

National Smokejumper Association
Summary of The Board of Directors' Meeting
June 16, 2001, Missoula, Montana

Attendees:

Larry Lufkin, President
Chuck Sheley, 1st Vice President
Roland Stoleson 2nd Vice President
Fred Cooper, Membership Coordinator
Neil Satterwhite, Data Base Manager
Dan McComb, Webmaster
Carl Gidlund, Immediate Past President
Earl Cooley, President Emeritus
Fred Brauer, Member
Tom Uphill, Planning Chairman
Jon McBride, Trails Chairman
Chuck Wildes, Member
Stephanie Cameron, Website Coordinator
Fritz Wolfram, Member
Chuck Fricke, Manager, Missoula NSA Office
Tom Kovalicky, Director
Leo Cromwell, Director
Fred Rohrbach, Director, Video Chairman
Dave Bennett, Secretary

Missing:

Directors:

Jerry Timmons
George Gowen
Harold Hartman
Bill Moody
Murry Taylor
Grant Beebe
Mark Corbet
Bill Eastman
Dean Longanecker, Treasurer
Steve Smith, Historian

Board of Directors Elected: NSA members voted for candidates for four seats on the Board of Directors (BOD). Since the number of votes was less than required for a quorum as specified in NSA bylaws, the election was not bonafide. The bylaws also state that the BOD can elect directors, and Lon Dale moved that the board elect the four candidates that received the most votes by members. Ron Stoleson seconded, motion passed. Dave Bennett, Fred Cooper, Neil Satterwhite, and Ted Burgon were elected to the Board

of Directors.

Term Completed: Lon Dale has completed his term as a member of the BOD. Our thanks to Lon for his efforts and accomplishments as part of the BOD.

Treasurer's Report: Larry Lufkin presented the balance sheet for Treasurer Dean Longanecker. Fund Balance as of the end of April was \$146,047. Larry noted that the Fund Balance increase in recent months is largely from additional life memberships, multi-year memberships, and merchandise sales.

Membership Report: Fred Cooper, Membership Chairman, reported that total membership has increased by about 200 since September of 2000. Over the same period, Associate membership is down somewhat. Demographically, the highest fraction of jumpers from the 60s are members, with about 40 to 50 per cent. Demographics of jumpers are changing. Jumpers now work longer, so as time goes on we may have a flat spot in membership.

Fred Cooper reported that we now have 70 Life memberships and another 13 on payment schedule. This is an increase from 44 a year ago. Life members receive a cap and a plaque now. Knives are no longer offered.

The following points were made in an open discussion regarding NSA membership.

- Fred Rohrbach suggested that we should push to sign up base managers as members.
- Fred Rohrbach said we have to do more as an organization to bring young people in.
- Larry Lufkin noted that Tom Uphill has recently come on board as our long-range planner. The previous issue should be part of his considerations.
- Neil Satterwhite suggested that we place an NSA advocate at each base.
- Chuck Fricke asked if a complementary copy of the NSA magazine is sent to each Smokejumper base. After discussion, it was agreed that several copies of the magazine would be provided to each of the nine bases.
- We provide a year free membership for each rookie.

Merchandise Report: Chuck Sheley, Merchandise Manager, reports that we are averaging two orders a day, seven days a week. Net income so far during 2001 is \$8514. Net income for the full year 2000 was \$20,480. There have been approximately 364 orders filled so far this year.

Chuck still needs an assistant for merchandise inventory and shipping. Requirements for this job are a room for inventory plus time to fill orders. Chuck will forward orders to this person to be filled. Chuck has placed a notice in the upcoming issue of the NSA magazine requesting a volunteer. A notice will also be posted on the web site.

Magazine Report: Chuck Sheley reports that the July issue of the magazine is presently being mailed. 1850 copies were printed. The current issue has 48 pages, and the cost is \$2.26 per copy.

