post bikes, bike equipment, etc: biggest issue is how to organize
  4. orders and payments of classified ads
  5. Suggested to set up online to have the ads typed in and email to Craig to drop in FTT and would pay for them online before ad is placed (if not now maybe in the future)
- Andrew Wall set up new Media Sales kit to be handed out to bike shops, members encourage shops to buy adds
- Ask if shops would be interested in carrying FTT

## **XII. Competition: Walt Bready**

- Georgia Mountain Bike Series in 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Seems to be growing
- Summer Sizzler very successful event, over 350 riders
- Many SORBA members and chapter presidents have started doing some races: Keith Owens and Neal Nichols
- Pay Dirt Hours: hard to measure mid-season because people may be holding back hours, currently:
  1. Heather Wall 85 hours
  2. Bill Gibson 39 hours
  3. Budd Merrit (?)
- Riders doing pay dirt should send forms to Walt after they have been signed by volunteer coordinator at work party (different than Trek rewards)
- Forms should be available on SORBA website (Trek form is part of Waiver form)

## **XIII. Membership: Heather Wall**

- Number of members: 750-800 depending on time of month (renewals)
- New membership applications with new Gainesville address and a few new chapters
- Many applications from new members (20 new out of 30 applications) (new beige application)
- Trial Membership packets sent to bike shop (67 shops)
  1. Need to remind bike shops and/or ask if they received the packet and are they participating
  2. \$5.00 trial membership that is absorbed into the price of the bike (retailer increase the price of the bike \$5.00)
  3. Trial membership for 4 months (2 Fat Tire Time Issues)
  4. If the shops didn't receive packet, send Tom name and correct address and he will re-send a packet
  5. After \$500 of participation, bike shops will receive special stickers stating SORBA sponsor
  6. Sponsoring shops will also get name in Fat Tire Times
- Member Numbers:



1998 520  
1999 535  
2001 750-800

- SORBA decals need to be ordered (about \$0.30- 0.40 per decal), some to be brought to Interbike

#### **XIV. Website: Alfred Barker**

- Voller Logic upgraded platform, went from HTML to Active Server pages
- Server captured pages of website and put into new format, did not work well and had to re-write web pages
- Web Service is donated
- Accounts will be developed for each chapter that will only allow access to the calendar to add work parties and rides
- Can not go in and make any other types of changes (there were up to 80 pages in the SORBA website)
- Will no longer be able to piggy back onto to sorba.org website
- RAMBO and OMBA were the only chapters really affected all other chapters have own sites supported by other servers
- 50% site is racing information and 50% of site is SORBA for activities and other SORBA information
- Netscape will not allow site to be viewed correctly
- Would like to give fresh look to web site and will give all chapters enough time to get information off the site and send current links (by next board meeting)
- Consider re-building web site
- Calendar and Forum are separate outputs
- To access calendar go to login and type "calendar" using the password "event"

#### **XV. Secretary: Julie Stewart**

- Bike Shop Questionnaire: comments and additions from chapters
- Chapter Questionnaire: information to be used for chapter handbook (packet) to be sent to all chapters
  1. Trail Inventory with contact information and mileage (current and projected)
  2. Current Officers with contact information
  3. Events
  4. List of Sponsors with contact information
  5. Chainsaw certified members of chapter and contact information
  6. National Bike Patrol
  7. Bank Information if separate from SORBA
  8. Affiliations with other user groups
  9. Trips for Kids
  10. Grants
- Bike Shop Information list current
  1. Mark Gernasim at Cycleworks or Bicycleretailer.com (Jay Franklin)
  2. Atlanta Cycling must go through Vinnings store (currently 8 shops) (Walt Bready)
- List of past Presidents or Executive Directors (information from chapters, if possible)

#### **XVI. Nimblewill Festival: Mike Riter, Keith McFadden and Tom Sauret**

- Festival should be self-running



- Need a few groups of volunteers to help with:
  1. Saturday rides (leaders and Sweepers)
  2. Dinner on Saturday night and clean-up
  3. Marking and clearing trails
  4. Mystery Adventure Ride (Sunday)
  5. Clean-up on Monday
- Mystery Adventure Ride (Sunday) stations will be self-manned (need people to put punches out)
  1. Ride until 5 punches (6-7 miles) but can go for all 8 punches (50 miles) in four hours
  2. For each punch will get a card for Poker, prizes given for best hands
  3. Local bike shops donate prizes (items totaling \$150.00)
  4. May make medals for people who get all eight punches
- 4-H Wahsega wants people to use the cabins (bunkhouses for 15 people each)
- Camping is around the cabins
- Big field will be used only for overflow (because of long hike to bathrooms)
- Will be having fire at fire pit
- No dogs are allowed
- Looking into other options for camping for next year
- Will be using old Subaru numbers from Tumbling Creek to show who paid
- Participants will be expected to leave on Sunday (otherwise may charge for Sunday night)

#### **XVII. Grants: Open**

- Keith McFadden is working on Bull Mountain grants
- Bill Victor will be aggressively and actively pursuing Georgia grants (State Parks, Corp of Engineers and DNR)
  - CRSA member applied for \$5000.00 grant for Boy Scouts from International Paper Company (CRSA area only)
- Lake Russell grant should be starting soon

#### **XVIII. Bikes Belong and IMBA: Jay Franklin**

- Bikes Belong grant
  1. Needs help: list a couple things that SORBA has done for mountain biking
  2. Have not given out funding for mountain biking (mostly for road bikes and rails to trails)
  3. \$10,000.00 for educational programs but any educational programs
  4. Bikes belong is an off shoot of T21 authorization (?) and is funded primarily by biking industry
- IMBA has 35,000 members
  1. Increase in membership may be due to BLN (?)
  2. Financially strong
  3. New Advocacy director Jan D(?)
  4. Board Meeting in Vail CO in September
  5. Epic Ride in Dupont Forest 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October (limited space) (can register online)
- American Trails
  1. IMBA paying expenses
  2. Includes all trail users
  3. Sponsor of National Trail Symposium
  4. Financially Inept



Board of Directors Meeting  
August 4, 2001  
Ellijay, GA

5. Next year (2002) Trail Symposium is in Orlando
6. 200 paying members and send out 5000 free copies of publication
7. Donated \$100.00 to get SORBA name in publication that goes to every land manager in the US

**XIX. Final Comments**

- EMBA will be getting the first tools for the tool trailer
- Burn Out
  1. Everyone is a volunteer
  2. Be kind to each other and keep tones easy especially in email
  3. Would like to have program set up for prizes for volunteers who do things besides trail work
- Not doing trail camp at NOC this year
- December BOD meeting in Gainesville

**Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm**