

January 2000
Issue No. 26

NSA
Smokejumper

*This
issue*

- Moon Trees
- In Memory of Paperlegs
- If You Find Out ...

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Cover: **Wayne Webb, who recently passed away. Photo courtesy of Ray Beasley (McCall 52).**

The Prez's Perambulations



Fellow Jumpers and Associates:

During our annual Board of Directors' meeting last April your Association's governing body made a number of decisions, then committed us to this year's program of work called "Project 2000." Here's the course we charted, and our progress to date:

- **Eliminate travel stipends.** Until this year, Directors who had to travel to the annual meeting received a \$100 stipend to help offset their expenses. By unanimous vote, the Board did away with that payment, and Directors now pay all travel expenses to all meetings from their own pockets.

- **Establish base liaisons.** To help our members keep track of what's going on in today's smokejumper program and at other bases and to ensure we're a "big tent" Association, we've recruited liaison personnel to report on the activities at each base. They're now in place, and you've seen reports from most of them in this and the previous two newsletters.

- **Should the NSA be a lobbying organization?** After a spirited discussion, a majority of the Board decided that, as a non-profit, we shouldn't be. However, they directed us to expose for discussion in our newsletter and on our web page issues of interest to the smokejumper community. If you've checked out our web site and read recent issues of "Smokejumper," you'll know we're following that directive.

- **Improve records management.** We have a bushel of paper and photos that needs organizing, but our Office Manager Shirley Braxton and several volunteers are doing their best with the mess. However, we sure could use more skilled help.

- **Adopt a mission statement.** We did, and here it is: "The National Smokejumper Association is the "keeper of the flame" for smokejumpers and others associated with wild land fire fighting, maintains a roster of current and former jumpers, and preserves the history of aerial fire management."

- **Formulate a schedule for Executive Committee Meetings;** publish it in the newsletter. In an attempt to establish relationships with current jumpers and others who live near bases, we're bringing our Executive Committee meetings "to the field." Thus far, we've met in Missoula, Fairbanks and Boise, as well as in Seattle several times to review progress on the historic video. We intend to continue meeting at bases, and our schedule for the next several is Jan. 22, Redmond; April 1, McCall; June 14 and 15, Redding. We sure would like to see you at any of these.

- **Establish an Elections Committee and define a program of work.** We're smoothing out our procedures. Take a look at the election notice in this issue.

- **Establish Membership Committee;** define work program and present recommendations. NSA Secretary and Director Monroe "Spud" De Jarnette (Missoula 49) has taken on the overwhelming Membership Program. He sends solicitations to newly "found" jumpers, prompts us when it's time to renew, helps maintain our huge data base, sends membership cards, and more.

- **Redesign the NSA Logo.** Done. Rather than design a new one, we adopted the "flying Christmas tree," the logo on the pin given to graduates of Forest Service smokejumper training during the past 30-some years.

- **Initiate yearly social activities for jumpers,** prospective jumpers, families and media. We've not found anyone to ramrod this effort. Are you willing?

- **Collect e-mail addresses for directors and members.** This is an on-going effort. We have the addresses of all Directors who have e-mail, and are collecting members' e-mail addresses as we find them. We're publishing those on our web site, and have a special directory on that site for Executive Committee members should you wish to contact any of us directly. If we don't have your e-mail address, climb onto our web site and leave it for us and your fellow jumpers.

- **Establish a Historical Preservation Committee** to develop guidelines for preservation of documents, equipment, memorabilia, etc. Director Bill Moody (Winthrop 57) is leading that effort, and is recruiting members from each base to give a hand.

• **Monitor the budget and dues structure;** propose changes as appropriate. This is another ongoing effort, but you'll note we did adjust our dues schedule and membership categories last summer. Treasurer Jon McBride (Missoula 54) leads this. The Association will be making changes from time to time based on members' wishes for services versus our cash flow.

• **Complete a NSA brochure.** This hasn't been done. Do you have the energy and talent to take it on?

• **Survey membership** to determine talents available for NSA work. We've been doing that. Roger Savage (Missoula 57) is leading a corps of volunteers who are playing detective, trying to learn the whereabouts of a couple thousand "missing" jumpers whose address we don't know. We also have a small corps of folks who are reporting on the activities at jumper bases for this newsletter. Look for their bylines.

• **Review, amend as necessary, and adopt position descriptions for Executive Board members.** They've been written and are on file at our headquarters. Call for a copy, if you have any interest.

• **Solicit corporate and affiliate memberships.** In response to our call for volunteers, Bill Ruskin (Cave Junction 58) is drafting a fund raising plan that, we hope, will supplement dues as a revenue source when it's implemented. Stand by for details in subsequent issues of "Smokejumper."

• **Provide better service to members** by recruiting additional personnel for our headquarters operation and find a new headquarters. As mentioned above, we now have an extremely capable office manager, Shirley Braxton, who works Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in our new headquarters. That's in excellent space donated by Chuck Fricke (Missoula 61), with furnishings donated by Director Fred Rohrbach (Missoula 65). Roger Savage, Jon McBride and Wally Dobbins (Missoula 47) are the usual volunteers, but there's room for more!

• **Study newsletter operations and suggest efficiencies.** Based on your comments regarding the new content and format, it's apparent that most readers like the job that Director Chuck Sheley (Cave Junction 59) has brought to this newsletter as its managing editor.

Well, that's what we pledged ourselves to do, and what we've actually done. Now, here are a few other undertakings that weren't included in our Project 2000 mandates:

• **Hall of Fame established.** Director Ron Stoleson (Missoula 87) is working on a history of smokejumping that's to be placed on the web. He's also assembled a "Hall of Fame" for smokejumpers killed in the line of duty that you'll find on our web page. Check it out, and add information on the men, if you know it.