Evergreen Aviation Museum Report: Larry Lufkin reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NSA and the Evergreen Aviation Museum is signed. The MOU includes the following points:

- Evergreen and NSA would jointly plan and create displays of Smokejumper historical items. Evergreen has a high level of interest in working with NSA to create this feature in the museum.
- The document reflects our desire to preserve Smokejumper history and our obligation to solicit donations to further support the museum.
- Evergreen is now the official displayer of NSA historical materials. However, the arrangement is nonexclusive, enabling NSA to exhibit materials at other venues, such as The National Museum of Forest Service History.
- NSA will screen material donations for authenticity, value, background, and help with restoration as necessary.
- Evergreen will function as the repository for NSA Smokejumper materials.
- Researchers will be allowed access to the materials.
- If the museum should dissolve, NSA would have opportunity to reclaim the entire collection.

The initial smokejumper display will include the jump gear from 1939 jump. A check for \$5000 from NSA, authorized in the 7 April 2001 meeting, will be provided to the museum as good will gesture. Grand Opening of the museum was on 8 June 2001.

Ron Stoleson stated that NSA should designate a point of contact for the Evergreen Museum. The Museum point of contact will likely be an assistant curator.

Other Museum-Related Actions: Larry Lufkin stated that The Museum of Mountain Flying (MMF) is building a new hanger and will be expanding. Chuck Fricke said that Stan Cohen, the museum curator and general manager, is in the process of acquiring the Mann Gulch DC-3. The fund currently has \$14,000 toward the \$120,000 purchase price. Stan Cohen would appreciate an NSA presence and donation to the Museum of Mountain Flying. Ron Stoleson moved that the NSA Board of Directors should examine the opportunity to interact with the MMF. The motion was second Dave Bennett.

Discussion: the MMF is currently on the list for a possible NSA donation. The Executive Committee will examine the opportunity and determine amount. Motion passed.

Fritz Wolfram said that the US Forest Service (USFS) is funding personnel positions for the USFS Museum. This is evidence that the USFS will move forward with the museum that is to be established in Missoula. NSA has previously authorized an \$11,000 donation to this museum, however this action is on hold until the NSA working relationship with the museum is better defined.

NSA Website: Dan McComb, Webmaster, introduced Stephanie Cameron, who is the Website Coordinator. Stephanie performs updates on NSA website. Dan stated that there are big changes to the website. The website is now on a physically different machine, and the E-commerce platform change is

underway and under test. We will switch over permanently within a week. The structure of the website is changed. Previously, it was a deep structure, its now broader, more intuitive, and much more easier to use. Every page is now searchable.

Relational Database: Ron Stoleson and Jon McBride have worked out a basic structure for database. There are three major categories as follows

- Human assets-including information on members, associates, etc.
- Historical assets-video, documents, pix, equipment.
- Business assets-records, official documents.

Ron Stoleson-EG will work with U of M on historical data.

A consultant will be retained to assist with further defining and implementing the database. Lon Dale says there is a big data base firm located in Missoula that could perform the work. The company name is Litigation Abstracts. Dan McComb is pursuing candidates for the relational data base consultant. Dan will advertise on the NSA web site and in the magazine.

Digitizing NSA Records: Dave Bennett reported that six boxes containing NSA records were obtained from Jack Demmons recently. Dave has them currently and will be transferring them to Ted Burgon for cataloging. A member named Monte Heath who lives in Bend has volunteered to help Ted Burgon catalog the data. Dave and Chuck Fricke found a complete set of Executive Committee and Board of Directors minutes in the Missoula NSA office. These documents will be scanned as a first task toward placing all of our organizational records on CDs.

Chuck Sheley has all copies of the magazine and will have them placed on CDs within six months.

Tom Kovalicky said he has a lot of original NSA documents.

Ron Stoleson obtained from Jack Demmons 13 boxes of NSA data that was stored at the Museum of Mountain Flying. This material will be forwarded to Ted Burgon for cataloging.

Lon Dale mentioned that corporate records should be maintained as a separate data set for legal reasons.

Yearbook report: Carl Gidlund reported that only 250 orders have been received so far, and a minimum of 400 orders are necessary to complete the project. Carl has received a call from Lowell Hansen concerned that history might be lost. Lowell is helping widows and others write biographies for the book. Carl will work with Lowell on this. Don Courtney has written a chapter on CIA activities without names. Carl will do history of bases and jumpers killed in line of duty. There are gaps in these records.

Trails Project: Jon McBride, Trails Chairman, reported that plans are almost complete for this summer's activity. The Trails Program offers opportunities for our members to renew old friendships and have fun.

Jon reported that we have 42 confirmed volunteers, and 21 want two-week (double) assignments. There are seven projects in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, one in Beartooth Wilderness, and one in the Sawtooth Wilderness. Tom Kovalicky stated that Hells Canyon NRA will have a trails opportunity next year.

Three of the nine projects will be at guard stations, which are good for older members. Scouting is necessary to locate obliterated trails. Volunteers flag the trail and campsites prior to trail work.

This year, there are more Forest Service requirements for trails volunteers. Crosscut and chainsaw certifications are necessary. As a result, ten people were certified on the crosscut, and seven were certified on the chain saw at Fenn Ranger Station.

The Bob Marshall foundation is involved, providing tools and funding. The Missoula jump base has loaned tools, including a chain saw.

The Trails Program needs other volunteers, primarily emergency medical people and cooks. To mitigate this issue, the NSA is offering associate memberships to outside volunteers. Outside people won't be used on trails, only in camp.

Jon requested that the Art Jukalla fund be returned to Missoula so it can be earning interest. Jon would then write checks on the fund for operating expenses. It was agreed that Dean Longanecker will write a check for Jon. The money should be invested in money a market account.

Investment Fund: Larry Lufkin stated that we need to agree on setting up an investment fund. Lon Dale moved that Smith Barney set up and administer the fund. The contact there in Missoula is Bob Waley. This fund would enable members to donate stock without having to pay capital gains. Tom Kovalicky seconded. Motion passed.

Commercial Purposes: Larry Lufkin stated that the EC requires a policy intent from the BOD: Should NSA be involved with commercial entities? As an example, Moosehead Beer had previously offered compensation to NSA for use of the name and logo. Another current opportunity exists with Glacier Beer, who wants to use our logo. A video game company wants to use some of our footage. Are these appropriate? If so, how should we be compensated? The EC will handle details once the BOD sets policy on this issue.

Fred Rohrbach asked if our logo has been copyrighted. Answer is no. Ron Stoleson will have this done by September 2001, which will be soon enough for these opportunities.

Fritz Wolfram asked how does this affect our non-profit status? Lon Dale stated that we can do some of this. Tom Uphill said it must be included in bylaws of NSA, and affects records that have to be filed with IRS.

Motion: Chuck Sheley moved that the BOD approve activities for commercial (collateral income)

purposes. These opportunities shall be evaluated by EC, and then brought before the BOD for final approval. Motion seconded by Fred Cooper. Motion passed.

Video Report: Fred Rohrbach, Video Chairman, reported on the video distribution agreement. The agreement has been signed with Act Now in San Francisco area. Act Now will market the video by mid summer. NSA will get 25% of net profit. We still have rights to sell at other locations. No broadcast rights are involved in this contract. We've made about \$5000 so far.

Reviewers say the present two-hour version is too long. Act Now says that they would be willing to make it into a one-hour show. With the \$3-4000 per year that we expect to make on sales of the present video, Act Now will fund the remainder to create the one-hour show. Over a three-year period, we would have the one-hour version complete at a cost of around \$10,000. Act Now can begin this effort this fall and would be finished in approximately one year. We can offer this for Japanese broadcasting. This one-hour show would be a new project.

Planning Chairman: Tom Uphill has agreed to be the planning chairman for the NSA. He will work with the membership to develop strategic plans for the organization.

Carl Gidlund stated there is a lawyer/life member that will actively solicit for funding to NSA, however he needs an understanding of what the money will be used for. Tom Uphill says we must establish this as part of our strategic plan. Tom asks that each member provide his vision for the NSA for Tom to consider. History and education of the public are examples. Tom needs this information within the month. Tom can be reached at Tuphill@aol.com. Tom Kovalicky stated the original mission as: have a reunion every five years, and make a list of buddies so we can stay in touch.

Tom says that the NSA needs an operating procedure for officers of the organization. The procedure would make it easy to transfer authority through the years.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of new officers: The EC has agreed to serve another term. Larry Lufkin asked for additional nominations. None were provided. Tom Kovalicky motioned, Neil Satterwhite seconded to elect the present EC for another term.

Reunion 2004: Chuck Sheley reported there was no response to our inquiry from Redmond. Redding is ok with hosting another reunion but there is also a desire to have it at another place this time. Boise wasn't very receptive. Missoula was tentatively positive. Chuck Sheley said the Redding group has complete records on the Redding reunion regarding what works, what doesn't. Larry Lufkin reminded us that we have \$10,000 in the bank for this activity. Fred Rohrbach said if Missoula were selected, Barry Hicks would be willing to chair the effort. Fred proposes that NSA hold a convention every three to four years. Fred Cooper says he gets inquiries constantly on "when is this year's reunion". Chuck Wildes is here today to help. Motion by Chuck Sheley to have the next reunion in 2004 in Missoula, with Barry

Hicks chair and Chuck Wildes assistant chair. Ron Stoleson seconded. Motion passed. Ron Stoleson suggested that convention planners may be useful for help. Barry Hicks/Chuck Wildes will investigate this possibility.

The CPS smokejumpers reunion is July 16-19 2002 at Glacier Lodge, Glacier National Park.

Teleconferencing: Larry Lufkin stated that he has received suggestions on the use of teleconferencing for our meetings to mitigate logistics issues. After discussion, consensus is that meeting face to face is essential.

Award Certificates: Tom Kovalicky provided a prototype certificate of appreciation to be used by NSA. Rough cost is \$15 per each. (Current Life Member plaque is around \$40). Plans are to give one to each of the Redding jumpers on the Reunion 2000 committee (key individuals-about 10 people). Chuck Sheley will provide a list of the people who should receive these certificates.

Next Meetings: Next Executive Committee meeting will be in West Yellowstone on 15 September 2001. This will be concurrent with the West Yellowstone Jumpers Alumni Reunion. Our Saturday evening social will be combined with the reunion.

The next semi-annual board meeting is desired to be in an easy place to fly into during the wintertime. An example is Boise in January or February 2002.

Magazine Deadline: Chuck Sheley says that the deadline for submitting articles for the magazine is ten weeks ahead of mailing.

Missoula Visitor's Center: Chuck Wildes suggested that NSA needs a presence at the Smokejumper Visitors Center in Missoula. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Professional Management for NSA: Larry Lufkin led a discussion regarding the value of a hired Executive Director. A prerequisite to this is having sufficient base income to pay for a hired staff. This is one reason for the Life Memberships. There is value in having all volunteers. Chuck Sheley and Lon Dale spoke out in favor of volunteer organization. Dan McComb said there is value in professional support in some areas, not necessarily just for the Executive Director. Chuck Sheley agrees that we need to stay volunteer-based, but we will need to hire support to get some of the things done that we need. Carl Gidlund suggested that having member skill set information available would enable us to judge where to get volunteers for specific jobs. Stephani Cameron will include a volunteer page on the web site.

Adjourn: Fred Cooper moved to adjourn the meeting, Neil Satterwhite seconded. Motion passed.