

Meeting Minutes
Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association
Tallahassee Chapter of SORBA

Thursday, September 24, 2009
Uptown Cafe
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

- The first item of discussion was about the benefits of club membership and the benefits of being a SORBA chapter. The benefits of club member include being able to participate in the access and advocacy work that appears to be required in order to sustain, improve, and increase trails in our area. The benefits of being a SORBA chapter are that SORBA provides the organizational, legal, and insurance framework that makes maintaining the club much easier.

- The next agenda item was a review of the “old business” from the post-Munson/Twilight USFS ride meeting held at Crispers before the Higher Ground party on 9/12/09. At this meeting a small group of club members discussed the Munson/Twilight USFS project and the future direction of the club. Tom Sauret of SORBA/IMBA attended the meeting to provide advice on both working with land managers and growing and maintaining the club. The following list details items discussed at this meeting:
 - ◆ To remain in good standing with SORBA, we need to provide a quarterly update on club activities. For this quarter, Linc Clay and Jim Schmid wrote an article on the Munson/Twilight ride and public meeting hosted by the USFS. John Kalin provided some photos to accompany the article.
 - ◆ Appropriate club focus was discussed. The sense of the group was that the main focus should be access and advocacy. Providing group riding opportunities (like the Thursday beginner rides) was also something most folks were interested in maintaining.
 - ◆ The cancellation of the TMBA volunteer agreement with the USFS was also a topic of interest. This means that at the present time, TMBA is not authorized to conduct trail maintenance activities in the National Forest (for Munson and Twilight).
 - ◆ It was mentioned that the club recently added a mile to the Red Bug trail at Forest Meadows Park. This addition was done in conjunction with the IMBA Trail Crew.
 - ◆ The potential merger with Capital City Cyclists was entertained, but the group felt that a separate club with an off-road focus was desirable. Given the SORBA connection, a separate off-road club is also easy to manage because SORBA provides a “ready to wear” framework with the needed accounting, administrative, and insurance framework.
 - ◆ Upcoming SORBA events were noted by Tom Sauret and include a trail building workshop to be held October 15th and 16th at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (Bryson City, NC) and the next SORBA board meeting on November 21st in Gainesville, GA. There is also an IMBA Summit Meeting in Augusta, GA in May of 2010. Tom mentioned that the club can help with some travel expenses for TMBA board members to attend these events.
 - ◆ Tom also mentioned that 40% of the SORBA membership dues are set aside for the TMBA chapter. (This is in addition to the accounting, administrative, and insurance support that comes with being a SORBA chapter.)

- The new business included the following items.
 - ◆ Last year the club did not hold elections but “appointed” willing members to positions. The current board is made up of Ken Foster, Terry Clark, John Harvey, and Cliff Leonard.
 - ◆ Other than the very successful beginner rides, club activity this summer was relatively low.

- ◆ Elections will be held at the TMBA November meeting. You must be a current SORBA/TMBA member (meaning your SORBA dues must be current) to vote. Don't forget to re-up if your SORBA membership has lapsed.
- ◆ A further discussion of the potential merger with the Capital City Cyclists was held. The pros and cons were reviewed with an affirmation to remain a separate entity. It was suggested that we try to post our rides to the CCC web page.
- ◆ The need for TMBA to get members to the IMBA/SORBA events (like the trail-building workshops and the board meetings) was stressed. Ken Foster and Cliff Leonard are planning to attend the NOC trail building workshop in October.
- ◆ Ken Foster and Glenn Gifford are hoping to attend the SORBA board meeting in November.
- ◆ One of the needs of local land managers is trail reporting. A trail reporting discussion was held and ended in the appointment of a trail reporting committee composed of Scott Shirley, Ken Foster, and Cliff Leonard. This committee will develop/adopt a reporting format, a suggested reporting schedule, and a group of “reporters”. The reporters will be expected to ride and report on “their” trails on a periodic basis. The reports will be turned over to the land manager.
- ◆ In addition to the trail reporting, it was noted that we have a trail maintenance blog that can be used to post trail issues.
- ◆ The weekly Thursday rides will be moved to Sunday at 10:00 AM to accommodate the end of Daylight Saving Time.
- ◆ There will be a work day at the new St. Marks River State Park on October 10th. Additional information on the park and the work party is posted on the TMBA web page (<http://tallahassee mountainbike.com>) .
- ◆ Karen Loewen has agreed to be the TMBA communication czar. She will be added as an administrator to the Facebook page.
- ◆ John Kalin will continue to be the weekly ride coordinator.
- ◆ We have a need for a treasurer. Karen is considering the position but is already very busy with TMBA and other activities. Any takers out there?
- ◆ The idea of TMBA fund raising was discussed. As noted, we get 40% of the SORBA dues, but that is not much money. Several ideas for earning additional money were mentioned. Helping with the local races were one idea, but volunteering to build good will and visibility may be more valuable at this point than trying to do the work on a paid basis.
- ◆ We hope to man a SORBA tent at the Gone Riding event October 17th and 18th. Any volunteers to help?
- ◆ John Kalin and Ken Foster will coordinate on the next full moon ride (which is coming right up).
- ◆ Meetings with park managers on potential trail additions at Maclay (Overstreet trails) are on-going.
- ◆ The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

In attendance were:

Linc Clay	Colter Foster
Ken Foster	Glen Gifford
Sandi Jones	John Kalin
Cliff Leonard	Karen Loewen
Tim Murphy	Tom Proctor
Scott Shirley	Ric Smith
Bert Thornton	Jeff Ward