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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association March 10, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 10, 2007 at the Brainerd Crossing Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The meeting commenced at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Participating Chapters:

See attached document for those members present. It was noted that there were no representative present from the following chapters: Asheville, SORBA Freeride (SOFA), Macon County/Rabun County (MARC), and Tallahassee, FL. All other chapters had a voting member present.

President's Opening:

Keith Owen called the meeting to order and then requested approval of the November 2006 minutes. A motion to approve the November 2006 minutes was made and seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the November 2006 minutes.

New Chapter Petitions:

There were two new chapter petitions: Southern Crescent Chapter located in the area south of Atlanta and Paulding Cycling Club. Each petition was accompanied by discussion of the potential for each new chapter. Individual motions were made and seconded to accept both new chapters. All present voted in favor of approving both new chapter petitions.

Executive Director's Report:

Tom Sauret presented the Executive Director's report next. Tom thanked the Chattanooga Chapter for hosting the Board meeting. Next meeting will be August 18th in Asheville, NC. There are new SORBA applications, schedules, etc. for use by chapters. SORBA and IMBA are still working through the nuts and bolts of the partnership.

Membership is the theme of today's meeting as there will be a workshop after the business meeting. There are also new membership applications available.

The Subaru partnership is going great. They are providing a second SORBA-ru for this year.

2008 will be the 20th anniversary of SORBA. If you have any great stories, memories, or history of SORBA please send them to Robin Allen.

Tom is working to clear up some grey areas with SORBA's insurance. There will be some new insurance available soon to cover events. Also, there will be additional clarity on coverage for non-members for regular weekend events.

Keith Owen will be heading up a new 5-year plan effort and will be in touch with a few members of the Board to assist.

Tom and folks from the Tallahassee Chapter will be attending the National Bike Summit in D.C. Outdoor Chattanooga will be sending folks as well. Tom will be meeting with each state's delegation.

SORBA met its goal for the 2006 annual fund. SORBA is now in the process of giving out chapter grants and donations.

Pro Trails is taking off.

Tom also requested, again, that Chapters close their individual bank accounts and allow SORBA Main to handle all of the accounting and payment. Tom estimated that SORBA could save ~\$5,000 a year if the individual accounts would be closed and reminded everyone that SORBA is fully insured against any potential malfeasance. Tom also noted that the Middle Tennessee chapter is participating in a pilot project for access to a central account.

Tom reminded everyone that it is audit time, so please be prepared to provide any requested documentation ASAP.

Tom discussed the 3rd annual SORBie award that will be handed out at the Tsali trail weekend. Please send nominations to Tom.

Final notes: see Tom for schwag needs so he can work the room at Interbike this year and each chapter gets a copy of the new IMBA trail book.

Access Report:

The Access report was presented by Keith McFadden. Keith noted the following IMBA visits to SORBA:

April 14th and 15th – Chattanooga, TN

April 22nd and 23rd – Middle Tennessee

March 16th and 17th – West Point, GA

March 30th and April 1st – Chicopee Woods, GA

Keith also noted that TORC crew leader and dingo training will be conducted with Woody Keen.

Fat Tire Times Report:

Robin Allen presented a report on the Fat Tire Times. Robin discussed the need for the featured trail section and Maxxis featured rider section. A discussion on the possibility of a pdf version of the FTT was conducted as well. SORBA is still working on this.

President's Report:

Keith Owen provided the following update:

- Thanks to Tom Sauret for working as a volunteer Executive Director in 2007
- Thanks to all Chapter Presidents for the work they've done
- Keep growing membership (8% in 2006) and the IMBA relationship
- Annual Fund – encourage your members to donate (majority of funds came from Georgia, but majority of expenditures are outside of Georgia)
- What can SORBA do for the Chapters? (1800 trail status line, insurance)
- Chapters should work together, especially new chapters to transfer ideas, skills, lessons learned, etc.
- New 5 year plan will be developed, Keith will be contacted folks to help in this process

A 45 minute lunch break was called at 12:30 p.m.

Round Robin:

Following the lunch break, Keith led a round robin with following announcements, news, etc.:

- Tsali weekend June 1st and 2nd, still working through planning issues, will be free, preregister for camping, lunch and dinner on Saturday
- 24 Hours of Pisgah status? Seems to have ended
- April 19th – Dalton stage of the Tour de Georgia hosting Dalton Pedal Party
- RAMBO – discussion of high school mountain bike clubs and high school memberships
- Raccoon Mountain weekend April 14th and 15th
- Get new members involved
- MTB podcast – SORBA news section (mtbcast.com)
- TORC – discussion on the additional fees for NMBP

Membership Workshop:

Robin Allen facilitated a workshop on building and sustaining chapter membership. Notes from this workshop will be sent out separately.

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary