

October 1999
Issue No. 25

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- **Ten-Man Stick Out of the Ford**
- **Who Speaks for Smokejumpers?**
- **Mann Gulch Remembered**
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NSA
Smokejumper

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**Cover: DC-3 jump at LaGrande, Oregon
in the mid-1970s. Photo by Douglas Beck.**

The Prez's Perambulations

Fellow Jumpers and Associates:

As your Association heads into its second century (well, literally, that's true) we're evolving to meet your needs. Here's a sketch of some behind-the-scenes actions:

Smokejumper: Note the new name on your newsletter. "Static Line" has served us well, but it's time we look like the all-encompassing smokejumper association we've become. As you may know, Bureau of Land Management smokejumper parachutes are deployed with ripcords, not static lines. Our new title eliminates any perceived bias against our Interior Department "brothers and sisters."

We hope you also note the changed appearance of this and the last newsletter. Our new editor is Director Chuck Sheley (Cave Junction 59) and our new printer is Jason Greenlee, a rookie Redding jumper and former editor of *Wildfire Magazine*.

New Logo: The Ford Tri-Motor that has served as both a wonderful jumper platform and logo has flown off into the sunset. For those of us who were privileged (and old enough) to have jumped it, the Ford will remain a precious symbol of our youth and a youthful National Smokejumper Association. But the organization has matured (even if some of us haven't) and the old aircraft has as much relevance to today's jumpers as the dirigible Hindenburg. The "Flying Christmas Tree," our "new" logo, is a clean design, and although it doesn't include a BLM "square" chute, its wings, parachute and tree are clearly symbolic of a more modern NSA.

Outreach Continues: You'll have noticed in this newsletter and the last that we're including reports from all smokejumper bases so that current jumpers can keep up on the "haps" elsewhere, and we older types can keep tabs on changes. NSA base liaison personnel provide those reports; some are Association Directors, others are volunteers.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, your Executive Committee has also begun conducting its meetings at bases other than Missoula. In August, we gathered at the BLM base in Fairbanks, and we're scheduled for another at the BLM Boise base in November, this time with managers of all the Forest Service and BLM jump units. Our desire is to spread the word about this dynamic outfit and recruit new members who'll continue to vitalize the outfit.

Trail Projects: You'll read elsewhere in this newsletter of our first project to give back to the land. Two crews of former jumpers, all NSA members, rehabilitated a couple of long-neglected trails in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness. Although the project was marred by the death of its founder, Art Jukkala (Missoula 56), all who took part said it was a "natural fit" for the NSA. At the suggestion of Art's family, your Association has established the Art Jukkala Memorial Fund that will help ensure it continues in future years. We're also open to suggestions on other activities that will celebrate our legacy and bring us together to benefit others or the land.

History: NSA Directors Bill Moody (North Cascades 57) and Ron Stoleson (Missoula 56) are leading efforts to ensure our past won't be lost. Bill is securing all kinds of jumper memorabilia and memories to be enshrined in a central location where they'll be accessible to us, the general public and researchers. Ron is developing an in-depth history of smokejumping in the U.S. Part of his efforts includes a "hall of honor" honoring jumpers killed in the line of duty that will be part of the NSA's web page.

Two other researchers, Roger Savage (Missoula 57) and Phil Davis (Missoula 48) continue to research base rosters, telephone books and on-line sources to help ensure that everyone who ever jumped a fire in the U.S. is memorialized, at least in our Master Roster.

Mann Gulch: Your NSA played an active role in the Helena National Forest's outstanding 50-year commemoration of the worst smokejumper tragedy in history, the deaths of 12 jumpers and a former jumper in a canyon above the Missouri River. Read the story in this issue.

The NSA Web Site: If you have access to a computer, check out our redesigned web site at www.smokejumpers.com. (If you don't have one at home or work, your library probably does). Those outstanding graphics and splendid design are the handiwork of our new webmaster and Director Dan McComb (Missoula 87). Check it frequently; it'll keep you up to date on Association doings and other news of interest to the smokejumping fraternity.

"Beads and Trinkets":

Utility player/Director Chuck Sheley obviously has a very low threshold of boredom, for he's becoming involved in virtually every phase of NSA management. In addition to his newsletter responsibilities, he also leads our merchandising efforts.

His latest ploy to increase NSA revenues is to sell items suitable for other organizations' use (caps, jackets, T-shirts, etc.) to representatives of those organizations, then affix the appropriate logos. If you represent a company, ball team, church, or the like and you're searching for gear, ask Chuck for a bid. You can reach him through the NSA e-mail or "snail mail" addresses.

By-Law Review: A mundane but necessary task for every organization is to check out what it's doing versus

what it's chartered to do. First Vice President Larry Lufkin (Cave Junction 63) is heading the NSA effort now. His team members include Directors George Gowen (Missoula 54) and Lon Dale (Missoula 69). With one accountant (Larry) and two lawyers on the task, our revised procedures should be squeaky clean. Now, here's hoping "normal" people can figure them out.

Membership: NSA Secretary Monroe "Spud" De Jarnette (Missoula 49) is doing a yeoman's job staying atop our constantly shifting database. With nearly 1,200 members (out of a potential 5,000) he keeps busy answering questions, recording moves, deaths, new members and keeping up with initiatives wrought by fellow Executive Board members.

Those include providing free one-year memberships to rookie jumpers and Triple Nickel smokejumpers, half-price gift memberships, and other enticements to joining. Plus, he keeps great notes at our meetings.

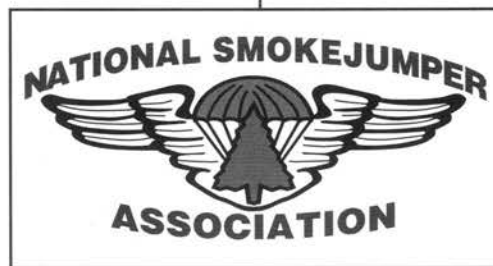
The Video Project: Director Fred Rohrbach (Missoula 65) reports that he hopes the long-

awaited historic smokejumping video will be ready for release by the Christmas gift season. In the meantime, he and producer Steve Smith have been peddling footage shot to date to producers around the world. That will help defray production costs, but won't affect the U.S. market.

If all goes well, the video will be made available to the public through a commercial distributor. You'll be able to buy yours here.

Obviously, your NSA is on the move. Other initiatives underway include a potential campaign for corporate donors and an effort to establish local chapters. Watch this space for progress, and send us your ideas on ways to make your NSA more relevant to you.

Keep 'er into the wind, pard.
CARL GIDLUND President



OBITUARIES

Todd Stamm MSO-92

Todd died July 25, 1999 as a result of injuries received from a fall while climbing in the Blue Lake area of the Northern Cascades. Todd Received his degree in business finance from MSU Bozeman and was living and working for OHM/IT Corp in Seattle at the time of his death. He had spent summers fighting fires with the Bitterroot Hotshots and the Missoula Smokejumpers.

Allan Graham MYC-64

Allan died March 11, 1999 in his home in Bountiful, Utah. He had graduated from Utah State University and worked at First Security Bank and later at the Utah State Retirement Fund. Allan jumped out of McCall in 1964 and 1965. He had fond memories of those two summers and Max Allen, Bill Yensen, Larry Moore, Stan Ramsey, and Kenn Smith.

LETTERS

To the President of the NSA

Dear Carl,

On behalf of the U.S. Forest Service, the Helena National Forest and the Helena Ranger District, I wanted to thank you and your fellow National Smokejumper Association members for supporting and actively participating in the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Mann Gulch Fire held earlier this month in Helena.

Your Association's \$1,000 contribution to the commemorative bronze of a '49 smokejumping jacket and helmet was essential in helping pay for casting expenses. The input you and your members provided during the planning stages of the commemorative events was invaluable. The cooperation and coordination provided by yourself and local ex-smokejumpers Jim Phillips, Tom Anderson and Milt Knuckles were exceptional. Your Association's participation in the wreath laying ceremony and your membership's attendance at the various commemorative events was both appreciated and inspiring. And finally, the NSA-sponsored public barbecue at the Kleffner Ranch was a great time and a great draw to bring people to the Commemoration who might not otherwise have attended.

In closing, may I express my most sincere appreciation for the National Smokejumper Association's involvement and support in honoring the thirteen smokejumpers who fell in Mann Gulch in 1949. Through out combined efforts I think we have brought honor to the memory of these men and the families who they left behind.

Again, Carl, than you and thank your fellow members.
Duane H. Harp, District Ranger

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the Summer 1999 issue of the *Static Line*. I was saddened to read of the death of Jim Waite. He helped train me in 1944, spotted me on several training and fire jumps, and served as our spotter and then squad leader on the Cooper Creek Fire in 1945. Missoula sent us to be the rescue unit for a badly injured jumper, but the original crew had carried him half a mile down a CCC-built trail badly obstructed by windfalls. So while they did the really tough job of carrying out our injured jumper, we stayed to fight "their" fire, starting about midnight. We caught six hours sleep out of our first sixty-four.

Let me add a few numbers to the story of CPS 103 written by Roy Wenger. During those three years, 1943-45,

we transformed a 1942 experimental unit of thirty jumpers into a 200-man primary firefighting force in three Forest Service Regions, I, IV, and VI. We also made a few fire jumps in Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, Indian Service territory in Montana, and even into Canada.

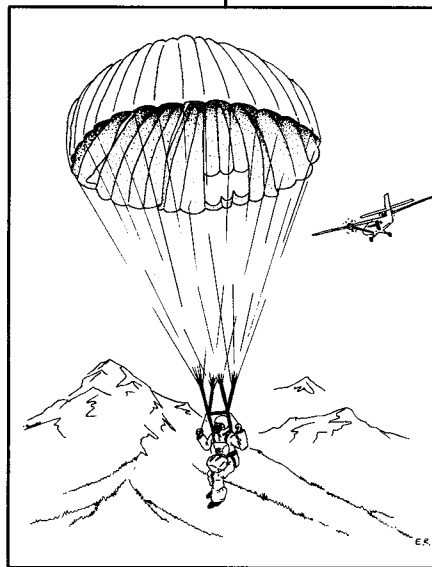
The numbers tell the story. In 1942, 28 fires were attacked with 66 fire jumps. In 1945, a much more severe fire season (as Earl Cooley reports in Trimotor and Trail) 269 fires were attacked with 1,236 fire jumps. I made seven fire jumps in 1945 and others enjoyed even more.

Gregg Phifer, MSO 1944-45

Professor Emeritus

The Florida State University, Tallahassee

P.S. Did you know that *Static Line* was the title of the CPS 103 Newsletter? Appropriate!



Drawing by E. Rajala

Dear Editor,

Jack Demmons wrote a very flattering article on me for the *Static Line* last fall. He did a great job as usual, but I have to confess, he left some out.

I wouldn't have lasted in this job without occasionally being saved by one or another of my fellow jumpers from my own stupidity. Two examples:

In 1967 in Glacier NP, Ted Nyquest pulled me out of the way of a falling snag which might have ended my life. Then he proceeded to give me a thorough ass-chewing. I never heard the snag, I never forgot the ass-chewing!

In 1971, Steve Clairmont ordered me to clean up the drunken mess I left in Ron Peirce's closet in the West Yellowstone bunkhouse. As far as I know, he never told Earl. I could have been fired.

Many another time in my career some bro was looking out for me when my head was where the sun don't shine.

Hope to jump another season next year but will take annual leave for the Rendezvous in Redding.

Bill Craig, MSO-66

Dear Editor,

I am in disagreement with the number of jumpers on one fire. The fire I was on in 1955 was the Lost Packer on the Salmon Forest. We had 104 jumpers. McCall came off the fire early because we had many fires at the time. As we were going out, we could look back and still see Missoula's chutes in the trees.

Missoula was dropping five jumpers at a time out of the DC-3. There wasn't much for jump spots. The timber stand was big fir.

Richard A. Peterson MYC-47

Dear Editor,

You will find I didn't renew my association dues a couple years back. The reason being that the newsletter couldn't get off writing about the Smokejumpers who joined Air America from 1958 through 1976! Those guys knew the risks, were paid high salaries, and avoided the draft. I don't know how that has anything to do with the USFS, BLM or Smokejumping! Yet many of us were in the military during that era and nothing was noted in the newsletter.

I think the news should be about the current situations and activities of each jump base. The soldiers of fortune are over and history. I have a suggestion. If any current working Smokejumpers from any base attends the reunion, how about a particular color nametag to identify working active jumpers? We would like to have a conversation with the new jumpers.

*Smoke is good,
Tony Peiffer MSO-61*

Dear Editor,

Received the Reunion info last week. NSA already has my complete "historical". The main reason for this note is to pass on a rather unusual bit of information.

My son Dennis has a home at the Black Butte Ranch (west of Sisters, Oregon). His next door neighbor is a retired Air Force man. About a month ago, I was talking to him and he told me he understood I had been a Smokejumper Pilot. He said the only contact he ever had with Smokejumper type people was when he hauled a C-47 load of Black Paratroopers from somewhere on the East Coast (I think) to either Pendleton or Walla Walla to help fight forest fires. This was in 1942 or 1943. Francis Lufkin spotted a load of these jumpers on the Bunker Hill fire in 194 or 1943. Larry might have the details on this. The next time I talk to this Air Force Pilot, I'll see if he has more specifics.

I flew jumpers at NCSB from 1953-1959, when I moved to R-6 Regional Office as Regional Air Officer for 17 years.

*Best Wishes,
Wally Tower*

Notes: The 555th (Triple Nickels) moved from Camp Mackall, North Carolina to Pendleton in 1945. (The Static Line, April 1999)

The 555th jumped the Bunker Hill (also called Peavy Creek) Fire in 1945. Ten USFS and 97 of the 555th jumped the fire spotted by Francis Lufkin with 10 fairly serious injuries sustained. (*Bill Moody*)

Swift and I jumped into the Peavy Creek area with 30 other jumpers in 1970. I think Laird Robinson and Mike Marcuson were also on that fire. We also stacked up two jumpers. Joe Nieson (CJ) broke a hip and a Missoula jumper was hit by a falling tree later that night. After he looked at the jump spot, I remember Swift (Mick) saying they needed to drop a 50 gallon drum of Demerol. It was nothing but snags for miles around! (*Larry Lufkin*)

Readers are encouraged to get involved.

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send as e-mail not an attached document

Deadline for Jan. issue is Dec. 1.

JUMPERS IN BUSINESS

Business: Derrek Hartman Films
Owner: Derrek Hartman RDD-98
Interview by: Chuck Sheley

At a meeting of the Reunion 2000 Committee this spring, Redding Base manager Arlen Cravens introduced one of his men who will handle the making of a film to be used at the Saturday night dinner. As Derrek Hartman made his presentation, he woke me up from the meeting doldrums with a sharp professional presentation. When he asked whom we preferred to narrate a part of the film — Kevin Costner or James Whitmore, he got all our attention!

Derrek is from Seal Beach, CA and graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman in 1994 with a BA in Film/Video. I had no idea why he went to Bozeman for an education in film and video until he informed me that Montana State is one of the top three film schools in the country. Montana State also gave him a football scholarship and he played three seasons as a wide receiver.

Derrek does promotional films (commercials) and he also just optioned his first screenplay. He has filmed commercials for K-2 Skis and the Volkl Ski Company. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has Derrek under contract to film footage to be used for promotional productions.

Look for Derrek's work next year at Reunion 2000. He will be producing a 20 minute presentation on 60 years of Smokejumping. □

Who Speaks for Smokejumpers?

Jim Veitch MSO-67

A few weeks ago Gene (Doug) Hamner, a fellow rookie at Missoula in 1967, contacted me. I hadn't heard from Gene since 1967. He contacted me after exchanging emails with another NSA member from our rookie class. To my amazement Gene had been a U.S. Air Force Raven, a Forward Air Controller (FAC) in northern Laos during the Vietnam War. To his amazement I had been one of the guys on the ground where the Ravens flew. While Gene was in northern Laos I was working closely with Ravens in southern Laos where I was an Operations Officer for the Central Intelligence Agency. There were only about 160 Ravens during the entire war but in my estimation they were some of the best and most courageous aviators of the conflict. On a daily basis they flew low and slow, well within the range of small arms and anti-aircraft fire. They sustained high casualties but never wavered in their mission. I became friends with a number of Ravens and depended heavily on their operational support. Ravens probably saved my life a couple of times. Through its membership list and diligent efforts to hunt out veteran Smokejumpers, the NSA has reconnected many jumpers to an exciting and vital time in their life. The NSA has also undertaken the task of preserving Smokejumper history. Because we are so close to Smokejumping it is easy to overlook that Smokejumping has entered the American mythos. It is something worth preserving. Smokejumping is a part of Americana that has added to the way we think of ourselves as a unique people. In a way it is similar to the Pony Express as a statement of innovation, bold-

ness and adventure. Unlike the Pony Express, Smokejumping has endured long past the hand full of months the Pony Express was in action. Alluding to the Pony Express is instructive in another way. The Pony Express is commonly used as an illustration of something outmoded and passed up by newer technology. Smokejumping has not passed its day. It is still as vital and useful today as it was in 1940. Today fewer fire jumps are made to idyllic wilderness mountaintops. Now, there exists a need to rapidly move professional

wildland firefighters throughout the West and Smokejumpers fill that requirement. In 1998 there was a fire in the Golden, Colorado urban interface. That means, "right on the edge of town," in Forest Service new-speak. An imaginative dispatcher realized it would take hours to get a Hotshot crew on the scene. So Smokejumpers were called to jump into the back yards. They had the fire controlled long before ground forces could have

THE NSA HAS HAD ONLY MODERATE SUCCESS SIGNING UP OR HOLDING MEMBERS FROM THE LIST OF ACTIVE SMOKEJUMPERS. THERE IS NOW AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THAT, BUT ACTIVE JUMPERS SEE THE NSA AS A NOSTALGIA TRIP. THIS REFLECTS THE NSA'S FOCUS TO DATE — THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF JUMPERS. BUT ACTIVE SMOKEJUMPERS DON'T NEED MEMORIES; THEY ARE LIVING THE DREAM TODAY.

arrived. Wildland firefighting is much more professionalized than it was even 30 years ago. Smokejumpers were commonly college students doing summer work. They had no intention of jumping for long. Now many Smokejumpers have made a commitment to firefighting and Smokejumping, they are professionals who are expanding their usefulness beyond initial attack into other areas such as prescribed-fire work. This concept might seem alien or objectionable to some old hands but it is how firefighting has evolved in general. Motivated in part by intrinsic rewards of the job, Smokejumpers have



Classic Photo 1945. Left to Right: Bill Woods, Jack Allen, Wag Dodge, Art Cochran, Frank Derry, Jim Waite. Photo courtesy of John E. Scott MSO-44.

chosen to pursue a hard, dangerous career in the woods. The NSA has had only moderate success signing up or holding members from the list of active Smokejumpers. There is now an effort to change that, but active jumpers see the NSA as a nostalgia trip. This reflects the NSA's focus to date — the bringing together of jumpers. But active Smokejumpers don't need memories; they are living the dream today. Older jumpers have fanned out across the country carving out responsible and interesting lives for themselves and their families. Many understand the importance of civic responsibly and giving back to their community. Smokejumping is part of that community and part of our national heritage. Now is the time to lend a hand to other Smokejumpers and to Smokejumping itself. Did you know that many Smokejumpers do not have access to year-round health benefits as required by Federal law in private industry? Did you know that Smokejumpers and other wildland firefighters miss benefits and opportunities because they are classified as "Forestry Technicians" instead of "Firefighters?" Did you know that despite the important role of fire management there are fewer career paths available to jumpers due to classification anomalies? Did you know that government administrators use cost effectiveness methods that don't accurately value Smokejumping in comparison to other firefighters? Did you know that

Smokejumping might be eliminated in the near future due to these evaluations? Did you know there is no organized voice speaking up for Smokejumping? Why should anyone care? You should care because you are still a Smokejumper. Part of what molded your character was the formative experience of standing in the door 1000 feet above rocks, snags and fire...with your fellow Smokejumpers. Smokejumping has contributed to what defines the American spirit and it remains vital and effective today. You should encourage the NSA to speak for Smokejumping, to be its advocate. Advocacy is a proper role for the NSA and its members. It is naive not to use the political process, which is a necessary and integral method of arriving at decisions in our democracy. We need to educate and inform our elected officials about Smokejumper issues. Smokejumping needs your expertise, contacts and help. As a veteran Smokejumper, you should be concerned with the condition and health of Smokejumping. You're still part of it, it is still part of you. □

Jim Veitch jumps out of Fairbanks for the BLM. Jim started at Missoula in 1967, and, after a 16 year lay out, he started jumping again last year at the age of 51. He developed the ram-air parachute system used by the BLM. He has been an Airborne Ranger, CIA Agent, world traveler, math teacher and disaster manager in Australia. Jim now lives in Australia with his wife and two children. Contact: jveitch@gil.com.a

The Bureaucratic Roughhousing of Steve Nemore

Murry Taylor

What follows is a brief account of Boise smokejumper Steve Nemore's 1998 reassignment. I don't claim that it is the full account or the absolute last word on the subject, but I do know that it's basically correct since I was directly involved at some of the key turning points.

Let me make it clear that Nemore did not ask me to write this — nor did anyone else. I'm doing it because I think it is important to air it out. The entire action has been characterized by a strained and somewhat bizarre silence from the managers involved. Many of Steve's friends and fellow jumpers are still wondering what in the hell really happened.

In the spring of 1998 BLM decided to require all jumpers over forty to take an EKG Stress Test. This was in response to one firefighter dying while taking the pack test. This new policy caused concern among jumpers since no one knew what it meant in the long run if you failed. Steve decided to refuse to take the test until some of our questions were answered. Most of those involved were afraid to make such a stand, but Nemore (in typical fashion) was not. BLM overhead, in this case the Boise Base Manager and a couple of other big wheels in the National Office, refused to answer Steve's questions, but insisted he take the test anyway. Nemore held out for his answers and the tension built into an ugly power struggle between Steve and his boss. This was a tough situation since Steve was the Chief of Operations for the Boise Crew. Finally BLM coughed up a half page list of sketchy answers and incomplete responses. Unsatisfied, but wanting to get back on the jumplist, Steve went ahead and took the test and passed it. Little did he know that his troubles were just beginning.

Then, I think sometime in May, the National Association asked the Forest Service to help film a Trimotor jump for their historic video. The Forest Service refused vehemently via ex-Fire and Aviation Chief, Mary Jo Lavin. In no way did she want the Forest Service to participate. Evergreen had offered their Trimotor and pilot free, but the Forest Service wanted no part of it. In spite

of this sorry response, Bill Moody and Steve Reno got in touch with the Canadians and got some chutes sent down. Moody was to jump with Frances Lufkin's original jumpsuit — the red one you'll see in the video — and Reno with Wayne Webb's suit, leather helmet and all. Next, the NSA contacted BLM to see if they'd help. They did. Nemore, Eric Hipke, and Mike Tupper went to McMinnville to Evergreen's headquarters and jumped the Trimotor using more modern gear. They took their own vehicle, paid for their own gas and lodging, and donated their time to make sure the filming got done. The BLM Base Manager hit the ceiling. He claims he told Nemore directly not to do it. Nemore claims that it was never made clear that he should not. Rather, Steve claims the possible ramifications were discussed in general terms. Their big mistake apparently was using the government's gear while off duty. For this Hipke was suspended three days, Tupper for five, and Steve Nemore was reassigned out of his position and placed in the NIFC Warehouse to sort out plumbing parts.

After nearly thirty years as a highly valued smokejumper and model overhead, Nemore was moved out of his position with one single piece of paper. The Base Manager never spoke with him personally about it, not once; The Base Manager's Supervisor at NIFC did. At least he was on hand to answer some of Steve's questions. The letter Steve had been given simply stated that he was no longer fit to lead smokejumpers since he'd violated the trust between him and his supervisors by initially refusing to take the EKG Test, and then jumping out of the Ford Trimotor when he'd been told not to.

The news of Nemore's reassignment sent a shock wave through the jumper community. Naturally, Steve began to appeal via the grievance process. A couple of weeks later I found myself in Boise as part of a booster crew sent down from Alaska. Right away, a few of the Boise crew came to me and wanted me to do something about the "Nemore problem". Alaska jumpers were mad and wanted to know what had happened. I spoke with the Base Manager in private and he explained that he couldn't

discuss the matter since it was in the grievance process. At a loss for what to do and in the absence of any explanation, I drew up a petition. Within a month we had 104 signatures on a petition that stated that we were not necessarily supporting Steve, but in the absence of explanation, we felt we had to support him until we found out the facts. Although a few jumpers believed that more information (problems with Steve) would be forthcoming, in the official record, nothing more came out.

The reassignment letter stated that failing to take the EKG Test and making the Trimotor jump were considered acts of insubordination that had resulted in complete loss of trust in Steve as a leader. He was said to be unfit to lead smokejumpers and thereby sent to the warehouse.

By the end of the 1998 season Steve was still in the warehouse and many of us were surprised at how the situation had deteriorated. I had spoken to the Base Manager three or four times trying to convince him that if he had problems with Nemore, they should be resolved by the regular process of job performance ratings and subsequent reviews, and that if he tried to hang Nemore on the EKG and the Trimotor jump, the jumpers wouldn't buy it. There was very little interaction on the subject — just the reassertion that the matter could not be discussed while in the grievance process.