• **Trail rehabilitation project initiated.** The late Art Jukkala (Missoula 56), assisted by Director Jon McBride (Missoula 54) led a 17-member jumper crew that rehabilitated two long-neglected trails in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness. Despite Art's death during the project, they completed their work. The activity proved so successful, we intend to make this a continuing project. It will be funded, in part, by a dedicated fund set up at the request of Art's widow, Jeanine. Dave Owen (Missoula 51) has agreed to take the lead on future projects.

• **Historic video nears completion.** Work on it began two years ago, and the video that will trace the smokejumper program from its beginnings to today will be released soon. Many jumpers, led by Director Rohrbach, have taken part in the research and production of this excellent two-hour documentary.

• **Mann Gulch remembered.** As you'll recall from the last newsletter, the NSA and many of our members played significant roles in the August ceremonies commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the deaths of 13 smokejumpers in a ravine above the Missouri River in Montana.

• **Web site refurbished.** We've recruited a new webmaster, Director Dan McComb (Missoula 87) who's completely revamped our site on the Internet and is constantly adding new sections and making it more user-friendly. If you haven't visited it yet, do so soon.

• **Bylaws under review.** A team of Directors headed by First Vice President Larry Lufkin (Cave Junction 63) and assisted by Lon Dale (Missoula 69) and George Gowen (Missoula 54) are revisiting our bylaws to ensure we're operating according to Hoyle. The work is being done for the Board of Directors, but if you'd like a copy of their recommendations, drop us a note.

• **We offer condolences.** We're doing our best to express our sorrow and concern in a timely manner to survivors of jumpers who are gravely ill or pass on. If you learn of any members of our fraternity who are in those circumstances, please contact our headquarters with as many details as possible. We'll take it from there.

In summary, we're making progress on most fronts, thanks to an energetic gang of volunteers and some extremely dedicated Directors. If you'd like to hasten the progress of your National Smokejumper Association, consider this your invitation to get involved. We can always use some good hands with a Pulaski, water bucks, writers, researchers, artists - just about any skill. It's your Association. Help make it better.

Keep 'er into the wind, pard.

Carl Gidlund, President (Missoula 58)

Special Thanks from Smokejumper Magazine

Associate member Chris Rodriguez, brother-in-law of Ben Musquez Missoula56, recently made a generous donation to the Smokejumper Magazine fund in support of the efforts to upgrade the NSA's main link of communication with its members. Improved layout and an increase in number of pages, has upped the cost of production. From the positive reaction of the membership to this change, we feel that this is money well spent.

Smokejumper Magazine Thanks:
Alamo Electrical Products, Schertz, Texas
Chris Rodriguez—President.

LETTERS

SMOKEJUMPERS: A SENSE OF HISTORY, WHAT ELSE!

Dear Editor,

First of all, let me thank everyone who donates their time to any of the ongoing NSA activities, and yes, the new newsletter format is awesome. As smokejumpers, past and present, we really do share a unique heritage.

A few issues seem to hover around smokejumping as voiced in the current and prior newsletters and on the jumper/wildfire websites. Let me resolve them once and for all:

1. Square versus round chutes. Smokejumpers aren't really skydivers or Army paratroopers, so I guess whatever works is OK. Given the incredible safety record of smokejumpers and considering the hostile work environment, it seem that both systems are within acceptable measures of risk. However, I've read that the square chutes malfunction more often than the rounds, requiring higher jump altitudes and training on cut-away procedures. If true, that's a case for the taxpayer to say, "Use the round chutes. We appreciate you. We respect the job that you're trying to do and we want you to be as safe as you can be." After all, once the flight and the minute or so of the actual jump is over, you're back to being a groundpounder. If you like square chutes, feel free to skydive during the offseason.

2. BLM versus Forest Service jumpers. Who's better? Who has to meet tougher standards? Give me a break! If you're a smokejumper, you're cool no matter who you work for. It reminds me of when I was a rookie (Redmond 66) and Redmond was only in its second year. Whenever we were around older jumpers or jumpers from other bases, we were always being told how they were better than us. So I guess the legacy of the mouth continues. Funny, but our fires had a habit of going out, so just how good do you need to be?

3. Active smokejumper versus NSA. Guess what kids! Without us, former jumpers and NSA members, there wouldn't have been any of you. You're merely part of a group that has been arriving at wildfires by parachute since 1940. When I was a rookie, we quickly learned a sense of history. My heroes and those I held in reverence were those who had jumped before, even if it was only the prior season. Many of us jumped to pay our way through school, but we were definitely wildland firefighting professionals, and oddly enough, the fires that we jumped had a habit of going out. Smokejumping is currently being looked at on a national level with a possible consolidation and reduction of bases. If you are an active jumper and think that NSA members are just a bunch of old guys on a "nostalgia trip", continue on in that thinking because you'll soon become part of the nostalgia.

Within NSA is a tremendous reservoir of goodwill, much of it directed toward you, the active smokejumper. There's a lot that we can and will do for you. Just ask! Join us!

David Owen, Redmond 66

Hi Guys,

I enjoyed Jack Helle's feature *Ten-man Stick Out of the Ford Near Sun Valley*, or as I prefer to remember it, *The Bear Gulch Disaster*, since I spent a few leisurely days in the Ketchum Hospital with a broken leg. Thanks to Ken Wilder and other jumpers who tried, unsuccessfully, to visit my room in the hospital, but were slammed by the night security nurse because they were "loud, very dirty and had obviously been drinking." Thanks for those memories, too.

John M. Austin, McCall 57

Dear Chuck,

I recently heard that Richard A. "Paperlegs" Peterson died. I jumped with him for my first five years. He was really a great guy. The night before my first training jump in '53, he and several old timers dumped us rookies out of bed about midnight and sang *Beautiful Streamer* to us. It goes like this to the tune of *Beautiful Dreamer*:

Beautiful streamer, open for me, blue skies above me and no canopy. Shroud lines all tangled, round my neck wound, chest pack won't function and here comes the ground.

In case no one else writes this, the "Ned" class in McCall this year was extraordinary. Eight rookies tried out - four men and four women. Five made it - one man and all the gals! I was invited to the "Ned" party that tradition says they have to put on at the end of training. It was a real blast! All the trainers — John Humphries, Rick Hudson, Jerry Ogawa to name a few — came dressed as women! Great party! The dressed-up trainers put on a fashion show and really strutted their stuff.

The last issue of the NSA Smokejumper was the best yet!

"Wild Bill" Yensen, McCall 53

Dear Editor,

A few notes about the Murry Taylor column that appeared in the last issue of *The Smokejumper*.

1. While it's a laudable goal to make the NSA newsletter more relevant to today's smokejumpers, and there's hardly an issue of more interest to current BLM jumpers at least than "the Steve Nemore case," we all need to be cautious about using the newsletter as a forum to trash one another.

2. It should come as no surprise to anyone, including Murry, that the Boise Base Manager would be reluctant to discuss with a third party a personnel issue. Many of us prize the open and candid exchange of ideas, but discretion is surely called for in some cases.

3. It borders on arrogance for Murry to label "careerist" those of us who do not wholly subscribe to his view of the particulars of this case.

Grant Beebe, BLM Boise Smokejumpers

Readers are encouraged to get involved.

Send your Letters to the Editor:

US Mail: Chuck Sheley, 10 Judy Ln., Chico, CA 95926

E-mail: cngksheley@earthlink.net

send as e-mail not an attached document

Deadline for April issue is March 1.

OBITUARIES

We want to Know! If you learn of the serious illness or death of a member of the smokejumper community, whether or not he or she is a NSA member, your Association wants to know about it. We would like to express your Association's sentiments and spread the word to other members of our brotherhood. Please phone, write or e-mail our Missoula headquarters and/or our webmaster(webmaster@smokejumpers.com) including the name, address and phone number of the subject's next of kin. We'll take it from there.

James A. "Jimmie" Wescott (Winthrop 57)

James A. Wescott, Okanogan, died in the home of friends Aug. 28. For years he worked for the Forest Service and was an NSA member. After graduating from Central Washington University, Jim worked as a counselor for juvenile offenders. He later served as head of the Okanogan Juvenile Probation Office in Okanogan County in the late 70's and early 80's.

Wayne R. Webb (McCall 46)

Wayne Webb passed away Sunday, Nov. 7 at the VA Center in Boise, after a nine year courageous battle with amyloidosis and multiple myeloma. Dr. Stan Tate officiated the memorial services which were held Nov. 13, in Boise. Wayne was born and grew up in Weiser, ID. He served with the 517th HQ Co. 2nd Bn. Airborne in WW II and was at the Battle of the Bulge. Wayne married Wilma Jackson in 1945 and they raised three sons and one daughter. He went to work for the U.S. Forest Service in McCall in May 1946 and became parachute loft foreman and parachute technician. When Wayne retired in 1975, he had 300 jumps of which 175 were fire jumps. In 1990, he was extremely honored and deeply overwhelmed when the new Smokejumper facility in McCall was designated "The Wayne Webb Parachute Loft." Wayne is survived by his wife Wilma of Nampa, his children Terry, Randall, and Marsha, and grandson Joshua Webb.

Robert W. "Bob" Manchester (Missoula 46)

On Thursday, Oct. 28, Bob Manchester passed away surrounded by family and friends at the Missoula Hospice Hospital. After finishing high school in Massachusetts, he moved west in 1937 to pursue his passion for skiing and education at the University of Montana. Bob enlisted in the 10th Mountain Division in 1942 and took part in the amphibious landing in the Aleutian Islands. He was promoted to platoon sergeant in Italy in 1945 and was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. After the war, Bob returned to the U of M and earned a degree in geology and was a member of the Ski Team. He was a Smokejumper from 1946-53 and continued on with the Forest Service with a career in minerals and geology retiring as Northern Region Branch Chief in 1980. Bob is survived by his wife, Joanne and their three sons, Ken, Gary and Dale.

Richard A. "Paperlegs" Peterson (McCall 47)

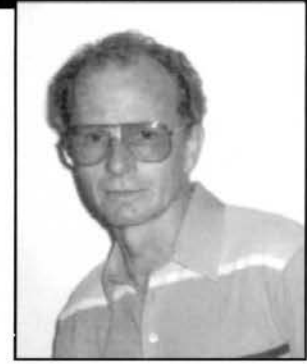
Richard A. Peterson passed away Tuesday, Oct. 19, at his home in Weiser, Idaho. Born March 3, 1927 in Gannett, he moved to Salmon in 1942. Pete left high school during his senior year in 1945 to enlist in the U.S. Army. He was with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Benning, Ga. Upon discharge, he returned to graduate from Salmon High School in 1947. Paperlegs joined the Smokejumpers in the summer of 1947 and jumped seasonally until 1955 when he went full-time with the Forest Service. He made over 200 jumps and was an NSA member. From 1962-1973 he worked as a parachute dispatch officer for Intermountain Aviation involved in special operations in Tibet, Laos, Vietnam, Cuba, India and Peru. In 1982 Paperlegs retired to his family farm in Salmon and resided there until moving to Weiser in 1994. He is survived by his wife Ridgely and daughter Martha.

Edward T. Case (McCall 46)

Ed Case died in his home Monday, Nov. 15. He was born in April 1927 and graduated from Caldwell, Idaho High School. Ed received his degree in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State and served in the Navy during WWII and the Korean Conflict as a ship's engineer. He jumped out of McCall from 46-48. Ed moved to Utah in 1958 where he started his Ogden-based engineering firm which he led for 27 years and took great pride in the buildings and facilities he helped design. He was president of the Consulting Engineers Council of Utah 1977-78. Ed is survived by his wife of 50 years, Dorothy and four children.

Sounding Off From the Editor

Chuck Sheley (Cave Junction 59)



With this issue of *NSA Smokejumper*, you will have the opportunity to see some more major changes in our newsletter/magazine which started with the October mailing. The changes which are most visible to the eye are the result of a great job of layout by Maria Greenlee (Fairfield, Wash.) who also does the same job with *Wildfire Magazine*.

The changes in content come from an effort to bring the "working" *Smokejumper* into the NSA. In the past year, I have had the opportunity to be on site at many of the bases and talk extensively with the active jumpers and spread the NSA gospel. One of my personal priorities is to **span the gap** between "us" veteran jumpers and the active jumpers. The actives want to know what the NSA can do for them. They want to read about contemporary issues. The NSA needs the current jumpers! If we do not incorporate these men and women, we will see our organization deplete by attrition. We are in a situation that is similar to what presently faces organizations like the VFW and Elks — a lack of new blood and the vigor that comes with these people.

In attempting to meet some of the needs of the current jumpers, we have incorporated the following:

1. Started a Base Liaison program which results in two way communication with each of the nine bases. Current base reports are printed in the "Touching All Bases" column.
2. Created a "Letters to the Editor" section where all members can express their opinions.
3. Printed (without taking an editorial stance) articles dealing with current issues: e.g., articles by Murry Taylor and Jim Veitch.

Now that I have said that, it has been skillfully called to my attention that Murry's article on Steve Nemore delved into a sticky area, that of employer/employee relations. There are always **two** sides to an issue, and management has its hands tied in not being able to respond to this type of article. This is a live and learn job! I'll get better as we go. After all, I'm getting plenty of advice. My apologies to the management personnel put on the spot.

At the same time, we still have our historical stories and reports to the membership from our president, webmaster, secretary and other officers. In this issue we

have added a column of spiritual nature by Tom Decker (Idaho City 64) called "Checking Your Canopy." I'm attempting to achieve a **balance** in the variety of articles we will print.

Each of you is encouraged to submit pictures and articles for publication. However, don't expect me to write the article. A minimum of 60-70 hours is spent just in gathering the material and getting it on a disc **prior** to sending it to Maria for layout. If you want to submit, please do the following:

1. Send your article(s) typed and edited to the best of your abilities.
2. If you e-mail a document, send it in the Rich Text Format (RTF) so that it can be read universally and is ready to transfer to the newsletter disc.
3. Write your name, address and **all** pertinent information (names of people in the photo, etc.) on the **back** of the photograph(s).

I have been surprised at the number of members who think that the NSA officers and this editor are **paid** positions. Shirley Braxton, who mans our NSA office in Missoula and is doing a terrific job, is the only paid person working for the NSA. All officers and board members are volunteers and assume their own expenses. This year, for the first time in NSA's history, the Executive Committee is meeting outside of Missoula at the various bases. All expenses associated with travel (airfare, meals, lodging) are assumed by each of the Executive Committee members. We are doing our darndest to make your membership monies stretch to get the most for you!

Lastly, we cannot continue to get *NSA Smokejumper* magazine to you at the current budgeted \$1.42 per issue. We will need to come up with a plan (i.e., - sustaining annual contributors to the magazine, getting advertising, a dues increase or a combination of all) if we are to continue with an improved and professional product. Any plan of action needs to be approved by the Executive Committee. I want your input and help! Give me some feedback, but please steer away from creating more work. I just don't have time to pick up aluminum cans! Contact me at: Chuck Sheley, 10 Judy Ln., Chico CA 95926. Or you can e-mail me at cnkgshley@earthlink.net or phone me at (530) 893-0436.

JUMPERS IN BUSINESS



Merle C. "Bud" Filler

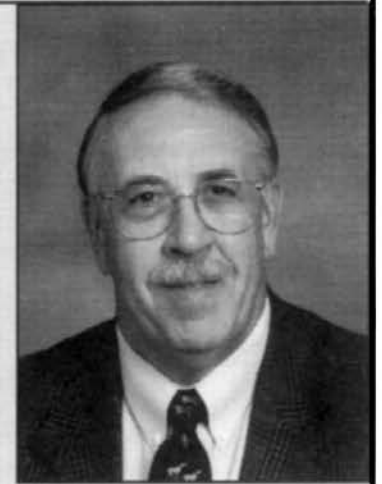
The author of "Two-Man Stick" advertised in the newsletter flyer jumped from McCall from 1952 to 1954. He graduated with a bachelor's in forestry from Pennsylvania State University, then earned a master's in that field from the University of British Columbia.

Bud, who earned the rank of captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, worked in sales management for 23 years with the Boise Cascade Corp. He's now a co-owner of the Filler King Co., a manufacturer of structural wood products, and also the Jump Creek Lumber Co. in Homewood, Idaho.

He and his wife Ellie live in Boise. They have five children, Jeff, Susan, Gwen, Ted and Andy.

ASSOCIATES IN BUSINESS

Business: SM & Associates
Owner: Steve McDonald, President
USFS 1962-1996
Author of Bitterroot and Baker 30



When Steve McDonald left the Forest Service in 1996, he had accomplished a lot. He had been Line Officer in all Forest Service Divisions and had Senior Executive Service rank. He had a Master's Degree in Forestry from the University of Idaho and a Ph.D. from Colorado State University. Modest and quiet, he said in a recent interview, "I'm proud I started out as a "ground pounding" forester. It gives you the right perspective. I did many things. The most interesting ones had to do with fire. Fire people are special, and the elite among them are smokejumpers. I'm proud to be an Associate Member of the NSA."

His small firm, SM & Associates of Ogden, Utah, provides consulting and training services on a variety of natural resource and business management subjects. It also does short-run book publishing. Prompted about his firm, he said, "Well, retired Forest Service specialists can offer a great deal. They are not well utilized by the Forest Service. I don't know why, but it's true. Hell, they sent me to Harvard and all over the world. Many others had similar training. The "associates" I have can do great work if you can get them off the golf courses! Right now, I am working with the National Arbor Day Foundation, a great outfit. All forestry people should support their tree planting efforts."

Asked about his books, he said, "It's virtually impossible for a new writer to break through with the major publishing houses. So, I self-published. It's fun, but it's a complicated business, especially the marketing. I always wanted to write, but earning a regular paycheck came first, until now. My books are about the west, natural resources, forestry, aviation and things like that. They are fiction, so I can put a "human face" on the characters and have them say all the things that we said in private, but not officially. The two books I have out now - "Bitterroot" and "Baker 30" - draw on my own experiences. I try to make the stories entertaining. The next one will be about this decade's tensions and skullduggery between politicians, the agency and the "enviros." I was a research leader in the Northwest during the early 90s, so I saw lots of that. Next year is an election year. It might sell!"

McDonald's books are available through NSA. The Association gets 40 percent of the sales price. He plans to show up at Reunion 2000 and says, "I'll be there to help you celebrate, for sure. I'll bring some books along, too!"

MOON TREES

By Jim Veitch (Missoula 67)

As the Apollo XIV command module rounded the moon in 1971 a smokejumper watched the earth rise on another lunar morning. Lunar Orbiter Commander Stuart Roosa had jumped at the Siskiyou Smokejumper base, Cave Junction, Ore. in 1954. With him aboard the lunar orbiter he carried symbols of hope for the future in a tiny packet of seeds. Upon returning to earth those seeds were planted by the Forest Service, to grow as symbols of our nation's spirit and accomplishments. Planted across America they were called Moon Trees. Two of the precious trees were planted at the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base to honor the astronaut and smokejumper. The jumpers cared for the little Douglas firs and nurtured them. The Forest Service closed Cave Junction for economy reasons in 1980. Both Moon Trees are now dead.

In October, the Forest Service concluded a study analyzing the economics of smokejumping. The study, called "The Aerial Delivered Firefighter Study", or ADFP, examined the advisability of "Centralized versus decentralized smokejumper bases" and the "Tradeoffs of helicopter versus smokejumper" operations. It used a computer game called a model to run hypothetical fire dispatches using ground, helicopter and smokejumper resources to compare costs. One simulation was based on the existing jump bases; another run simulated various jump base consolidations. The use of a computer model is nothing new and can be a good way to sort through complex problems. The tough part is making the game rules as close as possible to real life. Give the computer the wrong rules and you get bogus information, "garbage in, garbage out".

A Management Options Team (MOT) has been assigned to review the ADFP study along with comments and other considerations. In addition to cost issues the MOT evaluation criteria is to cover safety, effectiveness, implementability and "other factors" before making its recommendations on March 15th.

Take a moment to remember the fate of the Moon Trees at Cave Junction. All veteran and active smokejumpers interested in the future of smokejumping should consider offering constructive comments to the MOT, the Forest Service and to their congressional delegation. When alive the Moon Trees were a symbol of smokejumping's bold and exuberant heritage. Dead they are a symbol of Forest Service economics. Because the

MOT has been instructed to consider more than just money it is useful to review some of the important issues if you decide to contribute suggestions to the Forest Service or your congressional representative.

A. Safety. Smokejumping is a potentially dangerous occupation. Risks of wild land fire fighting are added to problems of parachuting into rough terrain. Smokejumpers reduce risks with teamwork and shared knowledge. Local knowledge of conditions is critical for safety. The Umpqua Forest of southwest Oregon is a good example. Some valleys of the Umpqua have

notorious spruce stands with down sloping branches. The Cave Junction jumpers knew which areas were too dangerous to jump because of treacherous trees and would select alternate landing spots for safety. That local knowledge has been lost from smokejumping since the cost cutting closure of Cave Junction. Now the Redding and Redmond bases rarely jump the forests of southwest Oregon. Likewise

Winthrop and West Yellowstone cover some of the most hazardous jump country but from years of experience they know their terrain. When a booster crew flies in they rely on that expertise. Without local knowledge jumpers would either be injured or abort many fire runs.

Lack of local knowledge concerning fuel types and conditions contributed to the deaths at Storm King in 1994. Another factor in the tragedy was poor liaison with local fire managers. Having a working relationship with the local managers can be crucial. The loss of local jump bases would diminish both fuel condition knowledge and a strong working relationship with local managers. These were lessons learned the hard way. Reducing local smokejumper knowledge would be a move away from safety.

Smokejumping is aviation; every jump is a flight into uncertainty. A Naval aviator (and veteran smokejumper) told me jumping into the woods compares quite nicely to sticking a jet on the back of a bucking carrier at sea. In aviation more flight time means added safety. Likewise more fire jumps improve crew performance; every fire sharpens skills making them better firefighters and safer jumpers. Statistics show that new smokejumpers sustain more injuries than experienced jumpers do. The wise use of smokejumpers dictates they are kept as busy as possible. Consolidation into a few large jump bases can

IF THE FOREST SERVICE WANTS TO EMPHASIZE PROFESSIONAL FIRE-FIGHTER MOBILITY IT NEEDS TO COUNTER INHERENT PROVINCIALISM. THE PRESENT JUMP BASE MIX PROVIDES A BRIDGE OVER PROVINCIAL ATTITUDES.

cause a slow rotation of the jump list and lower jump currency for the crew. Smokejumpers need action to be at their best. Does rationing out jumpers save money? A number of the jumpers on Storm King hadn't jumped a fire in over a year due to inaction.

B. Effectiveness. The ADFFF focuses on money instead of the mission: effective fire management. Smokejumpers provide a service and every service needs customers. The proper use of smokejumpers throughout the West impacts fire management "effectiveness." There are huge areas that don't use jumpers due to management inefficiencies. Some fire management officers don't understand jumper flexibility, many dispatchers don't know how to use them or order them. Some fire managers see smokejumpers as eating their cut of the fire funds: pie. As a national resource, jumpers are often overlooked or excluded from dispatch. Having a local jump base establishes liaison and credibility with surrounding forests. The present jump bases have worked hard to build relationships with local forests to maintain a customer base.

Base consolidation would isolate jumpers from their customers and reduce their use. California is a good example of the existing system. It is one of the most under-utilized smokejumper areas in the country with close to 25 fire helicopters on contract each summer. The helicopters are locally controlled and not highly mobile. Two smokejumper bases, one north, one south with 2-3 aircraft each could handle a large part of the initial attack that the 25 helicopters now handle. But the artificial barriers to smokejumper use in California are significant and deeply entrenched. Because the USFS is highly decentralized and regionally autonomous, smokejumpers have had little national support, and are viewed by many as a group with little to offer outside of small fire initial attack. Smokejumpers are not just small wilderness fire fighters but a highly flexible resource. Yet, due to misinformation smokejumpers are viewed as extremely expensive, and many fire managers are covetous of smokejumper funds.

The heart of the issue for effective nationally mobile resources is the dispatch system, not jump base consolidation. The ADFFF study manufactured a hypothetical, centralized dispatch system thus highlighting the real crux of inefficiency. Smokejumpers are already capable of flowing quickly to where the action is because of their long-range mobility. What the existing structure lacks is a coherent, centralized dispatch system like the one used in the computer model. Freed from artificial barriers like forest and regional boundaries, BLM vs. USFS, and the limited world-view of the local dispatch centers, smokejumpers could accomplish a huge amount of successful initial attack over a large area.

Until the national dispatch system changes the best way to foster smokejumper customers is with small bases that can liaise with surrounding forests. How often would dispatchers call for Redding Smokejumpers to jump the north side of Mt. Baker? Zero. They would

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE FOR EFFECTIVE NATIONALLY MOBILE RESOURCES IS THE DISPATCH SYSTEM, NOT JUMP BASE CONSOLIDATION. THE ADFFF STUDY MANUFACTURED A HYPOTHETICAL, CENTRALIZED DISPATCH SYSTEM THUS HIGHLIGHTING THE REAL CRUX OF INEFFICIENCY. SMOKEJUMPERS ARE ALREADY CAPABLE OF FLOWING QUICKLY TO WHERE THE ACTION IS BECAUSE OF THEIR LONG-RANGE MOBILITY. WHAT THE EXISTING STRUCTURE LACKS IS A COHERENT, CENTRALIZED DISPATCH SYSTEM LIKE THE ONE USED IN THE COMPUTER MODEL.

spend half the day organizing a local helicopter for the job. Kill Winthrop or West Yellowstone and jumpers will rarely be used in those areas. An historic example is the scant use of smokejumpers in southwest Oregon since the closure of Cave Junction.

If the Forest Service wants to emphasize professional firefighter mobility it needs to counter inherent provincialism. The present jump base mix provides a bridge over provincial attitudes. Forests are happy to call jumpers they feel are part of their team. For mobility to work smokejumpers must have their feet in the door. Remove any of the present bases from the equation and mobility will be thwarted, provincialism will be strengthened.

C. Cost. The ADFFF highlights that closing Missoula, West Yellowstone, Winthrop and Redmond would produce savings. But close reading of the study reveals that closing bases is not the best way to save money. In Montana-Idaho closing jump bases might save \$6 million but investing \$1 million in the existing bases would yield an improvement of \$24 million, a gain of \$18 million for investment instead of closure. In Washington-Oregon-California the same calculation yields a gain of \$22 million. The ADFFF's figures argue strongly that it is wiser to increase investment in the existing smokejumper base structure instead of closing bases.

The study also ran a series of tests using the existing jump bases compared to helicopter fire fighters. The results may have been unexpected. The ADFFF found that increasing funds to the existing bases by just \$2 million would yield resource savings of up to \$48 million in Montana/Idaho and up to \$59 million in Washington-Oregon-California. It shows that jumpers are a better value than helitack dollar for dollar. The Forest Service is now faced with a decision. On the one hand it might want to close jump bases, but increasing smokejumper funding is what its own study indicates as the smart move.

