



INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION
SOUTHERN OFF-ROAD BICYCLE ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association November 21, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held November 21, 2009, at Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Ga. The meeting commenced at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Participating Chapters:

The following chapters were in attendance: Appalachian Mountain Bike Club, CSRA, Chattahoochee Valley, Ellijay, Gainesville, Gwinnett, Northwest Ga., OMBA, Paulding, Pisgah, RAMBO, Athens, Atlanta, Middle Tennessee, Tallahassee, Woodstock, Upper Chattahoochee and West Alabama. A member of the petitioning chapter from Wilmington, N.C., also was present. See attached document for the member sign-in sheet.

It was noted that there were no representatives present from the following chapters:, Piedmont Area, Chattanooga, Huntsville, Uwharrie, TORC and Upstate SORBA. All other chapters had a voting member or proxy present.

Welcome:

SORBA staff was introduced. Executive Director Tom Sauret stressed in his opening remarks how SORBA is IMBA in the southeast. Operations Manager Kathy Wood handed out treasury reports to chapter representatives, along with insurance information. Insurance information was discussed, and chapters were encouraged to renew their MOUs because of the new insurance.

New Chapter Introduction:

A representative from the petitioning chapter in Wilmington, N.C., (Cape Fear area) explained the history of their group and why they wanted to join IMBA/SORBA. After some discussion, a motion was made to approve Cape Fear SORBA as a provisional chapter (until they attain 50 members, at which point Cape Fear will become an official chapter) by Brad Wender. It was seconded by Paul Farrow and approved unanimously.

Business Meeting:

Renee Corwine, SORBA Secretary, presented the minutes from the February 28, 2009, Board of Directors meeting for approval. Ken Hacka made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ken Foster, and unanimously approved.

After the executive board officers were thanked for their work in the past year, and their desire to continue serving, a motion was made by Brad Wender, seconded by Dave Senecal and approved unanimously to retain Bob Grieco as SORBA President, Darryl Glascock as SORBA Vice President, Angel Allen as SORBA Treasurer, and Renee Corwine as SORBA Secretary.

By-law change:

Tom Sauret proposed a by-law change that affected the minimum number of members a petitioning chapter needed to become a full SORBA chapter. It was proposed that the minimum number of clubs members must be 50 for a potential club to become a chapter of SORBA. The decision was in part economic, and also to get in step with the IMBA Chapter program. It is difficult to sustain smaller chapters, and with larger chapters more resources are pooled. The current SORBA chapters will be grandfathered in, but encouraged to strive to attain 50 members if they have fewer than that number. A motion was made to approve the by-law change by Brian Hamm, seconded by Daniel Elzey and approved unanimously.

Keynote Address:

Mike Van Abel, Executive Director of IMBA, gave the keynote address via teleconference. Among his remarks were that the biggest outcomes of the merger of IMBA and SORBA included an amazing alignment of purpose, more capacity to achieve things together, and more efficiency with a new streamlined financial process. He added that a greater percentage of the dollar from membership is now going to the mission of IMBA.

He remarked on the coming IMBA summit as a “mountain biker congress” that will bring thoughtful people together and help reframe the movement of IMBA and mountain biking: It’s organization, governance, programs, international growth ... “everything about IMBA’s organization is on the table to be rethought.” Following his address, there was a question and answer portion.

Meeting Planning:

Tom Sauret stressed that in the future, the IMBA/SORBA meetings are to become more like mini-summits. The meetings will be opened up for more people to attend; however the chapter presidents will be the only ones with voting rights. Other people are welcome to come and contribute to the discussions. He’s like to expand the scope of the meetings to cover three days and include, meetings, social time, rides and even trail work.

Meeting dates for 2010 were set as March 20th at the Nantahala Outdoors Center; and Nov. 20 in Dalton, Ga.

The Sorbie:

After lunch, the Sorbie, SORBA’s highest honor, was awarded to Jay and Judy Franklin for their many years of dedication.

IMBA Summit:

Preparations for the coming IMBA summit in Augusta, Ga., were discussed, as well as a brainstorming session about what SORBA could offer by way of panel discussion sessions.

Communication and Development director Robin Allen took notes on the topics, which included things such as a history of the SORBA chapters and successful chapter partnership stories.

Final Remarks:

Tom Sauret made the final remarks of the meeting. He encouraged all chapters to keep minutes of their chapter meetings, and send them to the SORBA secretary. A model meeting minutes template is to be made available online for chapters to use.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ken Foster to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Brad Wender, and approved unanimously.

Bob Grieco, President

Renee Corwine, Secretary