From late summer on, the whole scene got worse. Nemore was still in the dark. No one had spoken to him about the reasons for his reassignment. During the winter several things happened, all too lengthy to go into here, but basically Nemore conferred with his lawyer, and dealt with the timetable of the grievance process. In the spring of 1999, a judge (reviewing official) from the Department of Interior looked at the Bureau's case, and within two hours decided to throw it out. The case, the judge maintained, was rife with procedural errors. Sometime in midsummer he wrote his recommendation to the Associate Director of BLM in Washington, that Steve be paid his back pay, and returned to his Operations position. The Associate Director basically rubber stamped the recommendation and sent it on to the Boise Base. "Other issues" were involved, claimed the Boise group. The judge wanted to know what they were. The Boise group (the Base Manager, the National Office wheels I mentioned before, and some personnel officer) said that those issues would be best addressed in the forthcoming hearing. The judge thought the late introduction of information was "highly unusual".

A few weeks later, the hearing took place. It was in mid-July, and lasted four days. BLM had three people speak supporting Nemore's reassignment. Nemore's lawyer had eight (I believe) testify about Steve's remarkable career and the issue of trust surrounding Steve's behavior regarding his refusal to take the EKG and the Trimotor jump. Two weeks later, the judge announced his findings based on the testimony.

He ruled that Steve's reassignment was "arbitrary and capricious" and that the BLM had had several opportunities to work out a compromise, but had failed to

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN TO SMOKEJUMPERS? IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE TO CONSTANTLY BE READY TO DEAL WITH ANY SITUATION THAT UNFAIRLY HAMMERS ONE OF OUR OWN. IT MEANS WE BETTER BE READY TO STAND UP TO ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE IN TERMS OF JUSTICE AND FAIR PLAY.

do so. He also indicated that Steve had been within his rights in refusing to take the EKG test, since it clearly states in the code of Federal Regulations that if an agency requires an individual to take a physical examination, it must furnish a written statement addressing the outcome if the individual fails. The judge went on to state that the punishment had already been carried out by giving a week suspension, and that the reassignment was excessive to the infraction. In light of his findings, the judge recommended that Steve be returned to his former position, and legal expenses be paid by the bureau.

So, where does all this leave the case? At this date the BLM has not returned Steve to his position. As far as I know (and I talked to Steve last week) no one has even talked with him. BLM is waiting for the official word to come from the Associate Director, to whom the judge must submit his recommendation yet again. In short, they're dragging their feet and from what I hear fairly uptight about the outcome of the hearing. In the meantime, Steve has missed two full seasons jumping, and hopes this will be resolved by next spring.

What does all this mean to smokejumpers? It means that we have to constantly be ready to deal with any situation that unfairly hammers one of our own. It means we better be ready to stand up to anything that doesn't make sense in terms of justice and fair play. If this had happened to Airborne Rangers or Navy Seals, there would have been a strong outcry. There was some pretty impressive support for Steve as he struggled with this whole thing. It came from all the bases. But some factions were weak in their response. Some people were afraid to speak out for fear of risking their careers, jobs, whatever. If careerism becomes a stronger force than what we collectively sense to be the core values of smokejumping, we'll all be screwed. Those core values have to do with taking care of our own and seeing that hard work and good service is justly rewarded, rather than disrespected by arrogant people in powerful places.

After all, when looked at straight on, doesn't it seem obviously weird that sacrificing your own time and money to jump out of a Ford Trimotor for the sake of making a documentary film celebrating sixty years of smokejumping could be viewed as a crime? Hell, I would've given my right arm for the chance to do it.

Murry Taylor is a 27 year jumper and NSA Base Liaison to the Alaska Smokejumpers.

Ten-Man Stick Out of the Ford Near Sun Valley

Jack Helle, McCall Smokejumper, 1954-57, & 60

During the evening of August 9, 1957 Barney Bear (Austin Young) and I and several other jumpers attended a party at one of the local lady's home. We stayed late and when we returned to the barracks there was a sign on the door — "twelve- man fire — Ford and Beechcraft -breakfast at 4:00 AM, depart at 5:00 AM". Barney was number 5 on the jumplist and I was 18. Because 4:00 AM was only a few hours away, Barney said, "hell, I may as well get ready now". So, he got his things together and put his fire clothes on and his boots and climbed into bed. I thought this was too good to miss and I didn't have to jump so I stayed up until Del Catlin came in to wake up the twelve guys. When Cat came over to Barney's bunk I rushed up and pulled the covers off and said "Barney's all set to go!" And, there he was, in bed, all dressed and ready, boots and all! I accompanied the crew down to get suited up as I wanted to remind Barney not to forget he might be slightly hung over. And, to rub it in that I could still get several hours of sleep in before getting up for work.

Well, I didn't get much sleep, which served me right! The Ford returned about 7:30 AM and the buzzer went off for ten more jumpers. We would drop on the same fire as the early crew. The Bear Gulch Fire near Sun Valley had grown and was now about 2000 acres. The ranger requested a load of jumpers to act as overhead for inexperienced ground crews being sent to the fire. So, Catlin decided to send 10 jumpers, instead of the usual 8 in the Ford, because we didn't need fire packs. Bob Donnelly spotted the Ford load that had left early and said they had a rough jump and an injury. Catlin had spotted a Ford load with Paperlegs Peterson as squad leader on the same fire two days earlier.

A Hollywood photographer was at the McCall base filming a short subject (Movietone?) on Smokejumpers to be shown at movie theaters and he went along. He sat in the co-pilot's seat and during the several hour flight he would periodically aim his big movie camera back at us and film us trying to act comfortable in a hot uncomfortable jump suit with parachutes and harness, on a very rough turbulent flight. I was trying not to think about how much sleep I didn't get and harassing Barney Bear earlier that morning. Each time the photographer would turn around and film he looked worse. He was getting greener and greener each time. I did admire his dedication to his work as he was getting sicker by the minute and yet he keep filming us smoking cigarettes and acting nonchalant and some of us probably weren't looking too good either.

When we finally got over the fire we could see it was really a dandy and in very rough terrain. Carl Rosselli was the spotter and he showed us where the earlier Ford and Beech loads had jumped. I said where is our jump spot? He said right below in the meadow, which was the largest meadow I had ever seen. The meadow was bigger than Long Valley near Cascade! He said they wanted us to jump at the base camp which had trucks and tents all over.

Rosselli said, "we may as well go five at a time and give this Hollywood photographer a real show"! Gene Ellis was number one and he was enthusiastically endorsing Carl's decision to "put on a show"! I would be number one in the second five-man stick. Well, by now the photographer was as green as a spruce tree. Rosselli lined the Ford up and tossed out a drift chute. As we circled watching the decent of the drift chute the photographer was still doing his job in spite of his worsening condition and the bouncing and lurching of the airplane. Rosselli said,

“it’s a little windy but in that meadow what difference could it make!” So, the first five guys hooked up and we started on our final approach. Rosselli’s head was outside the door guiding the pilot on the final line up over the jump spot. The photographer had the window open on the co-pilot’s side with his camera outside so he could film us leaving the plane. Suddenly, Rosselli came back in the plane and he was dripping with puke — part liquid, part chunks!. The photographer vomited with his head out the window and plastered Rosselli with a direct hit as he was spotting! I was standing right next to Carl and luckily he had goggles on but he couldn’t see a thing. The puke was dripping down his hair and face and chest. Then he slowly, very deliberately, wiped the puke off his goggles and the rest of his face and wiped his hands on his puke splattered jacket, then said some unmentionable things which I can’t remember. Before any one of us ten speechless jumpers could even laugh Rosselli yelled, “ten-man stick, all of you hook up and get the hell out of here!”

So, for the first time on a fire jump (and probably the only time at McCall), a 10-man stick jumped out of the Ford: Gene Ellis, Thad Duel, Del Catlin, Bill Klunder, Dick Garner, Jack Helle, Merle Cables, Pat Lee, Randolph Scott, and Dean Davis. And, wouldn’t you know that would be the time when some Hollywood photographer would be filming guys going out of the plane on a fire jump, ten-man stick, over the largest meadow any of us had ever seen!! Not your typical one or two man stick and tight jump spot!

To make matters even worse, there were 20 McCall Jumpers watching this extravaganza from the top of the ridge. Catlin had dropped a Ford load on the fire two days earlier (Jim Foresman, Rocky Stone, Bud Phillips, Moose Salyer, Wayne Foltz, Jim Gabiola, Paperlegs Peterson, and Don Webb). And Ray Beasley had dropped four from the Beech (Gene Crosby, Fred Kwiathowski, Ron Dunn, and Larry Clark), and Bob Donnelley spotted the Ford load earlier that morning (Bruce Hronek, Brent Wynn, Tommy Johnson, Miles Johnson, Austin Young, John Austin, Dick Woodford, and Ken Wilder). And, to make matters even worse, they had had a very rough jump on the ridge earlier that morning. In the Ford load Barney Bear and his jump partner John Austin burned into a rock outcrop and John broke his leg.

When we saw the 20 jumpers much later at the fire camp they had some pretty choice words for us. Like, did we bring doilies, napkins, and tablecloths on the jump with us? Did we have to put make-up on before we jumped so we would look good on film? I remember Barney saying, “you guys make me sick!” Paperlegs called most of us “Hollywood” for awhile. Quite awhile, actually!

Many of the guys saw the Movietone short that the photographer made on McCall Smokejumpers and they said it was good. I never did see it but I still admire that photographer for having the perseverance to do his job when he was sick as hell! And, he and Rosselli had to ride all the way back to McCall in that stinking, vomit-splattered, bouncing, lurching Ford!!

I’ve often wondered if the photographer captured on film Rosselli getting plastered in the face with puke! It certainly got edited out of the film if he did. □

John “Jack” Helle Hall of Fame 1999

One of this month’s guest authors, Jack Helle, received the University of Idaho’s prestigious Hall of Fame award from the Alumni Association, during the 1999 Graduation Exercise.

As program manager for the Ocean Carrying Capacity Program at the Alaska Fisheries Science Center for NOAA in Juneau, Alaska, Jack has made significant contributions to the understanding of Pacific salmon ecology and management. His early works on pink salmon in the 1960s are still cited as core references on the biological characteristics of these fish and their homing abilities.

Earning his way through college, Jack jumped in McCall, Idaho from 1954-57, and returned for one final year in 1960. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fishery management from the U of I in 1958 and 1961. He was an honorary research fellow at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1964-65, and he completed his Ph.D. in fisheries science at Oregon State University in 1979.

Jack Helle has served on many commissions and research teams including the Biological Recovery Team for the Endangered Species Act. But Jack has never forgotten all his friends from McCall that made his years as a smokejumper such a valued part of his life.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

One of the cornerstones of our organization is the reunion that we sponsor every five years, such as the upcoming reunion in Redding. In order to notify as many smokejumpers as possible of upcoming reunions, we need to have first, a complete and accurate database of all present and past smokejumpers, and second, as many addresses of these individuals as possible. At present, our database has over 5,000 names and is 99% complete, with most of the missing names having trained during the early years in Fairbanks. Of those 5,000 plus names we have approximately 2,700 with addresses and approximately 2,000 with out addresses. It is with these 2,000 names, listed below, that we can use your help. Check the list and send us all addresses that you may have of these individuals so that we can inform them of up-coming

reunions. We are also looking for your help on a separate lists of jumpers which we have no first names and those which we are missing their rookie year. Please mail, email, or phone your information to NSA office. Addresses and phone number are listed on the back page of the NSA Smokejumper.

Our database can be viewed by pulling up our web site at www.smokejumpers.com and clicking on the Jump List Page. If you are looking for an old buddy and find his name is in blue, you can click on his name and send him an e-mail. If your name is not in blue, send us your e-mail address and we will add it to the list. By the way if you haven't pulled up our web site recently, give it a try. Dan McComb is our new Webmaster and has given it a new look. We think you will like it.

