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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association August 20, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on August 20, 2005 at the Camp Washsega 4-H Center in Dahlonega, Georgia. The meeting commenced at 2:01 p.m.

See attached document for those members present.

Keith Owen called the meeting to order, briefly introduced himself, and asked for the Board and attending SORBA members to introduce themselves. It was noted that the Chattanooga, TN chapter was not present.

Daniel Elzey, SORBA's National Mountain Bike Patrol Coordinator, was asked to give his report first so he could return to working the events at the Nimblewill Mountain Bike Festival. Daniel gave his contact information (patrol@sorba.org) for chapters to get in touch with him regarding setting up a bike patrol in their chapter. Bike Patrol classes will start in September and will be two full days on a Saturday and Sunday. Please contact Daniel for specifics. Also, on October 8 IMBA will be putting on its National Mountain Bike Patrol Conference for the southeast region. Registration will be on IMBA's website (www.imba.com). Further discussion ensued.

President Owen then requested approval of the March 2005 minutes. James Stankowitz made a motion to approve the March 2005 minutes, which was seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the March 2005 minutes.

New chapter petitions followed the approval of the minutes. The Northeast Georgia chapter, represented by Stan White proxy for the chapter, petitioned to change its name to MARC (Macon, NC and Rabun, GA Counties) and expanded its service area to include Macon County, NC. Brief discussion ensued and Executive Director Tom Sauret indicated that a motion was not required in this case. The name change and service area expansion was approved.

Piedmont Area Singletrack Alliance (PASA) located in Charlotte, NC with a service area of the counties surrounding Charlotte and part of South Carolina presented their petition to become a SORBA chapter. PASA president Joe Twaddell discussed the chapter's founding, its current membership, its membership goals, new opportunities for the chapter, and working with other established trail building clubs. Renee Martin made a motion to approve PASA's petition to become a SORBA chapter and the motion was seconded by Charlie Maffitt. All present voted in favor of the

motion.

Triangle Area Off-Road Cyclists (TORC) located in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina presented their petition to become a SORBA chapter. TORC president Bill Camp discussed the chapter's membership (102 current members), its goals, and opportunities for the chapter. Robert Murphy made a motion to approve TORC's petition to become a SORBA chapter and the motion was seconded by Paul Farrow. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Gwinnett Area Trail Riders (GATR) located in Gwinnett County, GA presented their petition to become a SORBA chapter. GATR vice-president Darryl Clark discussed the chapter's membership, the chapter's goals, and opportunities for the chapter. James Stankowitz made a motion to approve GATR's petition to become a SORBA chapter and the motion was seconded by Blake Sexton. All present voted in favor of the motion.

The treasurer's report followed and each individual chapter received their current financial reports. SORBA's audit is still in process with an anticipated November completion.

Keith McFadden presented the Access report next. Douglas County has contracted with Mike Riter to build trails for them. Gwinnett County is working on an MOU for Tribble Mill. The Chattanooga chapter has signed a MOU with the TVA for the first mountain bike trails on any of the property it manages. The Army Corps of Engineers is working on new agreements for Blankets Creek and Rope Mill in Cherokee County. All new agreements need to be reviewed and signed by SORBA main (Tom and Keith) and copies of all MOU's must be provided to SORBA main. Discussion ensued on making available to all chapters copies of MOU's and MOA's that could be used. The Pinhoti Trail Association is currently working with The Conservation Fund on a property located on the border of Alabama that could provide more trails.

Walt Bready presented the Membership report. With the addition of the new chapters, SORBA is approaching 2,000 members. Walt apologized for the recent delays in processing new membership. There were new SORBA brochures for the chapters to pick up and the new brochures had a blank line to write in a new chapter name so new chapters don't have to wait for their chapter to be listed on the brochure. Discussion ensued on SORBA developing written policies on adding new chapters and how members who have lost their SORBA cards can obtain replacement cards.

Robin Allen was introduced as the new Fat Tire Times editor. She discussed the new layout, her goal to have the FTT become a more member driven publication, availability of rate sheets on SORBA's website and her goal to have chapters bring in more advertising to help pay for the FTT. Bill Camp noted that TORC has a publicity committee that could help with the FTT.

