

Board of Directors Meeting  
National Smokejumper Association  
Summary of the Executive Committee Meeting  
April 26, 2003 Redding, California

**Attendees:**

- Roland Stoleson, President
- Chuck Sheley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Doug Houston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Larry Lufkin, Immediate Past President
- Dean Longanecker, Treasurer
- Dave Bennett, Secretary
- Fred Cooper, Membership Coordinator
- Carl Gidlund, Past President
- Jon McBride, Trails Coordinator
- Tom Uphill, Strategic Planning
- Tara Rothwell, Director
- Bill Moody, Director and History Chairman
- Murry Taylor, Director
- Dick Tracy, Member

**EC Members Missing:**

- Neil Satterwhite
- Dan McComb

President Ron Stoleson led the group in the Pledge of allegiance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**-The minutes of the Board of Director's Meeting in Boise on October 12, 2002 were approved as transmitted to the Executive Committee by Carl Gidlund.

**Treasurer's report** –Treasurer Dean Longanecker reported that the account balance is \$195,000; a major portion is in the Life Members account at \$111,000. The income/expense statement is running behind budget because of significant one-time expenses:

- Return of money to Liston fund,
- KIA plaques- \$7800 donations to the KIA
- \$700 for McCall
- Contribution to the Trails program

- Tax and licenses of \$1,050, including the copyright on logo to attorney
- Net income is \$6,900 compared to a \$21,000 budget for the year
- Another contributor was one-time expense to rebuild the website.

Present rate of return on our accounts is approximately 2%. Discussion followed regarding the budget overrun. Consensus was that unplanned costs are warranted and we should not be concerned.

**KIA plaques**-Carl Gidlund tells us that we may have reached the limits of our membership for contributions. Carl suggested that we focus on corporate sponsorships such as White Boots or Steil chainsaws. Fred Rohrbach will match donations at 30%.

**Additional Financial Items**-Dean Longanecker proposes that the NSA engage a professional CPA, and that a standard double entry bookkeeping process be invoked. Trails funds should be included with Treasurer's tasks. Dean's tenure as NSA Treasurer is complete, but he will stay on until the conversion to the CPA is complete.

Whaley in Missoula is the preferred CPA. Dean recommends that the NSA accounts be transferred from Dean's bank to US Bank or some other larger organization with internet banking or at least multiple branches. This will facilitate remote management of accounts by NSA officers from remote locations.

Dean's recommendations: Recommends both the merchandising and trails accounts will move back to the central account managed by the Treasurer. John McBride moved to accept Dean Longanecker's recommendations. Carl Gidlund seconded, motion passed. Dean will check on Whaley's appropriateness then go ahead if all is positive. Dean estimates that he can accomplish this transition in about 90 days.

**Membership**-Fred Cooper-We now have 111 life members with two others on the payment plan. Please see Appendix A for the Life Membership list. The membership process is becoming more web oriented. We presently send mailers notifying people of delinquent memberships. 64% of our members are long term. Goal is for 200 life members by the 2004 reunion in Missoula. Jon McBride stated there is confusion about how to join association. The answer is to go to web site or contact Fred Cooper directly.

Fred Cooper provided a handout describing the proposed recruitment brochure plan. The handout appears in Appendix B. The brochure would be mailed to the target audience scripted in bold in the membership handout (Appendix A). We will analyze response then decide on next step. Cost would be \$1167. This includes printing 5000 brochures. Cost for the 5000 copies is bid at \$940 vs. \$600 for 1000 copies. A 10% return would recoup our expenses. Ron Stoleson asks how many BLM jumpers there were in this time frame. Fred Cooper replied that BLM is a separate campaign. Chuck says this is a good idea. Fred will work with Larry Lufkin and Chuck Sheley to get letters/brochures mailed. Fred will draft a letter and handle receipts of responses. Fred Cooper will lead this effort. Others will help.

Discussion-Ron Stoleson suggested that we should perhaps wait till next fiscal year (in view of our budget overrun). Chuck Sheley said that we should go ahead.

**Motion:** Chuck Sheley moved that we should accept Fred's membership proposal, targeting individuals. We should proof the brochure and get another bid. Larry Lufkin seconded. Motion carried. Further discussion: Have one round and one square parachute. Questions called. All present are in favor.

Appendix C provides the periodic membership report.

**Reminders-**Tom Uphill as Long Range Planner and Carl Gidlund as Public Affairs Officer are members of the Executive Committee as determined in the October 12, 2002 meeting.

**Magazine Report-**Chuck Sheley reported that the magazine has 50 pages per issue, and there are 1800 copies printed. The July issue is in layout. It costs about \$12 per year per member for the magazine. There has been a lot of response on editorials. Question for the July issue: Should there be Board of Directors oversight on editorial content? Responses are running 99% in support of no oversight. The plan is to continue with a point-counterpoint in editorial response. Ron Stoleson asks if this issue should be an agenda item. Murry Taylor says response from readers is positive re: no oversight by the Board.

The Executive Committee feels generally that there is no need for an oversight board. Jhn McBride feels that Chuck should write only as an individual. Murry moves that no change be made to current practice. No need for editorial approval. Ron asks Chuck think about working with a couple of other people on editorials. There is a disclaimer in the front of the magazine that covers this. Motion withdrawn.

Murry believes there is need for a forum to discuss current wild fire management. Murry encourages the Executive Committee to go along with readership. Chuck Sheley said that people have met with congressmen on this issue. Murry admires Chuck's approach for taking this issue on. Also admires the level to which Chuck has taken this issue. Murry hears a sad complaint that the wild fire management system is broken (from other jumpers). Offering them a forum would be a good service. Murry suggested inviting key fire managers to an open forum.

**Web Report-**Chuck Sheley says the web site management has been very hectic for last four months. November orders stopped coming through the website. Orders were held in website and 82 orders were discovered and had to be filled immediately. The merchandise order company in Seattle unexpectedly went out of business. A new organization has been selected and is up and running, including a credit card application service. The new website and store is now up and working. We get about \$1000 per month from merchandise

**Trail Maintenance Program Report-**Jon McBride stated that advisors will meet in Hells Canyon on 4 May as part of a trail maintenance project and will also discuss the Trail Maintenance Program. There are 76 volunteers to date to be dispatched to 9 projects this year. Last year we had 61. The Trail Maintenance Program still has more enquiries than can be accommodated including Wyoming, Utah, and California.

Other trail maintenance activities are also being conducted outside of the base Trails Program. These

include operations on the Kalmiopsis and McCall. These other programs are working under auspices of and in cooperation with the NSA Trails Program. Jon McBride and Leo Cromwell assist.

The Forest Service is providing surplus tools. The Bob Marshall foundation stores and manages the tools. The Trails Program is featured in the USFS Region 1 newspaper and also in the Intermountain Forest Service News.

There are two Trails Program accounts: Art Jukkala and Operating Fund. The Art Jukkala fund has not been touched and is reserved for a worthy cause yet to be identified. Jon McBride received expressions of a "Job Well Done" by all in attendance. The second account is the operating fund that supports Trails Program activities. The Trails Program recently received \$2100 grant from Exxon Mobile Corporation.

Dean Longanecker asked about liability regarding trails maintenance operations. There is a one-page form trails volunteers now sign to protect individual from liability. Forest service says our people will be treated exactly as a regular employee. We will adopt our own NSA form for liability.

**Data Base**-Roger Savage received a clock in recognition of his work

**KIA Memorial Plaques**-Carl Gidlund. The program will supply 13 plaques of which 9 will be presented to SJ bases and 3 to museums, and one to the National Interagency Fire Center. Doug Houston took one to the Alaska base. Mark Corbett will be asked to present the KIA plaque to Redmond Air Center. Carl Gidlund has compiled life history on each jumper KIA. Doug Houston provided list of names of potential donors for KIA plaques.

Donations to cover the \$3900 cost of the plaques are coming in very slowly. Approximately \$1300 has been received so far. We will make appeals to the general membership and seek corporate benefactors.

**Museum Report**-Bill Moody: A new curator for the Evergreen Museum will be coming on board on 1 June. The smokejumper exhibit designer has been identified. An Oregon ex jumper has pledged \$10,000 toward cost of the exhibit. Plans are for the curator to meet with NSA representatives to review the exhibit design and identify sources of items required. An NSA Board meeting is scheduled for 11 Oct in McMinnville. Perhaps this can be the formal opening of the smokejumper exhibit.

The Okanogan Forest is recognizing all fallen fire fighters in a July 22 commemorative at Fish Lake. Suggestion is that all aviation related deaths be recognized at Twisp NCSB.

**NSA Videos**-Steve Smith is doing the shoot of the 100 years of the Forest Service.

Ron Stoleson asked for an update on Steve's commitment to make an NSA video for sale in other countries. This is from the West Yellowstone meeting in 2001. This is a two-three year commitment. We understand that Steve is making progress on this.

Bill Moody has completed a History of the NCSB. Cost is \$12 per book. Murry Taylor said there was lots of great photos at the Cave Junction reunion-copies should reside with the NSA.

**NSA Reunion 2004**-Jon McBride reported that Barry Hicks is the chairman. Chuck Wildes is second in command. All reservations and facilities are booked for the 18-19 June event. The reunion will be centered at the University of Montana facilities in Missoula. Rooms are available at reduced rates. Events will include golfing and rafting. Ed Courtney is very active with reunion preparations. The reunion committee has not provided a budget yet. The committee is under the impression that \$10,000 will be coming from the NSA. Ron Stoleson sent a letter to President Bush inviting him to be the keynote speaker. 2004 will be 50 years since Eisenhower dedicated the Aerial Fire Depot. There will be a re-dedication of the Aerial Fire Depot.

**NSA Logo Copyright**-Ron Stoleson reported that the copyright is still in process. We have a response from the government on our application and it looks good except for a technical flaw. Our attorney has advised us that it may cost an additional \$2,000 to complete the process.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Letters to Congressmen**-Ron Stoleson reported no responses or acknowledgement was received from congressmen regarding letters sent regarding current wild fire attack policy.

**Folk Life Festival**-Fred Cooper reported that the 100th birthday of USFS in 2005. The event will be held on the Washington DC Capitol Mall. Bob Beckley, a Grangeville jumper from the '80s is one of the organizers. The organizers are very interested in an NSA/smokejumper representation. Training units, maybe even a jump on the mall. Story telling is a viable activity.

**Meeting Schedules**- There will be a full Board of Directors meeting 19 June in Boise. Since the McCall reunion is the same weekend, there will be no social after the BOD meeting. Another full Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for 11 Oct in McMinnville. Tom Uphill and Fred Cooper will organize the 11 Oct meeting.

**History Books**-Carl Gidlund. The history books are delivered. This project has received only luke warm reception from the membership. It was suggested that an anthology of silk stories appearing in the history book should be created for the magazine. The UM history also contains oral histories that include silk stories.

**Strategic Plan**-Tom Uphill. The plan is approved in its current form. Tom appreciates comments received on drafts. Additional comments were received. Major comments:

- apply a timeline to each of the program opportunities that require/are amenable to end points.

- More reunions should be featured in the plan, in fact a reunion should be scheduled every two years as an effort to attract more members.
- Suggest that we add, "Each program manager will endeavor to establish outside funding that will cover the proposed program".

Tom will make last changes and issue the plan for use.

Additional discussion regarding identifying a person to prepare grants requests: Ron Stoleson suggested a professional be engaged to meet with the Executive Committee to describe the grant process. Carl Gidlund suggested that we hire a professional to write grants for a % of the take.

Our brochure should include statement in brochure giving people the opportunity to donate money. Tom Uphill will work on a brochure to expose our association to the general public with motive for contribution. He plans to present a review draft of the brochure for the June meeting in Boise.

More discussion on the strategic goal relative to magazine and merchandise support. Should Chuck Sheley be compensated to do the two tasks? Chuck spends about 30 hours per week now and a stipend should be offered. Chuck offered a figure of \$6300 a year. This is also what the Missoula office cost. We should include a feature to increase the stipend as merchandise sales increase.

Tom Uphill stated that an operating guide would be useful for both merchandise and the magazine, especially when personnel change. Dean Longanecker recommended that the Board of Directors vote on a stipend. We will make a recommendation to the full board that we provide this stipend.

**Elections**-Since there were five individuals running for five spots, the Executive Committee gave Chuck Sheley the OK not to run an election this year. The following will be presented to the Board in Boise for approval:

Terms Expire 07/01/06

- Mark Corbet
- Leo Cromwell
- Larry Lufkin
- Fred Rohrbach
- Charles W. Brown