

Meeting Minutes 11/18/13 – (Thanks to Cliff Li for writing stuff down)

1. 27 people were in attendance
2. Michael Mitchell led the meeting & discussion. The agenda consisted of a history of how this all sort of came together, deciding on a mission statement, decision to create a new entity, name of the new entity - Central Arkansas Trail Alliance (CATA), discussion of how the entity will be run (officers/board of directors), initial talks of budget & costs, and some other issues.
3. Mission statement: "To establish and maintain multi-use trails in central Arkansas that are open to mountain bikers and to link all trail users for this purpose."
4. Stephen Schneider (IMBA) had a lot of good suggestions and shared how they have been doing things in NWA through the Ozark Off-Road Cyclists (OORC) and Friends of SlaughterPen Trails (FAST).
5. The goal is to make NWA and Central AR a mountain bike ride destination with world class trails that would bring people from all over to ride. One of the benefits is that you can pretty much ride year round around here. To do so, that means building trail and more importantly, maintaining trail. You can have awesome trail but if it's not maintained, no one is going to want to ride it.
6. For example, Stephen talked about how they're trying to re-establish the trails out at Syllamo - they've been neglected for years and they're trying to turn that around. He's working to establish a chapter of IMBA up there and they would be "sister" chapters with CATA and the NWA groups. He's trying to line up places that would be willing to lodge & feed workers and hope that that will get more people to go maintain & ride the trails up there. He talked about how each chapter could host work weekends and travel to each region to help each other out by building & maintaining trails together.
7. Joe Grant shared a lot of good info about how the Central Oregon Trail Alliance runs and how we could learn from how they do things in Bend, OR. They have work days that bring out over 100 people (!!).
8. It was decided that the group would be a non-profit and that the initial costs wouldn't be too much. Ideas were thrown around concerning dues and securing local sponsorship and from where that sponsorship would come from (e.g. local bike shops, Orbea, Subaru, etc). But a lot of that could wait until the group was established and things started to get done. A basic website could be created but most of the coordination/planning could be done on Facebook.
9. Bruce Alt would put together a contact list of all in attendance and distribute a survey within the next week to attendees to get more input on group direction.
10. Stephen said the organization needed a president, secretary, and treasurer at a minimum to function. The NWA group also has a vice president, a rides coordinator, a trails coordinator, and an events coordinator. They generally would serve 2-year terms, limited to 3 terms, and half the positions would be up for (re-)election every year.
11. As far as trail location goes, Joe Jacobs & Joe Grant (who grew up in the Lake Maumelle watershed) & others had a lot of good insight. The bottom line is that there isn't a lot of good remaining land at Pinnacle Mtn State Park to build mtb trails on. The Lake Maumelle watershed is definitely the most promising. Central AR Water is on-board with developing trails out there. If we could get the Friends of the Ouachita Trail (FoOT) to allow mtb's on the existing OT on the north side of the lake, that gives instant access to about 22 miles of trail. But there is definitely opportunity to build on the south shore. There could easily be 50+ miles of trail out there.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th - that meeting will be focused on electing officers, formalizing some by-laws, that sort of thing.

When: Mon, December 9, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Where: Arkansas Society of CPA building 11300 Executive Center Dr. Little Rock, AR 72211