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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association November 17, 2007

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on November 17, 2007 at Chicopee Woods in Gainesville, Georgia. 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: Charlotte, Huntsville, MARC, and Tallahassee, FL. All other chapters had a voting member or proxy present.

### **Welcome and Roll Call:**

Chapter representatives introduced themselves.

### **Approval of August board meeting minutes:**

There was a motion to accept the August meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and all present voted in favor of accepting the August meeting minutes.

### **New Chapter Petition:**

There was one new chapter petition: West Point SORBA located in LaGrange, Georgia. The petition was accompanied by discussion of the potential for the new chapter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the new chapter. All present voted in favor of approving the new chapter petition.

### **2008 Officer Elections:**

The following people were nominated for the associated positions for the 2008 calendar year:

President – Eric Hunter – motion to accept was seconded and all present voted in favor

Vice-President – Bob Greico – awaiting confirmation from Bob that he can accept the position, if voted in (email vote conducted after meeting resulted in 15 of 25 chapters voting and all voted in favor of Bob Greico)

Secretary – Renee Martinez – motion to accept was seconded and all present voted in favor

Treasurer – Angela Allen – motion to accept was seconded and all present voted in favor

### **Proposed meeting changes:**

A proposal to amend the by-laws to require only one business meeting a year and to correct various sections of the by-laws was presented by Secretary Eric Hunter. Discussion ensued on the merits of

the proposed by-law changes. John Hicks from the Woodstock chapter requested a revision to the proposed change that requires the Board to determine the number of meetings to be held in the following year at the November business meeting. A motion was made to accept the revised by-law changes and seconded. All present voted in favor. The by-law sections will be updated and sent out to the Board.

In 2008, SORBA will hold two Board meetings. The first will be held March 15<sup>th</sup> in Ellijay, Georgia (Nashville, Tennessee will serve as a backup if necessary). The second will be held November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Gainesville, Georgia.

**President's Update:**

President Keith Owen announced that as of May 2008 SORBA will have its first, full-time paid Executive Director in Tom Sauret. IMBA is providing funding for this position for 3 years that will be stepped down each year. Keith also indicated that in 2008 the by-laws will be more thoroughly reviewed and updated.

**Staff Reports:**

Jeff Gandy discussed the introduction of Google apps that SORBA will use for new email boxes, calendars, and document sharing. The swap over should occur around the first week of December.

A 15 minute lunch break was called at 12:30 p.m.

Kathy Wood, SORBA's bookkeeper, was introduced by Tom Sauret. She requested that all chapters submit their reports along with receipts on a monthly basis. She answered various questions from the Board and asked that everyone who needs a financial report that isn't receiving one should send her an email at [sorba.accounting@sorba.org](mailto:sorba.accounting@sorba.org)

Robin Allen discussed the new monthly E-News that will come out shortly thanks to the merger with IMBA. Robin will need content for these so please get her articles, stories, promotions, etc. Keep in mind that after the SORBA/IMBA merger is complete these E-News emails will be going out to around 6,000 folks in the Southeast region. Next year is SORBA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so please get Robin content for articles about your history with SORBA, mountain biking, etc. Also, next year the Fat Tire Times will be going out 4 times with the possibility that it will be combined with the IMBA newsletter.

Keith McFadden reported that SORBA has a map grade GPS receiver and software that is available for use if you need help mapping. It will come attached to Keith until other folks can be trained on its use.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Tom Sauret presented the Executive Director's report next. Tom discussed the 2008 budget for SORBA. There was discussion on the budget and then a motion was made and seconded to approve the 2008 budget. All present voted in favor of the 2008 SORBA budget.

The SORBA/IMBA merger is in the home stretch and should be complete before the end of this year.

The annual fund is approaching the goal of \$12,000. As of November 16<sup>th</sup> it was at \$8,000 out of the \$12,000 goal. If you haven't made a donation yet, please do so and encourage your members to do so as well. It is tax deductible.

IMBA is shopping for a new insurance provider based on the problems it and associated clubs have been encountering with McKay. Stay tuned.

Please get your volunteer information in before the end of the year.

### **Chapter round robin:**

#### **TORC:**

- Need to develop a volunteer pipeline for trail work
- Need Pro Trails help
- Bill passed in North Carolina that, as of January 1, 2008, any state land must be open and available to bikes with a usage agreement

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007&BillID=S1383>

#### **Upstate S. C.:**

- Website is up and running

#### **Atlanta:**

- Working on rebuilding membership and updating by-laws

#### **CSRA:**

- Baker's Dozen

#### **AMBC:**

- Showed off their spiffy new advertisements that were donated by a local marketing firm

#### **Pisgah:**

- Let's go ride

#### **UCCC:**

- Let's go ride

#### **NWGA:**

- \$51,000 RTP grant was awarded for Raisin woods
- Snake Creek Gap series

#### **Athens:**

- Need trails, but working on land owners

#### **Paulding:**

- Website is up and they have a logo

- MOU with County and PATH for the northside of the Silver Comet that will add ~7 miles of trail
- Participating in the Dallas parade
- Club is growing and getting all kinds of timber donations

#### GATR:

- Building relationship with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation
- Yellow River – reopening some of the River Side and the old trains
- Tribble Mill park – working on signage and repairs
- RFP for trail building in another park

#### Chattanooga:

- Raccoon Mountain enhancements and maintenance underway
- Lookout Mountain trails
- Hamilton Place Park – IMBA ride center
- River City Bike Shop and TPL host Friday night appreciations for trail workers

#### CVA:

- Glad to be here

#### Southern Crescent:

- 25 members working towards re-establishing partnerships
- Webpage is up
- Meeting with new GM of The Beach, included new signage and funds in the budget for next year
- Henry County has a 300+ acre area that was a landfill that will have trails built – volunteers needed
- December 15<sup>th</sup> grand re-opening and time trails at the trails at The Beach in Clayton County

#### Woodstock:

- The North Loop at Blankets is under construction by ProTrails (article in AJC recently about this)
- Trail construction can be funded (~25 to 30k raised in from the box at the trail head and another 25k has been contributed, 10k from the Van Michael salon)
- Chapter has engineer stamped bridge drawings that have been approved by the Corps and USFS for use
- Join your Chamber of Commerce
- The Woodstock Greenprints work will include a seat at the table for SORBA

#### Mid-Tennessee:

- Metro Tech trail has roughly 20,000 feet of trail corridor, Corps is approving and SORBA will be developing a skills park and pump track
- Need grant opportunities
- 5% cash back to SORBA from Sun & Ski

OMBA:

- Thomson Festival – 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in January

RAMBO:

- Charleston Park in Forsyth County to have 5-6 miles of trails, aiming for December 2008 for completion
- Night riding program through Parks and Recreation Depart has brought funds back to RAMBO with weekly night rides

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

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Keith Owen, President

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Eric Hunter, Secretary