*Thank you,
Your Database Committee*

Missing First Name			
CAMPBELL	UNKNOWN	CJ	79
COLLINS	T.	CJ	78
CORLEY	UNKNOWN	MSO	55
CORNELL	UNKNOWN	CJ	46
DAVIS	J.	RAC	70
GARCIA	UNKNOWN	MSO	87
GRILLO	UNKNOWN	MSO	51
HANAHAN	UNKNOWN	MSO	50
HASTY	UNKNOWN	MSO	54
HOOKE	UNKNOWN	MSO	53
ISBE	UNKNOWN	MSO	52
JAEGER	UNKNOWN	MSO	61
LONG	UNKNOWN	MSO	50
MCDONALD	L.	MSO	55
MONTGOMERY	UNKNOWN	MSO	56
NOBEL	UNKNOWN	MSO	87
RAWIE	UNKNOWN	MSO	52
RAYMOND	UNKNOWN	MSO	51
ROBERTS	R.	MSO	55
SCHAPLER	UNKNOWN	MSO	55
SCHEUCH	UNKNOWN	MSO	55
SCHMID	P.	MSO	55
SCHUBERT	UNKNOWN	MSO	54
SPALINGER	UNKNOWN	C	54
THACH	UNKNOWN	CJ	46
WALSH	UNKNOWN	MSO	75
WASSON	UNKNOWN	CJ	46
WHITNEY	UNKNOWN	MSO	51
WHITNEY	UNKNOWN	MSO	64
WILKINSON	UNKNOWN	MSO	45

Missing Year Trained			
CARPENTER	BOB	RDD	UNKNOWN YR
JOHNSON	TOM	FBX	UNKNOWN YR
ROBERTSON	MARVIN	FBX	UNKNOWN YR
SNOW	PETER	FBX	UNKNOWN YR

Missing Address
ABBOTT,ROY,MSO,41
ABRAMS,JOHN,NCSB,67
ACOSTA,LISA,NCSB,97
ACOSTA,MARCK L.,MYC,79
ADAMS,DALE,MSO,42
ADAMS,JOHN J.,MSO,69
ADAMS,TODD,WYS,88
AGOSTA,ARRON,RDD,77
AHLBRECHT,ROBERT,MSO,65
AHRENDT,JEROME,MSO,62
AIKEN,ARTHUR E.,MYC,61
ALBAN,RON H.,RAC,76
ALDRIDGE,KENT,MSO,77
ALEXANDER,BRENT,MYC,71
ALLEN,ALEX,GAC,91
ALLEN,FRANKLIN C.,MSO,49
ALLEN,GARY,NCSB,58
ALLEN,HARVEY,CJ,57
ALLEN,JACK,MSO,44
ALLEN,PHIL,RAC,88
ALLEN,ROBERT,FBX,93
ALLEN,SHELLY,GAC,97
ALLEN,TERRY,RAC,90
ALLEWETT,RICHARD,CJ,51
ALLWIN,VERNON,MSO,48
AMES,DAVE,FBX,67
AMOSS,HAROLD L.,MYC,84
ANDERSEN,TED,MSO,63
ANDERSEN,THOMAS J.,MSO,67
ANDERSON,ANDY,FBX,87
ANDERSON,ARLIN,FBX,71
ANDERSON,JAMES P.,MYC,74
ANDERSON,JAY ROBERT,MYC,53
ANDERSON,JERRY,MSO,85
ANDERSON,KEITH,RDD,67
ANDERSON,MARTIN G.,MSO,49

To be continued in the Jan. issue

Mann Gulch Remembered

Carl Gidlund

Remarks of Keynote Speaker Bob Sallee, last living survivor of the Mann Gulch Fire, at the 50th anniversary of that fire, commemorated on the Helena, Mont. Capitol lawn, August 5, 1999

We are gathered at the commemoration this morning to remember the tragedy of the Mann Gulch Fire which took place 50 years ago today. By definition, a commemoration is the act of honoring someone or some thing; and we are here today to honor the 13 young men who were my fellow firefighters on that fateful day.

But this ceremony also honors the others who played roles in the fire, rescue efforts and all that followed. Men who are still with us today, like Earl Cooley, who made the first fire jump in 1940 and was the Smokejumper Project Supervisor in 1949. Earl was the spotter on the plane that dropped us into Mann Gulch 50 years ago. Men like Dr. Amos Little, who treated Bill Hellman's and Joe Sylvia's burns at the fire and at St. Peter's Hospital, and then later helped to identify and recover the men's bodies from Mann Gulch. Dr. Little is also credited with dozens of rescue parachute jumps to treat and help injured smokejumpers and other accident victims in the backcountry during the 1950s. And men like Skip Stratton and Mike Hardy who helped on the rescue mission following the fire.

And this commemoration is likewise an opportunity to honor the memory of other men whose lives were touched by the fire in Mann Gulch, men who have since passed on. Men like Forest Service fire researcher Harry T. Gisborne, the little-known 14th victim of the Mann Gulch Fire who, in November 1949, while doing research on the Mann Gulch Fire, died of a heart attack in nearby Rescue Gulch.

It's a time to honor men like John Robert Jansson, who was the Forest Service District Ranger in charge of the Mann Gulch Fire and was the man who led the rescue mission immediately after the fire blew up and overran us.

And this commemoration is a special opportunity to reflect upon and honor the memory of Mann Gulch smokejumper Walt Rumsey, and smokejumper crew foreman "Wag" Dodge, who like me, survived the fire and

whose lives would be forever affected by the events of that day 50 years ago. And of course Norman Maclean, author of the book *Young Men and Fire*, who reminded us all of this tragic event. We should also recognize two other books that also provide a record of the Mann Gulch Fire, *Trimotor and Trail* by Earl Cooley and *Smokejumpers '49* by Starr Jenkins. And we should

remember the Smokejumper Program. In 50 years of smokejumping, more than 300,000 jumps have been made. Today there are over 400 smokejumpers assigned to 10 jumper bases and on the average, each jumper makes 10 fire jumps per season.

We should also recognize that as a result of the Mann Gulch Fire many fire fighting methods, procedures and tools were developed which improve the safety of today's wildland firefighter.

But essentially we are here today to honor the 13 men who died that day.

In all honesty, I didn't know much about the men who parachuted with me into Mann Gulch 50 years ago because in 1949, during a month of intensive training, we were assigned to four-man squads. Although I had a speaking acquaintance with the other trainees, I only really knew the people in my squad.

After training we were sent out around the region on project work. Many of the men were in large groups piling brush or building trails and they developed strong friendships but I went out to the Canyon Ranger Station on the Clearwater Forest, alone, to replace a man who had not reported for their trail maintenance crew. When we jumped at Mann Gulch all the crew, except for Walt Rumsey who was in my training squad, were just acquaintances. But I think these men would be both surprised and humbled that so many of us are gathered here today, and that so many others across the country remember them and the circumstances under which they perished.

And it occurs to me that as a nation we honor these 13 men who died in Mann Gulch from a number of perspectives.

We honor them as ordinary citizens who cared enough about the natural resources of their country to

IN ALL HONESTY, I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE MEN WHO PARACHUTED WITH ME INTO MANN GULCH 50 YEARS AGO BECAUSE IN 1949, DURING A MONTH OF INTENSIVE TRAINING, WE WERE ASSIGNED TO FOUR-MAN SQUADS. ALTHOUGH I HAD A SPEAKING ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE OTHER TRAINEES, I ONLY REALLY KNEW THE PEOPLE IN MY SQUAD.

volunteer to protect our public lands and those resources from wildfires.

Of the 15 men who parachuted into the gulch that day, 11 were veterans of World War II. So we honor many of these men as veterans who responded to the demand for young men to help defend their country during a time of war.

We also honor them as employees of the United States Forest Service, an organization which has a long and proud history of conserving and protecting the resources of the National Forests of this great nation. Like me, most of the boys were just working that summer as seasonal employees of Forest Service Region 1. And like all Forest Service employees, when the call went out for help, they pitched in to protect our National Forests.

We honor these 13 men as firefighters, as men who knew the danger and hard work involved in fighting forest and grassland fires. Men who were well aware of, and accepted the risks involved with taking on a sometimes-unpredictable foe like a wildfire. Men who knew the job of firefighting meant many hours and even days away from the comforts of home and the company of family and friends. Men who were well acquainted with the demanding nature of the work: the sometimes backbreaking effort of digging fireline, the choking smoke, the searing heat, the nose, and the often endless hours of firefighting with little or no sleep. And yet, they took on the challenge.

We also honor them as smokejumpers, men who knew what it is like to step out the open door of an airplane and the shock of an opening parachute - the glorious feeling that goes with seeing that beautiful white canopy overhead and the exaltation of knowing that you have done it.

They also knew that the parachute was — and still is — the quickest and best way to get to a fire in remote areas.

And so, we honor the fact that they took the fire assignment on the Helena National Forest and in so doing, they made the ultimate sacrifice that any citizen, any Forest Service employee, any firefighter, any smokejumper can make; they gave their lives.

All these men whose lives were touched by the Mann Gulch Fire, both the living and the dead, deserve our deepest respect. And while it's fitting to honor these men, I think it's also important that we recognize the pain, the trauma, and yes, the hard feelings that care after this fire . . . and maybe still persist even to this day . . . and put that all away. As firefighters, as smokejumpers, as friends and family of the 13 men, and as people who dare deeply about all that came from the Mann Gulch Fire, we need to complete the healing process that began a half century ago. It's time to forgive old perceived injuries. And as we move into the next millennium, it's time to rededicate ourselves to the memory of these fine young men and the lessons their deaths taught us; that wildfire are and always will be dangerous and we must respect its potential to put firefighters in harm's way, and that life is precious and for some, very short.

And now, please join me in a moment of silence in memory of those 13 young men who lost their lives in the Mann Gulch Fire: Robert J Bennett, Eldon E. Diettert, James O. Harrison, William J. Hellman, Phillip R. McVey, David R. Navon, Leonard L. Piper, Stanley J. Reba, Marvin L. Sherman, Joseph B. Sylvia, Henry J. Thol, Jr., Newton R. Thompson, and Silas R. Thompson.

At this time I'd like to ask Ranger Harp to step forward to help me unveil the new bronze plaque which is dedicated to the 13 men who died in Mann Gulch. It will be permanently mounted at the Forest Service's Meriwether Picnic Area on the Missouri River just to the south of Mann Gulch. □

Mann Gulch: We Remembered

More than a fifth of the estimated 500 people in attendance at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Mann Gulch Fire on August 4 and 5 were current or former smokejumpers.

That's high tribute to the esprit de corps of our fraternity and testament also to the hard work that went into a special mailing by NSA Secretary Monroe "Spud" De Jarnette (Missoula 49).

The ceremony included many NSA members: Spud, Ken Travis (McCall 55) and Charley Palmer (Missoula 95) laid wreaths on the monuments to the dead jumpers in Mann Gulch on August 4; as Wayne Williams (Missoula 77), a current Missoula foreman, made a commemorative jump.

The following day, Bob Sallee (Missoula 49), the last living Mann Gulch survivor, was the keynote speaker on the Montana capitol lawn, and former NSA Presidents Earl Cooley (Missoula 40) and Laird Robinson (Missoula 62) were honored guests.

Some very special "brothers" were also honored at the event. "Triple Nickels" Walter Morris, first sergeant of the 1945 Army paratrooper smokejumpers; 555th Parachute Infantry Association President Joe Murchison, his wife, Sharon, and Triple Nickel Trooper Richard Green were high profile guests at the ceremony and subsequent socials.

Helena Chapter President Jim Phillips assembled a crew of about a dozen area ex-jumpers who put on a barbecue and dance for a hundred folks the evening of the capitol ceremony. In addition, they arranged for bus transportation for those NSA members and their families who hiked into Mann Gulch for the wreath laying ceremony and jump.

Finally, Director Chuck Sheley, (Cave Junction 59) recruited eight new members and sold piles of T-shirts, caps and other NSA memorabilia to those who attended the capitol ceremony and barbecue.

The NSA donated \$1,000 to the Helena National Forest to help them finance the public events and establish a new smokejumper memorial on a Missouri River landing adjacent to Mann Gulch.

Trail Maintenance Program Report



General Overview

Jon McBride

During the winter months of 1998/99 Art Jukkala, NSA trail maintenance coordinator, spent much of his time and effort planning and coordinating with the USFS and the Bob Marshall Foundation, details of NSA's first trail maintenance project for the summer of 1999. The idea of a project that members could participate in had originated some months before and many members had asked the question, what does the NSA have to offer its members besides a newsletter? Art took this as a challenge and set as his goal, to identify a suitable program that would be popular with our members and at the same time offer something of value to the NSA, the forest community and of course the member participants. Art was introduced to the idea of Trail Maintenance by a large feature article in the Sunday Missoulian in the late summer of 1998. Trail Maintenance, as was maintained in the 1930s was compared to the present day poor status of trails in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. An organization was identified as the Bob Marshall Foundation (BMF) and the efforts of this group in assisting the USFS were depicted in picture and text. This was all Art needed to get

motivated and moving on the NSA's behalf. Phone calls and meetings with both the USFS and the BMF followed, resulting in NSA's Trail Maintenance Program of 1999. A larger than normal snow pack in the high country of the Bob Marshall resulted in last minute location changes and other adjustments. The USFS has a policy of a maximum of 15 people in one work camp, and Art wanted everyone who wished to take part, to be able to do so. This required two camp locations with its cooks, EMT's and packer services. One camp was to be Silvertip creek near the Spotted Bear Ranger Station in the northern Bob Marshall and the other was identified as Ross Creek on the Blackfoot divide in the southern Bob Marshall. Art Jukkala was to act as on site coordinator for the southern camp and Jon McBride was to do the same in the north. A total of 23 NSA members answered the initial inquiry in the Static Line Newsletter that was due back in Missoula 1 December 1998. Of those a total of 17 NSA members actually turned up in Missoula and took part in the program, scheduled for July 9 through July 16, 1999. Members as far away as North and South Carolina signed on as well as one of the first lady Smokejumpers. Ages were across the board, from early 40s to the 70s All

Photo above: Blackfoot Divide/Ross Creek Crew. L to R: Pete Hoirup, Charlie Brown, Hans Trankel, Bob Whaley, Art Jukkala, Jim Anderson, Carla Cline (BMF), Joe Kroever, and Bill Tucker.

participants arrived in good condition and surprising as it may sound, had not forgotten their skills with a pulaski and a 6' cross cut saw. The project began with a noon lunch meeting of all participants at a Missoula restaurant where Art gave a update briefing on both projects, maps were handed out and last minute details attended to. This was followed by a "send off" given by Fred Brauer (Good Deal Brauer) on the "Good Deal" we were going to participate in and that these two projects represented.