The meeting was adjourned for a 10 minute break.

Tom Sauret presented a proposed by-law change to allow for a financial officer position that would be responsible for signing SORBA checks. A motion was made and seconded to approve this by-law change. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Tom wanted to make everyone aware that SORBA purchased an insurance policy against any thefts

of equipment, money, etc. by SORBA officers.

Tom presented a second proposed by-law change to define the Executive Board of SORBA (composed of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the BOD) as financial consultants and advisors to the Executive Director and staff between full Board meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve this by-law change. All present voted in favor of the motion.

Tom Sauret then presented the Executive Director's report. ED Sauret noted that chapter representatives need to make sure that they are submitting the correct financial forms to SORBA main and in a timely manner or else it slows down the audit process. All of the forms are available on www.sorba.org. A discussion followed on chapter checking accounts.

Mike Riter is leaving his position as the State Trails Education Specialist, funded by the Recreational Trails Program grant from Georgia State Parks. His trail construction business is taking off. A replacement will be hired soon. The October classes that are scheduled should continue to take place. Mike will also make a donation to SORBA for volunteers that work on one of his projects.

Tom concluded with a discussion on the past, present, and future of SORBA as an organization.

The meeting moved into the New Business portion. Patrick Barry made a request that the hot links on www.sorba.org be more clearly identified since they don't stand out when viewed on a laptop. It was noted that Jeff Gandy is proposing to move the website to a new platform that should address this issue. Patrick then announced that the Atlanta chapter approved the purchase of a Shulaski for GATR to welcome them as a new chapter. Patrick discussed the potential for the addition of an Anniston, AL chapter as he has been working and riding in the area of late. Finally, Patrick noted that it might be good to have an auto-reply email sent from the various @sorba.org email addresses with a disclaimer that, because SORBA is a volunteer organization, a reply might not be immediate.

Robert Murphy discussed more regional involvement in SORBA events and activities, especially since SORBA's area of coverage is now five states. Robert discussed the possibility of regional trail building school, ways to increase regional representation at festivals, and the possibility of utilizing teleconferencing for future BOD meetings. Robert also asked for an update on the status of the issues raised in the break-out session in the last Board meeting. ED Sauret noted that additional funds were needed to implement many of the issues raised.

Jay Franklin spoke on the recent passage of the Highway bill that funds the Recreational Trails Program. Jay noted that every chapter should make sure that mountain biking is represented on their state's RTP advisory committee. He also mentioned that there are safety patrol funds available in another section of this bill and that IMBA will be making a big push to get this money spent. IBMA is also working to develop regional trails schools and a nationwide school that would be based in DuPont Forest in North Carolina. Jay concluded by making sure everyone knew that there are education funds available in the RTP that, in Georgia, has funded Mike Riter's position.

Due to time and schedule constraints the new president's workshop was moved to 7 pm.

Tom Sauret presented the final agenda item, SORBA's involvement in a regional race series next year, and opened the floor for discussion. The following items were noted:

- Using a flat fee to cover the entire series/SORBA membership
- Working with other regional series
- Protecting the mission of SORBA
- Which trails races would be run on
- Profit splitting
- Pay dirt points
- Making it a regional series and not just a Georgia series
- Use of the SORBA name
- Other organizations running series have had problems
- Short time frame to develop full series for next year
- Developing a race committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the race series

Robert Murphy made a motion to put together a race committee that would organize things and send out a plan for approval by the Board. Robert McBride seconded the motion. Further discussion ensued and Tom Sauret noted that the purpose of this agenda item was to either approve or not approve SORBA running a race series next year not the specifics of the race series itself. The vote was carried out and the nays carried the vote.

James Stankowitz made a motion that SORBA proceed with running a race series next year. Robert Murphy seconded the motion. All present were in favor of the motion. A race committee, with Walt Bready's involvement, will be convened to fully develop the business plan for next year's SORBA race series.

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary