

Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association March 20, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held March 20, 2010, at the Nantahala Outdoor Center near Bryson City, N.C. The meeting commenced at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Participating Chapters:

The following chapters were in attendance: Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, Atlanta, Cape Fear, CSRA, Chattanooga, Ellijay, Gainesville, Gwinnett, Huntsville, Northwest Ga., OMBA, Paulding, Pisgah, RAMBO, Middle Tennessee, Tallahassee, TORC, Woodstock, Upper Chattahoochee, Upstate, Uwharrie, and West Alabama. See attached document for the member sign-in sheet.

It was noted that there were no representatives present from the following chapters: Athens, Chattahoochee Valley, and Piedmont Area. All other chapters had a voting member or proxy present.

Welcome:

SORBA staff, members of the executive board, RLAC and others were introduced.

Business Meeting:

Renee Corwine, SORBA Secretary, presented the minutes from the November 2009, Board of Directors meeting for approval. Paul Farrow made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Jake Corwine, and unanimously approved.

During the secretary's report, a sign-in sheet and forms for contact information for all chapter offers was handed out. During the treasurer's report, Angel Allen said that the new 60/40 split of membership funds is in effect and mentioned that we are investigating the opportunity to have electronic donations.

Comments from President Bob Grieco: Bob explained the reason for the different format of the Board of Directors meeting is to allow everyone to get together and have more time for the exchanging of ideas. It's the first time the organization has had non-voting members and member of other organizations present at a Board meeting.

Executive Directors Report:

Tom Sauret talked about what an exciting time it is for IMBA-SORBA. He said that most of the leaders of mountain biking in the Southeast were present, and that even though not all of them are SORBA members, we still want them in the room for our discussions. He stressed the need for communication between chapters and the Executive Board, and talked about the need to grow chapters.

Tom spoke about ride centers and how IMBA-SORBA is working on a document regarding ride centers and a second tier, or, second generation, of locations that will be announced. The document will show what a ride center is, and how to earn that designation.

He also stressed the importance of sending individual chapter members to the IMBA Summit. Regarding state summits, he said we have a need for one in Georgia and Florida.

IMBA Summit:

Preparations for the coming IMBA summit in Augusta, Ga., were discussed with CSRA President Paul Farrow leading the conversation. He put out a call for volunteers, and spoke about logistics, camping and other general information about the event. A brief history of the CSRA Chapter, and its long struggle to get the Forks Area Trail System constructed, also was given.

Membership:

Vice President Darryl Glascock led a discussion on membership. He spoke about reaching out to the community to find people who want to help with trail projects. Where to ask for help? The trailhead. We should ask the first people for contributions that match their skill sets.

Technology:

Jeff Gandy talked about the IMBA-SORBA membership database and that it's finally at a point where we're getting the level of access to our data that we've been wanting. He plans on testing a new database with a few chapters after the IMBA Summit to work out the system's kinks. An area has been created on the site to record volunteer hours. We wanted to eliminate forms mailed in. Types of volunteering that count for volunteer hours include working with Trips For Kids, working at chapter events and races, trail building, attendance at board meetings, etc. Also, Jeff mentioned that all SORBA e-mails have been converted over to GMail.

Closing Comments:

Various chapters and members present were called upon to give updates from their areas regarding trails, membership, events and any other areas of concern. Afterward, closing comments included that our organizations professionalism has grown by leaps and bounds. Also, insurance information for chapters who purchase their own equipment was handed out.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Carolyn Wilke to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The motion was seconded by Ken Foster, and approved unanimously.

Bob Grieco, President

Renee Corwine, Secretary