Note: Fred was the Missoula Base (AFD) Supervisor throughout most of the 1950s and was well known for his "Good Deal" Project Assignments.

The Silvertip crew departed soon after lunch and drove private cars to Columbia Falls MT. for dinner and on to Spotted Bear by dark where they camped near the Ranger Station for the night. The Ross Creek crew had a shorter drive to meet their packer at the Monture Ranger Station and as such spent the night in Missoula driving to Monture RS early the next morning.

Silvertip Creek Crew

Jon McBride

Early Saturday morning after a hot breakfast produced by Tom Blunn, our Chief Cook, in the Spotted Bear cook shack all the crew assembled at the Ranger Station corral with all of the gear for the USFS Packer. After assisting as much as possible we departed to the trail head 14 miles up the Spotted Bear River and hiked in to our assigned camp at Silvertip Cabin on the Spotted Bear river. (No Packer was available to provide a moving camp and we were asked to spend each night camped at Silvertip Cabin.)

The pack string arrived in the early afternoon and we spent the rest of the day setting up the camp and preparing tools for the first day's work the following day. We were also able to get at some badly needed Trail Maintenance along the Spotted Bear River trail we had used to get to camp from the trailhead even though this was not our assigned trail.

Our crew included Chuck Fricke of Florence MT., Cliff Dalzell of Boise ID., Tom Blunn (Cook) of Missoula MT., Bill Kolar of Dillon MT., Dennis Pearson of Marshville NC., Windy Kamm of Fort Benton MT., Hal Howell of Tacoma WA., John McIntosh of Cayce SC., Jon McBride of Missoula MT., and Kurt Kress, assigned for two days by the BMF.

Sunday morning came early and clear and after a large hot breakfast and lunch packing exercise we headed out to the assigned trail (Silvertip Trail) climbing south up



Silvertip Chief Cook, Tom Blunn, at Silvertip cabin.

the Silvertip drainage. After a quarter of a mile from camp the trail crossed the Spotted Bear River (30 yds wide and 2 to 3 foot deep) running swift and cold! After crossing the river the trail started climbing into the high country of the Bob Marshall. This trail had not been maintained for a number of years and we were confronted with large logs and lots of overgrowth. The assigned trail was approximately 10 miles long with a large Packers Camp near the top. The trail consisted of some very steep climbs along with rock outcropping where new trail had to be identified. The first day we were able to clear 3 miles of trail and arrived back in camp in time for a cooling bath in the river before dinner.

The grounds around the cabin were excellent for tent sites and a rocked in fire hole existed with log seats. This location proved to be the most popular gathering place after dinner where a person could tell a good jump story to people who could top it with a better one.

Monday morning came clear and warm. Breakfast was the best yet and we were off by 0800 for the river crossing and the 3-mile hike to the end of the previous day's maintenance. Kurt Kress of the BMF left us about noon and hiked back to camp and the trailhead. The day went well and after completing 3 more miles of trail we hiked back 6 miles to the river crossing and another award winning dinner by Chief Cook and Bottle Washer, Tom Blunn.

Tuesday was scheduled to be our day off (at both camps) and as we drank our 5th cup of coffee after

breakfast, planning the days fishing activities, Al Koss, Wilderness Manager for the District walked into camp with word about Art Jukkala's death. Our shock and surprise cannot be described. As Art was our leader on this project, many of us at first expressed the need to pack up and call it a day. Al offered to send in a pack string if that was our desire. After discussing options for a while it became very clear that the group wanted to complete the project on Wednesday and leave one day early, on Thursday 15, July. The question that was asked by most of us, what would Art want us to do? The answer was easy, finish the assignment! The pack string was rescheduled for Thursday and we took advantage of our day off.

Wednesday was clear and beautiful as the Bob can be in mid July. We departed camp at 0700 so as to give ourselves more time to give to the final day. We crossed the river and hiked the 6 miles to the end of Mondays efforts. Three crossings of Silvertip creek and 4 and 1/2 miles later at 1430 we reached the end of our trail above the Packers camp and completed our assignment. Now it was just hike back 10 1/2 miles, cross the river and set down to one of the best steak dinners ever cooked in the Bob. All members of the crew felt like a job well done.

In addition to the Trail Maintenance John McIntosh, Dennis Pearson and Tom Blunn spent time on a stock bridge along the Spotted Bear River trail that needed major repair and gave the bridge a good overhaul with new timbers sent in by Al Koss. Thursday morning turned out rainy and foggy and much cooler. Our week of perfect weather was over. The pack string arrived on time and we were packed out to the trailhead by 1330.

At Spotted Bear R.S. we were advised that the Ross Creek crew were staying at the USFS Condon Work Center and that both crews were invited to a special cook out hosted by the BMF that night in Condon.

Most of the Silvertip Crew proceeded on to Condon where we met up with the Ross Creek crew and reviewed the week's activities. We proceeded on to the cook out together and had a fine evening at the home of Jim French, a Director of the BMF.

All participants expressed interest in the program for next year and many are planning again next summer to take part in NSA's Trail Maintenance Project.

As of this writing we have found a very qualified Trail Maintenance Project Coordinator who is seriously considering, "to give it a go", and fill Art's shoes. You will be hearing much more about this in the near future.

It was truly a joy to work with the caliber of men and women who turned up for work in both crews. During the week, and because of the nature of the work, I was reminded many times of the work on the fire lines of the 1950s and every participant that I met (I met them all) made me proud to be a part of a group of professionals with attitudes that I remembered many years ago. A large part of our success must be given to Tom Blunn our cook. He provided the planning and food selection at the market. Every meal was excellent and prepared with

great skill. Tom has many years experience cooking in the backcountry of Montana and Idaho. We were lucky to get him on our project! I would like to speak for Art to all participants in both crews and say "great job and thanks for going the extra mile"!

Ross Creek Crew

Bob Whaley

Since there is a restriction on the number of personnel permitted in one campsite within the wilderness, we split our group into two crews of 8 to 10 each. Jon took the Spotted Bear crew and Art took the Ross Creek crew. Our crew consisted of Jim Anderson, Germantown, TN; Pete Hoirup, Bonney Lake, WA; Hans Trankle, Billings MT; Bill Tucker, Arlington, VA; Joe Kroeber, (cook and EMT), Jamestown, ND; Charlie Brown, Wichita, KS; Art Jukkala and Bob Whaley, Missoula. Our crew met for breakfast at a local restaurant in Missoula at 0630 on 10 July and caravan in four vehicles up to the Monture Guard Station near Ovando where we organized our gear and then proceeded to the trailhead of Dunham Creek Trail in Art and Bob's two Vehicles. Spirits were sky high. BMF representative, Carla Cline, who hiked in with us to show us the priority of trail maintenance that was desired, accompanied us. The Dunham Creek drainage presents a very constant climb, but given the various states of conditioning of the crew, Art ensured that this was not a competition and we enjoyed, (for the most part), a seven hour, 8-9 mile climb/hike in.

Our packs consisted of primary personal gear, since arrangements had been made to have the packer, Jack Rich of Cozy Corners, pack our gear in that same morning. Art and several others had pre-positioned our sleeping bags, other personal gear and tents at Jack's ranch the day before, (more evidence of Art's detail in planning). The packer, (Jack), also took in our camp gear, stoves, propane fuel, tools and food, which was a great asset to the comforts realized in camp. Saturday afternoon found us straggling into camp in two groups between 1600 and 1700 hours. The next order of business was to separate our gear the packer had brought in and then stake out our tent sites and help our cook, (Joe Kroeber), scurry up the evening meal. Also of concern was finding a safe water source for canteens and camp. Fortunately, we had three water filtration devices, which were used for that end. In the selection of tent sites, we insisted that those who snore be relegated to their own area where their decibel level would not interfere with others. An underlying concern also was that we weren't sure if one of them might approximate the mating call of a sow grizzly, so Joe, Pete and Jim had their own turf!



Silvertip Crew: The ten-mile hike back to camp on the last day, 14th July 1999. Left to Right: Bill Kolar, Wendy Kamm, Cliff Dalzell, Chuck Fricke. Not shown: Dennis Pearson, John McIntosh, Tom Blunn, Jon McBride.

Sunday, the following day, (after an excellent breakfast), the whole group proceeded up towards Ross Creek, since our first priority was to attempt to clear the divide trail between Ross Creek and Pyramid Pass, a distance of about 4-5 miles. It didn't take long to find out that the late Spring drifts still lingered, which ruled out any possibility at all of that project. The second priority was to clear from as far as we had gotten up the divide trail back to camp, which we all worked on the rest of the day. Included in the prioritization was to clear Spruce Creek, which is a continuation of the Dunham creek trail over the divide into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and runs into the Jenny and Youngs Creek drainages.

The Ross and Spruce Creek trails have not been maintained in over five years and are trails that packers would very much like to open for their hunting camps, camps that would have much less pressure on them than the ones in the other major drainages of Youngs and Hahn Creeks. When we got back in camp late Sunday afternoon, Art broke out his shower unit which is a water bag with shower attached. The trick was finding a snag with good southern exposure so the water could sufficiently warm while we were out busting our asses on the trails. We got it all hooked up and anticipated with great delight such luxury in the wilderness. Sunday night's fare was an excellent spaghetti dinner by Chef Kroeger. If you will notice, he is

now a chef. (Guess that just depends on how hungry you are). Joe, by the way, was up early preparing breakfast while the rest of us were still trying to find our socks. After all that, he was on the trail crews working right along, and at the end of the workday, preparing our dinner, too. What a guy!

Monday AM we had another excellent breakfast and Carla and her dog, Raja, departed. We split our group into two crews, one going back to finish the previous day's trail work up toward the divide and the other crew went down into Spruce Creek to begin that project.

The two crews met up at about 1530 hrs Monday and headed back to camp, arriving there at 1600 hrs. Sadly, that was when Art suffered his fatal heart attack, which terminated our project. Joe administered CPR for approximately 30 minutes, but there was never any response. Joe and Bob hiked out and, from 2100 to 0100, made the necessary calls from Monture Guard Station to friends and officials, arranging to get Art out the next AM. The others had the task of keeping an all night vigil fire in camp and also preparing the landing zone to accept the med evac helo.

Art's body was removed by helicopter with external cable and basket litter by Skyline Helicopters, a private logging company operating in the area, who cooperated fully and very professionally in that extraction. Art was out by 1000. The remaining crew broke camp, organizing the camp and personal gear for the

packer and were out by about 1800 Tuesday night. That evening was spent at Condon Ranger Station where, Wed. AM, we debriefed the event that occurred.

Though the project ended on a very sad note, it would be a travesty to let this tragedy signal the end of this extremely worthwhile endeavor. It is a good thing we do in this regard. We know how to do the work and do it well. Let's keep it going. Art would have had it no other way. Pay no attention to that statement I heard from a USFS employee the week before we embarked on this adventure and when he joked, "The trick is to find people who are qualified to do the job and dumb enough to take it!" It's a great and rewarding experience. ☐

Memorial Service 2000 Reunion

Plans are underway for the Sunday portion of the 2000 Reunion. You will not want to miss this Sunday Service.

This service is to honor all smokejumpers and smokejumper pilots that have passed away. It is hoped that each one of them will be recognized in some way and that 8-10 of these characters will receive a special homily to be given by a friend of the deceased. Each of the four regions and the BLM will be choosing people to receive this special honor. A large screen presentation is planned to accompany each homily.

Rev. Dr. Stanton Tate (MYL 53) will conduct the worship. Robert Montoya (IDC 62) is in charge of the musical arrangements. Montoya plans to bring in Native American recording artist and firefighter, Rita Cantu, to team up with him for the spiritual arrangements.

Leo Cromwell (IDC 66) is coordinating the service: smjleo@micron.net

Web Master Report

Dan McComb*

It isn't hard to describe what's changed at Smokejumpers.com since August 1: Everything! NSA's launch of a completely redesigned web site was an opportunity for us to build on the solid foundation laid by Roger Savage and others.

So what's new? First (and most importantly for those of you who connect with a 28.8 modem—still the average connection speed on the Internet these days), we've trimmed the file size of most pages. Translation: you'll see stuff quicker. The new site still contains a lot of graphics and photos, which lengthen download times, but we've tried to achieve a balance between graphics-free pages that load instantly but look boring, and graphics-heavy pages that load glacially but look awesome.