D. Implementability. Jump base closures should not be implemented because recommendations are based on a dispatch system that does not exist. Over the years smokejumper bases have bypassed provincialism by forging inter-base agreements for mobility and reinforce-

ment. Smokejumpers are presently capable of mobility primarily because a network of jump bases exists, despite the nature of provincial dispatch establishments. To destroy the jump base infrastructure prior to an overhaul of the dispatch system would be horrendously counter productive.

E. Other Factors: Balanced Scorecard. Federal agencies are required to strategically plan how they will deliver services to their customers, and measure performance. The Forest Service is now required to use the "Balanced Scorecard" approach to obtain a balance of both the operational and financial factors simultaneously. Financial performance has traditionally been used as the guideline of success but often managers sacrifice other factors in order to perform well financially. The ADFP reflects only the financial perspective. The MOT opens the door to fulfilling the broader Forest Service strategy of balanced performance by focusing on the customer, internal system performance and innovation. The ADFP recommendation for base closures can be seen as only one leg of four under a table.

Heritage. The historic North Cascades Smokejumper Base is targeted for closure. Winthrop is the birthplace of smokejumping and is important to smokejumpers and our national heritage. NCSB is an economic factor important to the Methow Valley and a tourist attraction that brings good will and support to the Forest Service... like Moon Trees. The Congressional delegation from Washington has previously demonstrated strong support for NCSB, reflecting the wishes of its constituents. The historical significance of NCSB is not a small matter and must be weighted heavily in any decision. Likewise the other jump bases carry the heritage of their homes, of many strong, young fire fighters willing to meet the challenge.

Deficiencies in the Study. A guiding principal of the study was to "examine the cost of institutional barriers to total availability, mobility, and flexibility" (Chapter 1, Guiding Principles). Yet the study completely ignores any such examination. It never examines the costs and inefficiencies of the "many local policies, institutional barriers, and cultural practices that prevent efficient use of initial attack resources" (Chapter 4, Findings). Instead it creates "an idealized centralized dispatch initial attack system, [that] could be more efficient in allocating resources than the existing more decentralized system," (Chapter 4, Findings). Extrapolation from the "idealized, centralized dispatch" to the real system is fanciful. The study makes it clear that the existing decentralized dispatch system is what needs first attention.

The study, "was charged with looking at a smokejumper program with fewer bases," (Chapter 2, Simulation Model, paragraph 3). This objective goes beyond the purely academic and seems to be the root objective of the study thus prejudicing its findings. Penetrating questions into the study might further illuminate this bias.

The study makes no distinction between fireline production value of helitack, ground forces or smokejumpers. This is unrealistic and skewed against smokejumpers. Smokejumper candidates are usually

selected from the best of the ground forces. Smokejumpers should be modeled as more productive fireline workers yet they are not. If jumpers had been weighted even slightly better a different outcome would have shown an even more dramatic comparison with helicopter crews.

The study criteria state every smokejumper initial attack time includes "45 minutes walking to the fire" (Appendix 3). Rappellers are only penalized with a 15-minute walk time. A closer approximation would be 15 minutes for both

smokejumpers and rappellers. A more realistic smokejumper walk time would have further increased the comparative efficiencies of smokejumpers.

Conclusion. The ADFP asks the wrong question and comes up with the wrong answer. Closing any of the present smokejumper bases would be counter-productive. First the right questions need to be asked about fire management on a national basis. The archaic fire management structure needs to be scrapped and streamlined to enhance the economic use of highly mobile, professional fire resources. Ironically the existing smokejumper base network is one of the few cases which presently by-pass the provincialism inherent in the system. Funding should be increased to smokejumpers to enhance the capability of nationally mobile resources at the expense of small provincial resources. The ADFP figures argue strongly that increased funding is the wisest alternative. Such funding would increase the pressure for systemic reform and dramatically increase savings in resource values.

Astronaut smokejumper Stuart Roosa passed away in December 1994. May he rest in peace. Gone too are his jump base and Cave Junction's Moon Trees. Who tended the symbolic trees when the smokejumpers were gone? Who guards the trees, and appreciates heritage enough nurture them? You can no longer protect Roosa's Moon Trees but you can still stand up for smokejumping. □

*Jim Veitch jumps out of Fairbanks for the BLM.
Contact: jveitch@gil.com.au*

**TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE ADFP STUDY
OR TO MAKE COMMENTS, CONTACT THE
MOT TEAM LEADER AT:
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FIRE MANAGEMENT OFFICER, ANGELES
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(626)574-5359 (626)574-5233 (FAX)
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Webmaster Report

Dan McComb, NSA webmaster

Want to stay current with the latest NSA news? Sign up for NSA's free announcement list. You'll automatically receive e-mail from us whenever we receive an announcement or a news item we think NSA members will find interesting. For example, current e-mail list members, about 150 of you, recently received e-mailed notification when the Forest Service released its draft findings in the ADFP study. List members were also among the first to know about the recent passing of three long-time smokejumpers (see the "Obits" page). List members will also receive announcements about the locations of NSA meetings, and invitations to special events. All in all, it's a great way for us to stay in touch with you, and we hope you'll sign up. To do so, please visit [Error! Bookmark not defined.](#), and click on the red "Listbot" button in the lower right-hand corner of the page.

Elections

for NSA Board of Directors

Chuck Sheley, Election Committee Chair

The Board of Directors is the governing body of the NSA and meets annually to conduct NSA business. Directors also have taken tasks as reviewed in Carl Gidlund's column. The terms of six members of the BOD will expire July 1, 2000.

Even though you would be obligated to an annual meeting, it is important to remember that you can be a valuable working BOD member regardless of where you live. In this day of e-mail, a functioning board can work with its members spread across the world. If you have ideas and are willing to roll up your sleeves, please consider joining the NSA workforce.

