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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association November 8, 2008

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 8, 2008, at Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting commenced at approximately 8:30 a.m.

### **Participating Chapters:**

See attached document for those members present. It was noted that there were no representatives present from the following chapters: Tallahassee and Chattanooga. All other chapters had a voting member or proxy present. Sign-in sheet is attached.

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

SORBA staff was introduced, along with the guest speaker, Mike Van Abel, the Executive Director of IMBA.

### **Realignment of Chapters:**

Tom Sauret, Executive Director of SORBA, spoke about some realignment of chapters that has taken place since the last Board of Directors meeting. The MARC Chapter has folded, and members on the Georgia side have been put into the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter. Members on the North Carolina side are currently At Large. Also, the SOFA Chapter has decided to disband, and members have been reassigned geographically to other chapters.

### **New Chapter Introductions:**

Two new likely chapters petitioned for membership: Western Alabama and New Smyrna Beach, FL. A motion was made by Darryl Glasscock to make Western Alabama an official chapter. It was seconded by Van Rogers and approved unanimously. Conrad Cancelmi, the representative from New Smyrna Beach, asked to postpone a vote on chapter status until the end of the business meeting.

Also, it was decided to hold the next Board of Directors meeting on February 28. The location is TBA, with both the Uwharrie Chapter and CSRA volunteering as locations.

### **President's Update:**

President Bob Grieco began his remarks by asking chapter representatives what their most pressing concerns were. Some of the responses included access to community resources, and that land managers were demanding better organization. Grieco said the focus of the Executive Board is to support the chapters, and he hopes to get to know them better, and address their individual

concerns directly, in the coming year.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Executive Director Tom Sauret turned the meeting over to Mike Van Abel, the keynote speaker, who spoke on the topic “What’s A Board To Do?” Van Abel stressed that as a chapter officers, those present were holding in public trust that they are using their resources to accomplish their stated mission, and do good in the community. He said the strength of an organization is chapter development and taking ownership of a cause. “Don’t get stuck in day-to-day frustrations, focus on the future,” he said. He mentioned a few strategic goals for IMBA. These included international development, building capacity locally, and creating model trails, specifically the Gateway Trails Program.

**Chapter Concerns:**

Time was devoted here to airing of concerns by chapter representatives. The goal was to build communication and help solve chapter issues. Several chapter representatives sought a more narrowed focus by SORBA on local trail systems, as opposed to the IMBA Ride Center concept. A pressing concern was access to and accuracy of the membership database. Chapters want to know who their new members are, in a new member report or a renewal report. Membership questions are to be funneled through Walt Bready, and help with the membership database is to be resolved by emailing [sorba.dbhelp@sorba.org](mailto:sorba.dbhelp@sorba.org).

Chapters also sought more accessible bylaw templates, as well as sample MOUs. Bob Grieco suggested including them in the Resources section on the SORBA Web page.

In addition, chapters asked about access to tool trailers; how to get more detailed information on their financial reports compiled by Kathy Wood; how to create more appealing Web sites; and how to, as an organization, appeal to younger people.

We adjourned for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

**New Chapter Petition:**

After lunch, New Smyrna Beach asked to be made a chapter. The motion for chapter status was made by Paul Farrow. It was seconded by Fred Williams and approved unanimously.

**Forum Policy Update:**

At this time, chapter representatives were asked to vote on a forum policy change – dealing with advertising on the forum -- that was outlined in a document sent to them about a week ago. It was suggested that on people’s next logon, they be prompted to agree to the terms of the new policy in order to post on the SORBA forum. The motion to adopt policy change was made by Joe Polk and seconded by Ken Hacka. It was approved unanimously.

**Election of Officers:**

Tom Sauret briefly introduced the SORBA officer nominees for 2009. They are: Bob Grieco, president; Darryl Glasscock, vice president; Renee Martinez, secretary; and Angela Allen, treasurer. The motion to approve the officers was made by Randy Conner. It was seconded by Stewart Bryan and approved unanimously.

**Budget Approval:**

A copy of the proposed 2009 budget had been previously provided to chapter representatives for review prior to the meeting. After some discussion a motion was made by John Hicks to approve the proposed 2009 budget, with a request that a revised forecast for the rest of the year 2009 be made at the at the February meeting of the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Tom Tomaka, and approved unanimously.

**Other agenda items:**

Also at the meeting, Ellis Alexander and John Hicks, of the Woodstock Chapter, talked about successful fund raising . They related their own experiences in raising money for the Blankets Creek trail system, and offered tips to other chapters on how to do it.

Robin Allen, communication director, spoke about the future of SORBA information dissemination. She stressed the need for chapters to turn in items to the E-news, and also talked about how the *Fat Tire Times* was going to become an electronic publication, except for one printed edition per year.

**Approval of March meeting minutes:**

There was a motion by Van Rogers to accept the March meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ken Hacka and all present voted in favor of accepting the March meeting minutes.

There being no further business, President Greico adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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Bob Grieco, President

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Renee Martinez, Secretary