Our second goal was to add interactivity. So we added a number of what we hope are highly useful forms, which enable you to communicate with NSA:

- A Feedback Form, which makes it possible to send in comments, suggest improvements, or report problems.
- A Change-of-Address Form, particularly helpful for those of you who move frequently.
- A Link-Request Form, which other sites can use to submit a link for inclusion on our Links page.
- A Jump List Update Form, which enables you to send corrections to our database of past and current smokejumpers, and tell us your e-mail address.

The guestbook form, which was a popular feature on the previous site, has been preserved. We reduced the number of categories to simplify navigation, and added a site map through which you can speed directly to any page in the site.

Thirdly, a primary goal of the NSA is to preserve and share the history of smokejumping. So we've expanded the history section, and hope to add a lot more in that area in the future. The NSA Video is a cornerstone of that effort, and we've made a pre-release RealVideo clip available for you to view online. It's a huge file, however, and doesn't work well on slower connections. We'll be adding more (and more readily viewable) video clips as the producer makes them available to us. We also posted Clay Morgan's audio recording of a fire jump, which he

**Dan McComb, NSA's new webmaster, jumped out of Missoula, Alaska and Boise from '87 to '91. He currently works as a designer and photographer in Seattle, where he welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at webmaster@smokejumpers.com.*

produced for National Public Radio. Special thanks to Leo Cromwell and Clay Morgan for making the tape available to all of us.

Fourth, we've added a photo page. We wanted to create a place for those special images gathering dust in your closet. Using a special e-mail address you can submit your photos, as attached files, to: photo@smokejumpers.com. We're looking for everything from historical photos to snapshots from your latest fire jump.

You'll have to have them scanned first, of course, which is increasingly easy and inexpensive. Kodak PhotoCD and PictureDisk, for example, are two inexpensive ways to create Web-ready digital images from your 35mm slides or negatives. If you have prints, a flatbed scanner is never farther away than the nearest Kinkos, which rents scanners by the hour. Scan them at 72 pixels per inch (dpi), at 360 pixels wide by however tall. I'd like to thank those of you who've submitted images this way already. And for those of you who haven't, consider this a personal invitation to do so! Don't forget to include caption information with your photos, and the photographer's name for a photo credit.

Fifth, we added the ability to securely process credit card transactions. Selling merchandise is an important aspect of our fundraising efforts, and this makes the transactions faster, easier and more convenient.

Sixth, we made (almost) the entire site searchable. That means you can type in a search for something specific, like "DC-3," and the search engine will return a list with every page on the site that contains "DC-3." Unfortunately, several of the larger bases on the jump list are not yet searchable, because their file sizes exceed the searchable limits of our software. We're working on that, and hope to make the entire jump list fully searchable soon.

We've built it, but will they come? A month and a half after the official launch, our statistics program tells us we're averaging about 1,100 page requests per day (see graph). Our most popular page, after the home page, is currently the photo page, followed by:

- Jump List
- News -Links
- Guestbook
- Merchandise
- Join Us
- Static Line
- Members
- History

A Web site isn't worth much if it serves up inaccurate or irrelevant information. I'd like to say thanks to the dozens of you who've taken the time to send in corrections, new information and fresh ideas—your feedback has been excellent. Now I have to figure out how to keep up with you. Because of a move this summer, my Internet access was interrupted from late August through late September. Thanks for bearing with me. I look forward to working with you to make Smokejumpers.com something we can all be proud of.

Touching All Bases

BOISE Grant Beebe

It's the middle of September now, and we would normally be compiling our year-end stats. But for us, as it seems to be for Redding, this is "the season that would not end." As of today, we still are staffing three planes, two Twin Otters and a Dornier we borrowed from Alaska, and are initial attacking fires in Nevada, southeast Idaho, and western Utah. And today the prediction is for more lightning... Fifteen Alaskan jumpers are still down south with us, and, though we've tried to make the transition to more normal fall work, namely controlled burning and catch-up chores in the loft, we're putting everything on hold until the weather changes. Some of our crew are sneaking out to set up hunting camps or take a brief break from fire season, but most of our 65 jumpers are still hard at it. The Boise BLM base is a bit different from most Forest Service jump bases, and the BLM base in Alaska, in that we launch to very few fires from our home base. We take our planes and crew and spread them among Great Basin satellite locations like Grand Junction, Colorado; Ely, Battle Mountain, and Carson City, Nevada. From these spike bases we IA fires, moving around as the fire season migrates. This means a lot of standby time for jumpers far from home, and this year has been no exception. Many of the crew have been on the road since March or April. We've initial attacked 156 fires so far in the Great Basin, putting more than 800 jumpers out the door (out the door of a van or truck in a few cases—these numbers include 17 pounder fires). Many of these jumps were made by Forest Service or AK boosters. Boosts have come in from McCall, Grangeville, Redding, and Redmond, and mixed load operations continue to work well in the Basin, despite the high winds of the desert country we work in. As usual, a majority of the fires we jumped this year were in Nevada, but Utah was a not so distant second. Many of our fire runs this year originated in Cedar City, Utah and Twin Falls, Idaho, new satellite operations in '99. Both of these new bases allow us a crack at some BLM ground that we haven't jumped

much in the past. This has been a good lick for us, and we've tried hard to make a good impression with these new customers. We're hoping the effort will lead to more work in the future in both spots. In addition to our Basin action, we sent boosters off to Alaska early in the summer, and later to every Forest Service base at some point or other. We lost our lone rookie candidate to some hard landings during training in May. And long-time jumper George Steele retired last month. We'll retire him in proper style in October, if the fire season has ended by then. Jim Olson was hired into George's Loft Supervisor job. And David Zuares was promoted into a Loft-technician job vacated by Mike Dark, who left to pursue an aviation career. Mike was flying skydivers and traffic reporters for local television at last report, building hours while he applies for other pilot jobs. We've had no serious jump injuries so far this year, and no parachute malfunctions necessitating a cutaway. Lee Rickard and Joel Kerley are both new fathers, Tony Demasters is getting married next month, and the single guys are as boneheaded around women as ever. We managed to run our own Otter into a building in Battle Mountain in August, just after a Redding load had boarded to fly a fire south of Elko. The wing tip was dinged, putting the plane in the shop for a few days. Of course, the incident demanded that an investigation team travel down from Boise to look at the wing. The team ran their rented minivan into a calf halfway to Battle Mountain—no word whether that incident will require its own investigation team. We had a pre-season commitment to send eight jumpers to West Yellowstone to help them staff their ship during the summer. With our busy season we had a hard time getting folks out there, but have had four there since July. We get daily fishing reports from our detailers in West. We're already planning for next season, of course, trying to figure out what we'll need for planes, where, when. We experimented with a single-engine Caravan this season, looking for an alternative to our Twin-Otters. The Forest Service evaluated the Caravan also—its suitability as a jumpship should be a topic at next month's base managers' meeting in Boise.

MISSOULA

Charles Palmer

The Doug appeared from the south, its twin turbine engines whining as it banked hard over Mann Gulch. Thirteen black wind streamers were thrown, one for each of those who fell fifty years back. The lone jumper exited the plane, and began his singular journey to a spot near the one used a half century ago. Once he was safely on the ground, the DC-3 made a low pass down the gulch, then departed just as surreptitiously as it had arrived. Hiking in from the bottom of the gulch came a mishmash of folks: current and retired jumpers, Helena Forest firefighters from a variety of districts, and representatives from the BLM and National Park Service. While vastly different in age and experience, they shared the bond of being wreathlayers for this fifty year anniversary. Norman MacLean wrote that, "They were young and did not leave much behind, and need someone to remember them." For those who took part in the memorial events on August 4th and 5th of 1999, the lives of the men lost in Mann Gulch were honored. May we ever remember them and the sacrifice that they made. The fire season of 1999 continues to be active at the time of this base report for the Missoula Smokejumpers. The year began with the usual crew of jumpers staffing the base at Silver City, NM. Silver is now an inter-base crew, with jumper representatives from each of the Forest Service bases. Sixty-four fire jumps were made onto 20 fires. Four jumpers from Missoula spent the early part of the summer inspecting trees in the Chicago area for beetle infestations. Those inspections will continue this fall when the fire season slows. Out of Missoula so far this year, 190 fire jumps have been made within Region One, and that number is sure to grow as the dog days of summer arrive. Several jumpers have served in the "single resource" capacity as Air Attack Supervisors, or as members of overhead fire teams. Four members from the Canadian Smokejumper program have been stationed in Missoula for the past month, getting acquainted with the FS-14 parachute and jumping fires "down south" in the lower 48. Missoula hopes to establish a strong relationship with the Canadian program, with the goal of making Missoula jumpers available to them for their typically earlier fire season. In other various news tidbits, Region 1 has provided 1459 person days of prescription burning and miscellaneous duties on nine R1 forests so far this year. In February and March of this year, R1 accounted for 2163 person days of prescription burning in Region 8, mostly in Mississippi, but also in Minnesota, Texas,

Kentucky, and South Carolina. At present, Missoula has seven vacancies within its organization, and hopes to fill those in the next few months. Four women successfully made it through rookie training this year, bringing to 13 the number of female jumpers in R1 out of a total jumper force of 105. Only one significant jump injury has occurred so far this year out of Missoula, that being a hairline fracture of a wrist, which occurred on a two-manner in late August. The base will play host to 12 members of the U. S. Special Forces at some point in November, but details are sketchy, as that information is on a "need to know" basis and it was decided that this reporter did not need to know. Don "Hammer" Hammack took a job in the engine shop, and has hung up his one piece jumpsuit. We wish Hammer luck, and we will miss his somewhat unbalanced infatuation with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Lastly, Keith "Ickey" Woods got married last week. Good luck to the Ickster and his beautiful blushing bride (I'm not sure why she is blushing) Cindy. That is all from MSO for now.

NORTH CASCADES

BASE

Larry Lufkin

Base Manager Doug Houston reported that NCSB operated with a compliment of 20 jumpers this past summer, of which two were women. NCSB had five rookies who completed training and who jumped seven fires. All the rookies performed very well.

The Winthrop base used a combination of aircraft during the summer. From June 1st through July 22nd, NCSB borrowed a Twin Otter from Region 4. On the 23rd, a contract Casa 212 arrived and stayed through September 30th. Both ships were great smokejumper planes.

The fire season was much below average for NCSB because the lightning patterns did not develop as they normally did. This meant that Lightning activity was much less than average on all of the forests and other users in the State of Washington.

NCSB dropped 84 jumpers on 25 fires this last summer. Six jumped one fire on the Wenatchee and the other 19 were all made on the Okanogan. NCSB jumpers also made 282 practice jumps, including the rookie jumps.

Doug reported that NCSB received one boost of 10 jumpers from Boise and Alaska. In turn, NCSB sent one jumper to Silver City, four jumpers to Alaska, four jumpers to Redding, and two separate crews to Redmond. Overall, travel was way below average for the summer.



*Early season fire jump in R-5 Marble Mountains Wildermess Area.
Photo by Douglas Beck.*

The Forest Service had several projects that kept the jumpers busy when they were not fighting fires. Current Forest Service policy is to develop snags for bird habitat. The jumpers either girdle to bore holes in the trees so that the tree will die, creating a snag that birds can use for nesting. The policy requires a certain number of trees per acre and there are thousands of such trees throughout the forest.

The second project was the elimination of mistletoe from trees in campgrounds. The jumpers climbed trees and cut out the limbs that had mistletoe and were dead or dying, sometimes leaving nothing but a small tuft of green limbs at the top. Invariably, many trees of

such trees continued to decline because of the mistletoe and needed to be removed entirely the next year.

A third project was the removal of beetle infested hardwood trees in Midwest cities. NCSB jumpers John Button and Darin Belsby went to Chicago where they climb, remove, and chip infested limbs from trees. If the whole tree is infested, they remove the entire tree. This appears to be a long-term project and there is fear that huge numbers of hardwood trees will die from these beetle infestations. To assist in this project, Darin Belsby attended a tree climbing school in Oregon and became a certified climbing instructor.

Finally, NCSB jumpers participated in a series of prescribed burning projects. The burning was performed on districts on the Okanogan National Forest.

Most smokejumpers will have employment on similar projects through November.

REDDING

Arlen Cravens

Smokejumper Patty Johnson made the 500th fire jump in Region 5 for the 1999 season. Exact calculations are preliminary, BUT this is a first! The previous high for fire jumps in Region 5 was set in 1987 at 448 with the 1994 season running a close second at 417 fire jumps. The fire season has been very active in Northern California and, while several fires have escaped Initial Attack, many have been successfully contained by smokejumpers and other initial attack firefighters. These successes have undoubtedly saved untold tax dollars.

Patty is a Grangeville, ID smokejumper who, along with smokejumpers representing all bases in the nation is assisting with the firefighting efforts in Region 5. Smokejumpers supporting the Los Padres National Forest this season staffed 4 fires on September 9, 1999. It had been 33 long years since smokejumpers descended on the LP. They were successful in extinguishing 3 of the fires and contained the Garlic Fire on the Sequoia NF, arriving on this fire 330 miles from Redding, CA just 2 hours and 40 minutes after the request reached North Ops. In addition to these milestones, smokejumpers have jumped fires supporting fire suppression activities on all National Forests in Northern California.

Region 5 also hosted visiting smokejumpers from both Canada

and Russia this season. The Canadian smokejumpers made their first fire jumps ever on the Klamath National Forest.

ALASKA

Murry Taylor

We had a great season overall. Ron Lund came back as a BLM pilot and seemed to enjoy growling around the Standby Shack and being his old self. C.R. Holder did some great flying again this year for us. John Stright was up from McCall for a month or so, also flying the Sherpa. This was Rod Dow's last year. This was also John Dube's last year. Wow! There are two old hands smokejumping is going to miss. Mike Hardy claims he won't be back anymore Rick Russell is marrying Susie Stingly Sept. 25th, and I doubt he'll return either. For me, I'll just jump one more season.

By the time the Bros left to go south in late July, each guy averaged about seven fire jumps. We had about 70 boosters for a month. They came from Redmond, Winthrop, Redding, McCall, and a had full form Grangeville. We had fun and jumped fires in all directions. My best one was up on the Noatak River about ten miles upriver from the village of Noatak. Chip Houde ran the show — a sixteen man, five day burnout show on a 20,000 acre gobbler in some of the prettiest country on earth. And Chip, what a great guy. Our fresh food was only three days late and when it finally came we had to leave to go on to another fire with no fresh food. The mosquitoes were so bad that the Redding Rookies almost went comatose hunkering under their mosquito nets.

The worst fire, at least in terms of near miss entrapments, had to be the Donnelly Flats Fire. In the three days between June 10 and 12, I thought I was going to be Alaska's first fire fatality, twice. It was very dry in Alaska in the early summer. Potholes and wet meadows were empty of water. In the Delta area we noticed this right away as we were working the fire. We also knew that the Delta winds could hit at any time. A about forty acres and around 5 PM, they did. The perimeter out front suddenly became dangerously active with flame length soaring to 50 and 60 feet. Everyone began evacuating the line. Once we got out to the road, Buck Nelson asked me if I thought there was anything we could do. I suggested we go back in and at least pull out some hose. We started in. Five minutes later something crazy happened. The wind picked up to about 40 mph, and the column began bending over and leaning to the north. Flame lengths jumped to 80 to 100 feet, and I radioed Buck and told him we'd better get back. They were already on the way. Then suddenly a

strange, deep roar came out of the middle of the column, and a great cloud of grayish brown ash came swirling back towards the tail of the fire where we were. By that time trees were leaning way over, the black began glowing orange again, and out of the smoke came a cylinder of pinkish-orange fire about 30 feet in diameter. We had all seen fire devils before, but after this thing passed we all agreed. It was a tornado — a fire tornado. Just like that the wind was 50 mph, dust and ash flew everywhere and each guy was running away on his own. I was closest to it. Some claimed it pulled me off the ground for a moment. I don't think it did, but I experienced one of those moments when a person considers the worst. I'd never seen any fire situation deteriorate that quickly. Several Alaska veterans said they'd never seen anything like it before. We all made it to the road and it turned and headed north out into the green spreading fire. The wind picked up one cargo chute (attached to a 50 lb. Shindawa pump) and sucked the whole works 200 feet out into the new fire starting in the green. That was all well and good, but another group on the right flank included Bill Cramer, Justis Ortega, Jim Dibert, and Jay Wattenbarger even had it worse. A fire tornado — the twin to the one started on our side of the fire — came after them, pursued them into the black, and slammed them from behind. Visibility was just a few feet when it hit Jay. He was burned on the back of the neck and hands. Wisely, he had the presence of mind not to breathe inside the cylinder. Covering his face with his gloved hands, he bolted left and moved outside it. Then he called to the others and they regrouped in a boggy area. They were all quite shaken. For the next few days we all looked at Alaska fire with a much more cautious eye. In the past, the black had been our usual safety zone. Under those conditions, no place was safe.

During August most of our crew (50 or so) was in the Lower 48. They were in Redding a lot. They were in Twin Falls, Battle Mt., and Carson City. Some spent a little time in the beautiful North Cascades country. By Sept. 10th each had about eight jumps down south. We got by with only one serious injury. Matt Corley nearly tore his thumb off on a fire jump. Somehow, as he was falling, he caught his thumb in one of the risers. When the chute opened, it ripped his thumb way back out of position. To see the X-ray made your stomach roll. Matt's a strong one though and will be back next year ready as ever.

Overall, we had a great year up north with a good amount of end-of-season action down south. Everybody seemed happy with their lot. We've got a good boss and a good bunch of people. What else could you ask for? □

Jump List — October 1999

Alaska

Greg West, '64 is a Circuit Court Judge for Marion County Oregon. Greg, who lives in Salem, OR, also worked in private law, was the Salem City Attorney, and was a District Court Judge.

William Arpino, '64 lives in Tok, AK where he works for Northland Specialties. His firm specializes in property management, construction, gift shops, dog team demonstrations, and log cabin rentals.

Gary Johnson, '74 works for United Airlines in San Francisco and lives in Carson City, NV. Gary, who previously worked for the Red Bluff fire department and US Air, spends his free time on the golf course.

Michael Roos, '86 is the Southern Logistics Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and has worked for DNR since 1990. Mike lives in Palmer, AK.

Sean Lyman, '93 lives in Irvine, CA.

Cave Junction

Calvin Hilty, '43, raised cotton and other crops in the San Joaquin Valley in California from 1946 to 1997 when he retired. Calvin lives in Strathmore, CA and enjoys gardening and 12 grand kids.

Edward Adams, '46, was an airborne instructor for the U.S. Army from 1947 until 1967 when he retired. Ed, who lives in Redding, CA, also worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and Xerox, and is building an airplane.

Roy Belli, '51, worked as a college computer systems instructor after retiring in 1983 as an officer with the Marines. Roy lives in Fairfax, VA.

William Kester, '52 lives in Dana Point, CA where he works for the U.S. Post Office. Previously, he was a pilot in the Air Force from 1954 to 1974.

Robert Harrison, '57 lives in Riverside, CA where he retired after 36 years as a maintenance supervisor for Sweet Heart Cup.

Gordon Kellogg, '58 has worked for several companies in the forest products industry and spent two years in Saudi Arabia. Gordon lives in Wilsonville, OR and plans to retire in a year or so.

Ronald Lufkin, '60 lives in Aberdeen, WA where he retired in 1990. Ron worked for several companies in the forest products industry. He is currently turning a swamp into a cranberry bog.

Garry Peters, '63 retired in 1991 as a lead plane pilot and smokejumper pilot. He lives on Orcas Island, WA. Garry also flew F-100 and A-7 fighters for the Air Force from 1967 to 1975.

Idaho City

Francis Mohr, '63 retired in 1996 from the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest fire staff. Francis lives in Baker City, OR where he is a fire management consultant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

McCall

Charles Blanton, '47 is semi-retired from his law practice in Boise, ID. Charles and his wife spend winters in Hawaii and summers in Boise.

Merle Cables, '48 retired in 1990 as a college economics instructor in Eureka, CA. He is now raising and racing thoroughbred horses at Del Mar and Hollywood Park racetracks.

Jonathan Scott, '48 lives in McCall, ID.

Don Finney, '50 retired in 1992 after working since 1951 for several companies in forestry and mining. Don lives in Ward Cove, AK.

Ken Hessel, '58 retired in 1994 after nearly 20 years on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Previously, Ken worked for the CIA in Thailand and Laos.

Lynn Flock, '68 lives in Agua Dulee, CA.

Everett Houston, '71 has a medical practice in Redding, CA. Everett also worked for Air America.

Missoula

George Gowen, '54 is a member of the NSA Board of Directors. He practices law in New York City and has no plans to retire. George serves on the NSA Video Committee and the NSA Bylaws Committee.

Carl Neufelder, '54 retired in 1990 as a specialist in natural resources and navigable waters. Carl, who lives in Lakewood, CO, assists with an antique store and participates in bike rallies.

Dayton Grover, '55 works as a part time water plant operator in Edina, MO. He previously worked as a teacher and full time water plant operator.

Michael McCullough, '56 lives in Arlington, WA. He worked for Western Gear Corporation and did consulting work for several years before retiring in 1992.

William (Bill) Murphy, '56 retired in 1994 and works as a professional ski patrol. Bill, who lives in McCall, ID, previously worked for the Forest Service in a variety of positions.

James Hutchinson, '57 was a small business owner in San Diego for 20 years before retiring recently. James, who now lives in Vista, CA also worked for the Forest Service for several years.

Dub Raborn, '59 lives in Smyrna, TN where he retired as CEO of the Raborn Insurance Agency, Inc. Dub is in the process of turning over his business to his three sons who were in business with him.

William (Bill) Kolar, '59 retired in 1994 as a construction engineer for the Beaverhead National Forest. Bill lives in Dillon, MT where he is involved with Search and Rescue, Red

Cross, Big Brothers, and the Lewis and Clark Club.

Jim Gordon, '59 retired in 1989 from IBM Corp. Jim lives in Memphis, TN where he custom designs and repairs jewelry. He also handles outside operations for the FedEx-St Jude Golf Classic.

Bob Wiseman, '59 lives in Burns Lake, British Columbia, Canada where he operates a ranch. In addition to ranching, Bob flies airplanes and participates in team roping.

Floyd Bethke, '60 retired as a fire management officer in 1990, after 32 years with the Forest Service. Floyd lives in Hamilton, MT where he works part time as an equipment operator.

Anthony Peiffer, '61 is semi-retired after a career with Weyerhaeuser and the Federal Way, WA Management Budget Division. Anthony now lives in Bellevue, WA.

Cliff Dalzell, '61 lives in Boise, ID where he retired in 1994. Cliff worked for the Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Department of Interior Office of Aircraft Services. Cliff works part time as an accounting consultant.

Ernie Hartley, Ph.D., '62 has been conducting a visitor impact study for the last 32 years in Glacier National Park. Ernie, who lives in El Dorado, CA also writes and presents articles on his research.

William Shaffer, '62 worked as a geologist for several years before forming a gold mining company. William lives in El Paso, TX where he is a consulting geological engineer. Most assignments are in foreign countries, including Turkey, Mexico, and India.

George (Tom) Tutt, '64 lives in Gresham, OR where he owns and operates a lumber brokerage company. Tom also served in the Oregon National Guard where he retired as a Colonel in 1996.

Charles Lockwood, '65 worked for the Forest Service until 1985 when he took a medical retirement. Since then, Charles worked for Washington Corp in Missoula and JORE Corp in Ronan, MT. Charles lives in Polson, MT.

Michael Ragen, '67 lives in Springfield, VA where he owns and operates a real estate company. Previously, Michael was a naval aviator and naval intelligence officer.

Gene Hamner, '67, who lives in Lodi, CA, currently owns and operates San Joaquin Air in Lodi. His company does crop dusting in the area. Previously, Gene was an Air Force pilot where he served as a forward air controller and flew C-141s.

Nine Mile

Roy Mart, '41 was born in 1915, and at 84 years old reports that he is enjoying his second child hood. Roy, who lives in Missoula, MT, also reports that he is a bachelor in waiting.

Robert (Bob) Derry, '43 lives in East Wenatchee, WA. Bob retired in 1984 as the Chief of a local fire district. Bob also was a heavy equipment operator, restaurant owner, and played in a dance band. He currently does some commercial diving so that he can pay for his toys.

Wallace (Pic) Littell, '44 retired in 1985 as a minister-counselor for the US Foreign Service. He served as a foreign officer in Berlin, Bonn, Budapest, Warsaw, Belgrade, and Moscow. Wally, who lives in Deposit, NY, winters in Florida.

Walter Reimer, '44 lives in Moses Lake, WA. Walter farmed until 1985 when he retired. He does woodworking in the Moses Lake area.

Willard Handrich, '45 retired in 1980 after 32 years as a pastor, mill worker, and woods worker. Willard lives in Grand

Marais, MI in the summer and winters in Alamo, TX. He keeps busy with gardening, fishing, hunting, and honeybees.

Carroll Rieck, '46 lives in Olympia, WA after retiring in 1980. Carroll was a wildlife biologist for the Washington State Game Department for 30 years and spent two years with the UN in Zambia. He also served with the Peace Corps in Chile and Costa Rica.

Robert Crowe, '46 retired in 1979. Robert worked as a forester in private industry and for the Montana Department of Lands. He lives in Greenough, MT and volunteers at the VA Medical Center in Miles City, MT.

Lawrence (Larry) Casey, '46 retired in 1981 after a long career with the BLM as a timber manager, fire fighter, and public affairs officer. Larry and Natalie live in North Bend, OR where Larry flies his Cessna 172, landscapes, and sings with a senior group.

James Blowers, '46 lives in El Cajon, CA. James retired in 1988 after 35 years with Sparkletts Drinking Water Corp. Since retirement, James built a room on his house and plays senior softball three times a week.

