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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association March 11, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 11, 2006 at the Public Library in Woodstock, Georgia. The meeting commenced at 1:20 p.m.

See attached document for those members present. It was noted that there were no representative present from the Gwinnett, Georgia chapter. All other chapters had a voting member present.

Keith Owen called the meeting to order, briefly introduced himself, and asked for the Board and attending SORBA members to introduce themselves.

President Owen then requested approval of the November 2005 minutes. Ken Camp made a motion to approve the November 2005 minutes, which was seconded by Paul Farrow. All present voted in favor of approving the November 2005 minutes.

President Owen presented the President's minute which noted the challenges SORBA faced in 2005 and the solid footing SORBA is on for 2006. President Owen also: noted that SORBA chapters have received grants from the Recreational Trails Program (Gainesville) and Bikes Belong (Chattanooga), mentioned IMBA's annual report card for each state SORBA has chapters, noted a mention of SORBA in Bicycle magazine, and issued a challenge to the chapters to continue to grow their membership. A brief discussion on membership issues commenced and it was requested that SORBA main send out membership reports to the chapters on a monthly basis and that SORBA consider making all memberships expire at the same time.

Daniel Elzey then presented the Mountain Bike Patrol report. Mountain bike patrol clinics have been held by the Woodstock and TORC chapters. To date, there are 25 certified patrollers out there.

Daniel noted that having certified patrollers in a chapter can help with gaining access to land and working with land managers. Red Cross training is provided free as part of the workshop. There is a \$35 membership fee that either the member or his/her chapter can pay to be a patroller. Daniel also noted that 14 Woodstock patrollers worked the recent Woodstock adventure race.

Keith Owen passed out the SORBA survey and asked each chapter to complete and return.

Keith McFadden presented the Access report next. SORBA's draft safety plan was passed out. The development of a safety plan is being driven by the US Forest Service. Keith asked for everyone to

review and provide feedback to him. It has been incorporated into SORBA's Policies & Procedures manual. A reminder that on any MOU SORBA must be a signatory. For those chapters interested in using GPS on their trails, Keith is working on putting on some training later this summer. ESRI has donated a \$1,500 GPS package, but SORBA still has the need for a donated PDA and/or laptop. Gainesville College is willing to donate students and GIS program support. A NC State graduate student has submitted a grant application to utilize GPS on a mountain biking trail study.

Walt Bready provided a report on the SORBA-Subaru program and trail building guidelines. The Subaru program has been renewed for 2006 and a Giant bike will be the prize for the drawing. Let Walt know if any of the dates are wrong on the 2006 calendar and bring your ideas for 2007 events to the August BOD meeting. Walt is the Georgia Trails Education Specialist. He uses the IMBA guidelines for trail building in the classes that he teaches. A reminder of the IMBA/SORBA FATS work party weekend. Everyone who attends gets a free copy of the IMBA book. A request was made to provide copies of the IMBA book to various land managers. Trail school in April is full; the next sessions will be in August. There is a trail clinic (one day, short course) scheduled for April 8. A discussion on trail school scholarships ensued. TORC requested a 2-day school and will pay to host it. There was a discussion on having booths at the Tour day Georgia and a brief discussion on whether or not any land managers have taken the course.

Tom Sauret presented the Executive Director's report next. He presented the 2006 budget and discussed the fact that income for 2006 is ahead of schedule. Tom gave thanks to the Gainesville chapter for having patience with the RTP grant process, which will fund the replacement trail for the Ag Center and will pay SORBA to construct the trail. Ken Camp made a motion to approve the 2006 budget, which was seconded by Charlie Maffitt. All present voted in favor of approving the 2006 budget.

Tom passed out the new SORBA golf shirts and offered thanks to the CPA's as their nice letter to the IRS prompted the IRS to refund a penalty that SORBA paid. Tom noted that SORBA is viewed in a good light by the industry and others, giving an example from the National Bike Summit. There was a brief discussion on next year's National Bike Summit. Tom also reminded everyone of the importance of properly executed MOUs.

SORBA's draft policies and procedures manual was passed out and Tom asked everyone to review and provide feedback. Tom also noted that the SORBA road show (Bike Patrol & Trail Education training) is in process and that Trek has stepped up to provide volunteer rewards again. A discussion ensued relating to the New Leaf Productions – Cohutta 100 mile race on April 22nd. At least one SORBA chapter will be manning a booth on the course.

Tom then led a discussion on a potential change to future SORBA BOD meetings. It was noted that originally, SORBA held 3 meetings per year because it was a small, local organization. With multiple chapters located in multiple states, the issue is the number and locations of future BOD meetings. NEMBA and IMBA both hold one board meeting per year. Tom suggested that one main meeting be held in March and then regional meetings be held. The following input was received on this issue:

- Rick Moon (NWGA) prefers having multiple full BOD meetings as different representatives

from his chapter can be sent to see how the process works

- Bill Camp (TORC) noted the costs associated with having multiple meetings at remote sites and suggested that SORBA consider subsidizing costs associated with the meetings
- Mike Storm (PASA) was in favor of one full meeting per year, especially for chapters that are located far away
- Robert McBride (EMBA) in favor of regional meetings
- Daniel Short (UC3) likes the Nimblewill style meeting (multi day meetings with workshops)
- It was noted that Keith McFadden determined that the geographic center of SORBA is somewhere just north of Gainesville (Lula, GA)
- Matt DeWitt (Huntsville) is in favor of one meeting per year with overnight opportunities
- Bill Camp suggested 2 centrally located meetings and one rotating meeting location
- Ken Camp (PAS) would be in favor of continuing multiple meetings with a regional focus
- Renee Martinez (OMBA) suggested going from 3 to 2 meetings (March & August)
- John Hicks (Woodstock) is concerned that cutting back on the number of meetings would lead to a loss of relationships between the chapters. Suggested regional meetings to focus on policy issues.
- Mike Storm requested a private forum on the SORBA website for BOD members to discuss issues like this outside of email. Jeff Gandy noted that this functionality exists on the SORBA website
- Walt Bready mentioned the idea of using teleconferencing
- Tom Sauret noted that if the number of meetings are reduced it becomes even more important to fill the vacant spot of Treasurer on the BOD
- Trey Commander (Chattanooga) is in favor of one main meeting with regional meetings
- Pam Forshee (MARC) is in favor of regional meetings
- Keith Owen asked that everyone bring their ideas forward on the forum, email to secretary@sorba.org, and/or to the meeting in August that will be in Asheville, NC

The meeting was adjourned for a 15 minute break.

Immediately following the break, New Business was discussed. Patrick Barry (Atlanta) noted that the IMBA Trail Care Crew would be making two visits to Georgia in the coming months (Macon – November 11-12 and Atlanta – Thanksgiving weekend). Patrick also noted that the Red Cross was offering CPR training today. A brief discussion on SORBA's involvement with various chambers of commerce was carried out. A brief discussion on the Forest Service selling off lands it owns ensued. Finally, Patrick asked that the email links on the SORBA website be changed from @sorba.org to "at" sorba.org with an explanation that due to the increase in SPAM, users will have to enter the email address.

Jeffery Schaarschmidt (Chattanooga) led a discussion on documentation that SORBA needs to file in Tennessee and, possibly, Alabama to have charitable status for several SORBA chapters. A discussion ensued and it was noted that requirements and privileges vary by state. Jeffery made a motion that SORBA file the paperwork within 30 days, provide email status reports every 15 days until the issue is resolved, and that SORBA freeze bringing in new chapters until the process is complete. The motion was seconded by Patrick Barry. A hand vote was carried out. There were 6 in favor, 6 opposed, and 6 abstaining. The motion did not pass.

SORBA Secretary Eric Hunter noted that the draft minutes will be posted in pdf format on the website as soon as they are done and reviewed.

The following announcements were then made:

March 25 – SORBA/IMBA trail weekend at FATS (Kona frame to be raffled off, free IMBA Trail Solutions books to all volunteers)

April 22 – Baker’s Dozen race (near racer limit)

April 2 – Macon Race (1st in GSC and \$\$ go back to Macon chapter)

June 3 – National Trails Day event at Bull/Jake with equestrian group

April 6-9 – IMBA Trail Care Crew in Chattanooga with NPS

April 15-16 – EMBA Ft. Mountain festival

March 18th – March Hare Festival at Chicopee

Look for more information on the TNT series to return this year (RAMBA and Gainesville chapters hosting again)

Everyone go for a ride at Blanket’s Creek after the meeting. Woodstock members will be there to lead riders.

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary