

National Smokejumper Association
Directors' Meeting
October 12, 2002,
El Karah Shrine Temple, Boise, Idaho

Attendees:

- Ron Stoleson, President
 - Chuck Sheley, 1st Vice President
 - Fred Cooper, Membership Coordinator
 - Dean Longanecker, Treasurer
 - Jon McBride, Trails Project Coordinator
 - Neil Satterwhite, Data Base Manager
 - Larry Lufkin, Immediate Past President
 - Leo Cromwell, Director
 - Doug Houston, Director
 - Fred Rohrbach, Director
 - Carl Gidlund, Past President
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- *Pledge of Allegiance* was omitted since no one had a flag.
 - *Minutes* of the June 22, 2002 Executive Committee meeting in Cave Junction were accepted as written.
 - *Stoleson* introduced new director Doug Houston.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Dean Longanecker reported the organization is "living within its means," and that multi-year memberships are increasing.
 - As of the meeting date, the fund balance was \$188,426.
 - Net income for the year to date is \$35,919.
 - Life member income is \$20,819.
 - Magazine expenses are \$21,462.
 - Net income from merchandise is \$12,695.
- The NSA has decided it will not administer the "Liston Fund," set up by Alaska jumpers shortly after the April 2000 death of Fairbanks jumper David Liston. The decision is that funds to honor a specific individual are to be administered by the base that sets up the fund. The Liston Fund had

about \$3,098 of donations in Liston's name, including interest, and it has been returned to Fairbanks. About \$2,500 in donations in the names of other jumpers remains with the NSA.

- A general discussion of this year's budget and the proposed budget for next fiscal year followed, and there was agreement that the NSA is not to spend more from multiple-year memberships than it's actually taking in.
- Longanecker said it's imperative the organization upgrade from its current single entry bookkeeping system to a double entry system to better account for funds.
- Longanecker suggested hiring a bookkeeper, "perhaps after a Certified Public Accountant sets up a system," arguing that such an arrangement would provide continuity. A discussion followed, the end result of which is that Stoleson will discuss with a long-time Forest Service bookkeeper (the wife of associate member Tom Blunn) the possibility of hiring her. She lives in Missoula.
- Houston moved that President Stoleson be added as a signer on Mid State Bank accounts while former President Lufkin was removed. Cooper seconded and the measure was passed unanimously. Treasurer Longanecker remains a signer.
- Income and Expense Report for 2001-2002 are at Appendix C, the 2001-2002 budget is at Appendix D, and the 2001-2002 balance sheet is at Appendix E.

Membership Report

- Membership Chair Fred Cooper presented a statistical breakout of association membership, highlights of which are:
 - Current jumper membership is 1,471, of whom 87 are life members.
 - We have 230 associate members, two of whom are life members.
 - Twenty-one pilots are members. One is a life member,
 - Fifty-six members jumped in 2002 plus one or more preceding years.
- Magazine expenses are \$21,462.
- Rohrbach asked for a breakout of jumper members by decade. Cooper replied that about half our members are from the 1950s and 1960s.
- Cooper said Boise and Fairbanks are lowest in membership.
- Cooper asked for a small group of members who would be willing to brainstorm on how to increase membership. No one volunteered.
- Gidlund agreed to a request from Cooper to finish developing a recruiting brochure which Cooper has begun.
- The Membership Report is at [Appendix A](#) to these minutes, and the Life Membership Report is at [Appendix B](#).

Magazine Report

- Editor Sheley reported that, owing to the death of Ted Burgon who was editing the column, the "Jump List" will no longer be printed in the magazine.
- He said most authors are from Cave Junction, McCall and Missoula.

Web Report

- In the absence of Webmaster Dan McComb, Sheley made the report.
- Web-generated merchandise sales amount to about \$2,000 per quarter.
- As McComb's business has increased, he has had to use others as Web coordinators. The current one, Jon Robinson, his fourth coordinator, is building a more user-friendly site. Lufkin commented that we need continuity on the site, and that Robinson is a good candidate to remain with us for some time.
- The NSA site will be moved from SeattleServe to Visual Contact, McComb's firm, as host.
- Members can write and post obituaries and news stories on the Web site.
- If anyone desires to make changes on the Web site, Sheley is the contact.
- Lufkin said he still answers queries posted on the Web site.
- We're planning for a more electronically literate audience.

Trails Report

- by coordinator Jon McBride
- We have just completed our fourth season.
- The Jukkala Fund now amounts to \$3,673.
- We need cooks and emergency medical technicians.
- McBride moved and Cooper seconded a motion that the NSA donate associate memberships to five non-jumpers who served as cooks and EMTs last summer. He also asked that he be given authority to assign to crews non-jumpers with special skills, with the stipulation that those persons would have to become associate members. The motion passed unanimously.
- Kovalicky wants Gidlund to nominate the trails project for Sunset Magazine's "Environmental Hero" award.

Data Base Report

- by Neil Satterwhite
- He has recently moved and lost many records plus e-mail related to the data base. He also said he's had recurrent problems with his vascular system and has been hospitalized.
- His request to be relieved from his duties as data base manager was accepted by President Stoleson, who said former data base manager Roger Savage is willing to take over data base duties until a new manager can be found.
- Stoleson stipulated that Satterwhite is to write a complete report for Savage regarding what has been done on the data base, and what remains to be done.

Memorial Plaques

- Gidlund proposed the NSA develop plaques that list the 30 jumpers killed in the line of duty to date. In addition to the names, each entry would include training base and date, fire or other

- incident in which the jumper was killed, and the date of death. He presented a prototype developed by the North Idaho Trophy Company. The cost of each would be about \$300.
- The plaques would be presented to each of the nine active jumper bases plus the National Interagency Fire Center, the Museum of Mountain Flying, Forest Service Museum and the Evergreen Museum.
 - The plaques would be accompanied by a booklet which Gidlund would develop. It would include a narrative describing what we learn of each jumper's life and the circumstances of his death.
 - Lufkin moved that the NSA adopt the proposal. Cooper seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - Further discussions on the matter included:
 - The presentations will begin in March, and the year 2003 should be put on each plaque.
 - Gidlund should check for comparative prices.
 - Gidlund will approach White's Boots in Spokane regarding potential sponsorship.
 - Kovalicky said Gidlund should also approach Stihl chainsaws for financial backing.
 - The following individuals pledged to "sponsor" plaques: Rohrbach, Cooper, Stoleson and Kovalicky. The latter two will split the cost of one plaque.

Museum Report

- Rohrbach has visited the Museum of Mountain Flying and reports "It looks good."
- Lufkin reported that the Evergreen Museum has lost its curator but another should be on board by November or December 2002.
- Stoleson said the NSA has a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Montana. The NSA will have to provide support for its collection of smokejumper documentation, but the collection won't be on line for several years.
- Cooper said he has toured the Evergreen Museum, and a couple of jumpers are interested in helping with the smokejumper collection.

Recognition for Webmaster McComb

- All in attendance were fulsome in their praise for the NSA Website and the efforts of Dan McComb. Houston moved to recognize McComb with a gift of about \$200. Satterwhite seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Gidlund is to procure the gift.

Membership Report

- Sheley reported our target group for association membership is jumpers 40 years of age and older.
- He suggested we hold future directors' and executive board meetings at locations with significant numbers of potential members, 300 or more. Potential sites would be Missoula, Seattle, Redding, Boise and Portland.
- He said we should support mini-reunions elsewhere.
- Sheley also suggested we conduct a full board of directors' meeting in June 2003 in McCall in

conjunction with that base's reunion on June 20-22.

Other Business:

Meeting Schedule for 2003

- April 26, Redding, Executive Committee
- June 21, McCall, Full Board
- October 11, McMinville, Full Board

Next National Reunion

- 2007, Boise

Public Affairs Officer Position Created

- Stoleson suggested that a PAO slot be added as a voting member of the executive board. The motion was seconded by McBride, and passed unanimously. Gidlund was appointed the first PAO.

Folklife Festival Explained

- Cooper said a folklife festival, sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, is conducted on the Mall in Washington, D.C. each year for three to four weeks before and after July 4. About 4 million visit the festival each year.
- The 100th anniversary of the Forest service will be in 2005, and the Forest Service will present a plan as to what it will do for that anniversary.
- Cooper offered to take the lead for NSA participation, and Stoleson said he will help.
- Tentatively, we will identify five to 10 persons who would represent the NSA at the festival and learn their "story lines."
- Cooper will determine the funding needed and NSA's role.

Burgon Suggestions

- In a March 28, 2002 letter to former President Lufkin, the late Director Ted Burgon made a number of suggestions for improving the mechanics of the NSA. Stoleson led a discussion on those suggestions, with results are as follows:
 - We should form an archives committee.
Result of discussion: No.
 - Everyone in attendance at a board meeting should be assigned to a committee.

Result: Full board meetings should remain as currently constituted. The executive committee's job is to get material ready for the full board meetings.

- During the semi-annual meetings, we should have a general session then break out into committees.

Result: We'll form committees when those are needed.

- Those attending board meetings should have name badges.

Result: Stoleson purchased badges for those in attendance.

Long-Range Plan Revised

- Stoleson led a detailed review of NSA's long-range plan that's been developed by 2nd Vice President Tom Uphill. Stoleson will send the annotated document to Uphill for revisions. He'll also write a letter to Uphill, thanking him for his efforts.

New VP Named

- Stoleson announced that Uphill has resigned from the vice president's position, citing the pressure of other work. Lufkin nominated Doug Houston as his replacement. The nomination was seconded by Satterfield, and Houston was voted Vice President by acclamation.

Nyquest Chief Trash Man in Missoula

- McBride mentioned that Ted Nyquest has assumed leadership responsibilities for the NSA's yearly trash clean-up program along Reserve Street in Missoula.

Rohrbach Suggests Lobbying for Additional Smokejumpers

- Rohrbach suggested Gidlund draft a letter for Stoleson's signature to select Congressmen and Senators, asking them to urge the Forest Service and BLM to hire additional smokejumpers.
- Rohrbach said he would get clearance for this project from smokejumper lawyer David Atkins and also would provide Stoleson with a list of suggested names.
- Houston said he would send Gidlund the Aerial Delivery of Firefighters Study for possible use in the letter.

Board Allocates Memorial Funds for McCall

- Cromwell said the McCall base needs \$700 to complete a memorial for four jumpers and three pilots. Satterwhite proposed that the NSA donate the \$700, and the motion was seconded by Kovalicky,. It was passed without dissent.

Twiss Elected

- Executive Committee members unanimously voted that John Twiss (Redmond '67) should serve out the term for the late Director Ted Burgon. That term will last until July 2004.

ADDENDA:

as of November 1, 2002: Subsequent to the meeting,

- Legal Adviser David Atkin okayed the NSA's intention to lobby Congress in the interest of increasing the size of the smokejumper force;
- Gidlund was told to proceed with the fabrication of memorial plaques without seeking additional bids;
- Allen Roberts, President and Public Relations Director for White's Boots, has not returned three phone calls placed to him by Gidlund on behalf of the NSA.
- Stoleson asked Gidlund to obtain a suitable gift for Roger Savage, NSA's first Webmaster and data base manager and now, once again, its data base manager.