Clayton Ogle, '46 retired in 1980 and lives in Helena, MT. Clayton worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service from 1949 to 1980. He retired as the Deputy State Conservationist for Operations and Management for Montana's 60 SCS offices.

Wesley Brennan, '47 retired in 1985 from the Carpenter Paper Company where he was a buyer, salesman, and manager. Wes spends seven months a year at his Seeley Lake, MT home and the rest of the year in Arizona.

Robert Muhm, '49 lives in Woodbury, NJ since retiring in 1986. Robert is on the board of directors for an association that operates homes for the mentally retarded.

James Dewey, '50 retired in 1983 from the Palouse District of the Clearwater National Forest, where he worked as a resource assistant. Dewey lives in Princeton, ID and continues to work as a consulting forester.

Douglas Kosan, '52 lives in Beavercreek, OH since retiring for the third time. He previously was a navigator/bombardier/systems operator and squadron commander for the Airforce. He also worked for other Airforce operations.

John Spencer, '52 worked as a district timber management assistant, assistant district ranger, and research forester before retiring. John lives in St Paul, MN where he does picture framing and finds volunteer foresters to speak to children.

Conrad Orr, '53 lives in Missoula. He earned a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University and is still a veterinarian in Missoula.

North Cascades

Joseph Buhaly, '47 retired in 1983 as an extension forestry specialist for Washington State University. Prior to that, Joe worked for the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Joe lives in Tacoma, WA.

William (Bill) Moody, '57 lives in Twisp, WA. He is on the NSA Board of Directors. He also serves on the NSA Video Committee and Chairs the NSA History Committee. Bill retired as manager of the North Cascades base in 1989 and presently serves as a consultant on a fire management project in Mongolia.

Sheryl Kirchner's, '58 claim to fame was that he was missing parts of three fingers on his left hand and had a rather strange way of climbing the rope on the PT course. Sheryl, who lives in

JUMP LIST

San Diego, CA, is pursuing a business on the Internet. Sheryl reports that the latest phobia is "arachibrityrphobia". It is the fear of getting peanut butter stuck to the roof of your mouth.

Caetone (Les) (Dingo) Domingos, '64 retired as a principal at a middle school in Pasco, WA where he still lives. Les currently works as a construction manager for Mac.tec A/E Company in Pasco.

Dale Soria, DDS, '70 lives in Yosemite, CA where he is in private practice as a dentist. He previously worked in a migrant health clinic. When asked if he is retired, Dale said, "man, don't I wish – still 3 kids to put through college."

Matthew Dale, '98 has 24 years to go before retirement. Dale lives in Canby, OR where he currently works at the Port of Portland as a firefighter.

Redding

Fredrick (Fritz) Koepf, '57 retired from Southern California Edison in 1994 and currently works as a security officer for Washington Mutual Bank. Fritz lives in Huntington Beach, CA.

John Helmer, '59 lives in Danville, CA where he is the founder and owner of Caldwell Securities, Inc. Previously, John worked for Paine, Webber, Jackson, and Curtis in San Francisco.

Ralph Johnston, '63 lives in Boise, ID where he is self employed in sales. He previously worked for several years for the Forest Service and the Department of Interior.

Kris Kristofors, '64 is a supervisory classification specialist at McClellan Air Force Base. Kris, who lives in Benicia, CA previously worked in personnel at the Military Sealift Command, Pacific, and at Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

Stan Delong, '65 lives in Oroville, CA where he started his own business, Heritage Heating, in 1979. His company specializes in retail, service, and installation of woodstoves, gas stoves, and fireplaces.

Mike Daugherty, '65 retired in 1989 from the Forest Service. Currently, Mike lives in Quincy, CA where he is chief of operations for two fire contracting companies.

Andy Stevenson, '65 retired in 1988 as a district fire management officer. Andy lives in Mt Shasta, CA where he fishes, hunts, skis, and builds an occasional building.

Murry Taylor, '65 splits his time between Greenview, CA and Ft Wainwright, AK. He has 32 seasons as a firefighter; 27 as a smokejumper. Murry said that he somehow skipped through age 55 but plans to retire in 2000 at age 59.

Leslie Bagby, '66 lives in Willows, CA where he retired in 1991 as a district fire management officer on the Mendocino National Forest. Leslie currently works part time for the Glenn County Sheriff's Department.

Michael Brown, '68 lives in Merced, CA. He retired in 1988 from the Air Force where he was a survival instructor and parachute instructor. His last base was Fairchild AFB in Spokane. Michael currently works as a park ranger for the Merced Irrigation District.

Michael Silva, '72 lives in North Pole, AK and works as a fire management officer for the BLM fire service center in Fairbanks. He previously was an air attack boss in Fairbanks.

Paul Carter, '72 currently lives in Dunsmuir, CA.

Gary Williams, '75 lives in Kings Beach, CA. Gary has been a general building contractor in Lake Tahoe since 1985. He previously worked as a carpenter.

Stephen (Jo-Jo) Ingraham, '76 is employed by United Airlines in San Francisco, but reports that his real job is golf. Stephen

previously worked for US Air in San Francisco and the Red Bluff Fire Department. Stephen lives in Walnut Creek, CA.

Redmond

David Owen, '66 lives in Santa Rose, CA. He has almost 31 years of Federal service and plans to retire in a couple of years. He currently works for the Health Care Financing Administration (Federal DHHS) where he handles enforcement actions against nursing homes and handles life safety issues with hospitals.

William Jordan, '67 is the owner and broker for Bill Jordan & Company Realtors in Redmond, OR. He also owns the Deschutes Land Company. Previously, Bill was the director of the mental health division of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, OR.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Corner

Since the spring newsletter, the Association has added 94 members. Our total jumper membership now stands at 1209. Associate members number 86.

Over the past six months, your Association, through its Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, has made a number of changes to the system. Many of you are already aware that the membership office is now located in Auburn, California. I had been helping Jack for seven months prior to the April Association meeting so that it was logical to shift the operation to me when Jack retired.

I am continuing the new and renewal process pretty much as Jack established it. Carl reviewed Laird's letters to the membership and simply brought them up to date for the 1999-2000 term. I have kept the postcard renewal system, and the revised cards are very similar to the old ones.

If you receive one of Jack's C-47 cartoons from me, it means that your membership has slipped your mind for 60 days or so. I have written some personal letters in the past and will continue to do so as time permits.

If you decide not to renew, we would like to be privy to your thinking — especially if you are upset with us. We need to know how to improve the organization. We are all volunteers; most of us put a lot of time and considerable thought into association operations. Our thoughts, however, should never be the only thoughts.

On another front, we are phasing in new membership cards. They carry the new logo and will be imprinted with your name, your base, and the date of your rookie year. Each of you will receive the new card at your next expiration date.

The new membership cards are laminated and more permanent. The Executive Committee voted to remove the expiration date form the new cards. Your next expiration date will appear on your welcome letter or renewal letter. However, I failed to accomplish that when I prepared the first ninety letters I mailed.

The expiration date will also continue to appear on your newsletter labels. If you check the label on this publication, it will show when your membership expires — or expired (this could be your last newsletter!).

Life members will receive one of the new cards with your life membership number also imprinted. I hope to have these cards made up and in hand by December. New life members will also receive one of the life membership cards that Jack designed. It will be laminated. Carry the one you choose to carry.

Our non-jumper members will notice that we have dropped the Affiliate category. You are now all Associate members of the NSA. Your dues have been unified. When you renew your membership, you will also receive the new card.

*Smooth sailing,
Monroe "Spud" De Jarnette
Secretary*

New Members — Since 12 April 1999

Acord, Greg	RDD	90
Adams, Edward J.	CJ	46
Anderson, Steve	MSO	63
Andrews, Richard S.	RDD	68
Apicello, Michael G.	CJ	78
Barrett, Ron V.	RAC	88
Belknap, Scott A.	MYC	83
Borg, Ken	NCSB	64
Brizee, Harry A.	MSO 51	
Campbell, Neil	NCSB	91
Casey, Lawrence J.	MSO	46
Cherry, James L.	MSO	57
Clippinger, David E.	MSO	51
Coker, Stacy A.	MSO	51
Coleman, James M.	MSO	53
Cook, Leroy K.	CJ	64
Cramer, Don M.	CJ	59
Cramer, Fred	CJ	59
Cutler MD, Robert E.	MSO	51
Dailey, Cheri	MYC	99
Daniels, Douglas E.	MSO	61
Dethlefs, Theodore A. "Ted"	MSO	47
Dezur, Robert	MSO	49

Dooley, Davis S. "Dave"	RDD	73
Dramstad, Harold D.	MYC	87
Dunton, Melanie L.	MYC	99
Farinetti, Christopher	FBX	79
Flock, Lynn	MYC	68
Fredeking, William	MSO	52
Glades, Karl	MSO	41
Green, Richard	PNDL	45
Halligan, Richard O.	MYC	76
Haugaard, Lloyd	MSO	62
Herzberg, Randall R. "Rand"	MSO	74
Holmstrom, Robert	MSO	49
Honey, Raymond	NCSB	55
Humphries, Wally	FBX	90
Kubota, Stanely A. "Stan"	FBX	90
Kulinski, William "Bill"		Associate
Kurowski, Ed	MSO	61
Lawley, Gary	MSO	57
Lester, John M.	NCSB	60
Little MD, James R.	MSO	62
Lowman, Tom G.	MSO	67
Marshall, Darren L.	MYC	90
Martin, Alexis	MYC	99
McDonald, Steve and Shirley	FS RET	Associate
McDonnell, Michael J.	MYC	98
Mello, Steven J.	MYC	74
Mewhinney, Terry	CJ	64
Michalak, Robert E.		Associate
Mills, William H	MSO	65
Mrkich, Dale	MSO	77
Murray, John S.	CJ	58
Musquez, Inez		Associate
Olsen, Wilford "Ole"	CJ	50
Peet, Tom	MSO	92
Perez, Clemente		Associate
Perez, Humberto		Associate
Potter, Robert V.	MSO	51
Reed, Frank	NCSB	52
Rieck, Carroll A.	MSO	46
Robison, John	CJ	65
Rodriguez, Anna		Associate
Rodriguez, Robert		Associate
Rodriguez, Chris		Associate
Rodriguez, Gilbert		Associate
Rosenberg, Hugh	CJ	59
Schlachtenhaufen, Harold	CJ	59
Sievers, Bruce	MSO	60
Slagle, David	CJ	59
Slee, Tom M.		Associate
Snyder, Robert A. CJ		48
Speicher, James M.		Associate
Towers, Roger Dave	CJ	60
Trevino, Juan		Associate
Vaughn, Bill T.	RAC	69
Venable, Herman R.	MSO	60
Wegenka, Michael		Associate
Weinert, Larry	NCSB	68
Whitesell, Justin L.	MYC	99
Williamson, John	RDD	77
Worthington, Sandra		Associate
Yandell, Jim	CJ	55

VIDEO UPDATE

Smokeyjumpers — Firefighters From the Sky

The smokejumper historical video is in the final phase and will be completed at the end of November. It has taken us two and a half years to complete and was well worth the time and effort.

The video will show how smokejumping got started from 1939 to present day and will include historical footage plus numerous interviews with jumpers who served and continue to serve in this elite firefighting project. It will show our way of life, humor, and the tragedies.

The video will come in a hard plastic case with a full color insert. It will be 90 minutes long. More information about how to order and price will be in the January newsletter.

Initially the NSA will market the video ourselves to membership and on the web site. Later we will retain a distributor to market it throughout the US and internationally. It is our intention to broadcast it on television, such as Discovery or the History Channel within 1-2 years.

All donors that have contributed \$50.00 or more will receive one free copy. There are a number of donors that gave under \$50.00 and we remind you to donate the difference so your donation comes to \$50.00 or more. Otherwise you will have to pay for the video.

We would like to thank the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the countless jumpers who helped make this happen. We couldn't have done this without your support and donations.

A very special thanks goes out to Steve Smith, producer, who got so involved in this project — he probably knows more about our history than most of us.

Without Bill Moody's guidance, advice and technical support, this project would never have gotten off the ground.

Jack Demmons was there at the initial stage when many people thought this was a pipe dream. He provided invaluable help.

Eric Hipke provided outstanding help with his camera. We would also like to thank all the base managers and smokejumper project at Smithers BC, Canada. Laird Robinson, past president and Carl Gidlund, current president of their executive committees supported us when times got tough.

Lastly I want to thank all the video committee members whose timeless efforts helped to make this a reality. It is our desire that this video will help to be the glue that will bond the jumper community even closer together. It takes a special type of person to be a jumper and after viewing this video you will be proud to be a member of a small but elite group of men and women.

Thank you,

Fred Rohrback - chairman

Bill Moody - technical advisor

Jerry Timmons

Titus Nelson

Chuck Sheley

Larry Lufkin

George Cowan

Bob Dayton

John Harper

The National Smokejumper Association
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