Election timeline and procedures:

1. January-March 1. Fill out personal information sheet. Must be in my hands before March 1.
 2. Personal information on each candidate printed in April issue of Smokejumper.
 3. Ballot sheet and envelope inserted in the April issue of Smokejumper.
 4. Ballots to be mailed directly to NSA Secretary Monroe DeJarnette by May 22.
 5. New Board members to take office July 1.
- Election results will be published in the July issue of Smokejumper.

Please call, write or e-mail for your filing papers.

Executive Committee Meeting in Boise a Success!

Your Executive Committee stepped out and tried a couple of new approaches in their November meeting. First, we met in the same location and time period as the annual Base Manager's Meeting. Thanks to Boise Base Manager Sean Cross, we were able to get a spot on that agenda to plug the NSA. It was great to meet the Base Managers and put some faces with familiar names.

Second, we hosted an evening get together at Louie's Restaurant. Notice of the event was sent out to jumpers within a 50 mile radius of Boise. It was a smashing success as 86 veteran jumpers, current jumpers, base managers, pilots and wives showed up. Many thanks to Leo Cromwell for all his legwork in making this event a great evening!

We plan on doing something similar at our January meeting in Redmond. We'll put a pin in the map and send out invites to anyone in a 100 mile radius. Mark Saturday, Jan. 23 on your calendar.

All interested people are encouraged to attend the Executive Committee's meetings. For the first time in NSA history, we are meeting outside of Missoula and are covering the bases. Please call or write your editor if you have any questions. Our schedule is listed below:

Jan. 23, 2000 Sat.	Redmond, Ore.	Exec. Committee
April 1, 2000 Sat.	McCall, Idaho	Exec. Committee
June 14, 2000 Wed.	Redding, Calif.	Exec. Committee
June 15, 2000 Thurs.	Redding, Calif.	Board of Directors

In Memory of “Paperlegs” Peterson

By “Wild Bill” Yensen (McCall 53)

I got to know Paperlegs on my very first fire jump, the War Eagle fire on July 11, 1953. I remember talking with him as we carried our packs up to the War Eagle Lookout when the fire was over. He was the old timer and I was the green rookie. Wayne Webb was fire boss.

Wayne got me into jumping because he wanted a pitcher for his baseball team. Going through training, I pitched four games for Wayne’s team in eight days. Wayne was loft foreman and got me into the loft to learn to pack as soon



as he could. While I was learning to pack chutes, good old “Paper” was on the next table giving me advice and a hard time. After packing and tearing down and repacking the required number of times, I finally put the cover on the chute and put it in my bin. I had endured needling from the “Paper” the whole time.

We get a fire call for Blind Creek way down near Sunbeam on the Challis. I had my first chute I had ever packed strapped on and snapped to my harness. In those days, the harness had snaps on the shoulders with little safety pins that secured it when you snapped the Vee rings on the risers to connect you to your chute.

We loaded up in the Ford and headed for the fire. It’s a long flight in the Ford and all the way down there good old “Paper” was sitting beside me asking questions like: “Are you sure you got all those stows straight? Are you sure you tied a good knot in that break cord? Are you sure you got all those flakes nice and straight? You know, sometimes we have crystallization in those Vee rings.” And on and on! He needled me all the way down there. When I got in the door, I was scared to death! I jumped and got the good old flat-pack opening shock, looked up and saw that white canopy and was so glad it worked that I didn’t even steer on the way down. I landed in a big pile of rocks and put my feet

in the only patch of dirt there. Paperlegs was as good at needling as anyone I ever knew.

The next year, 1954, we were doing our three practice jumps and "Paper" was my jump partner. As we hooked up in the Ford, he said, "I'll beat you to the ground." I said, "Sure you will. You are heavier than I am." He said, "I'll beat you by a minute!" We jumped and he pulled a slip. He went down like a rock! He let it go at about 100 feet and landed. When I floated in and landed, I asked, "How did you do that?" He told me, "Just climb three lines in front, grab the skirt and hang on till you get as low as you want. Then let go and it will reopen."

Years later, in 1972, Scott "Mouse" Warner (Redding 69) and I jumped a fire on Disappointment Creek. We got a 90 degree wind shift from what the streamers showed when we jumped. We were being blown into that steep 4000 foot canyon. I remembered Paperlegs' slip and figured I had better try it or I'd be spending the rest of the day climbing out of that canyon since the fire was on the ridge. I climbed those lines, grabbed the skirt and fell out of the sky. Just above the yellow pine tree tops, I let go and sneaked in between the trees and landed. I only had to climb about a hundred yards. Poor Mouse was farther out over the canyon. When he saw me slip, he did it too which saved him over a thousand feet of climbing. I had the fire lined and was getting some supper when Mouse finally showed up out of gas.

Paperlegs loved to gamble. I spent a week on project at Hard Creek with him in charge. We rolled up the old telephone lines that went to Granite Lookout. Every night after supper, we played penny ante poker using matches for poker chips. One night he said this little poem: "I'm a gambler. I'll gamble any man from any land, any game that he can name and any amount that he can count." Once I asked him, "What's the most you ever won?" He replied, "About \$800." Then I asked him, "What's the most you ever lost?" He said, "About \$1600." I laughed and said, "Well, what does that tell you!"

Paperlegs would flip for almost anything, even for a piggyback ride up to the chowhall. Several times I carried him and other times he carried me. We would flip to see who had to buy popsicles at the 3 p.m. break when working in the loft. You name it and Paper would flip you for it.

My last fire jump with Paperlegs was in 1961. We jumped a four-man up on Jughandle just out of McCall. Paperlegs, Pat Daly, Bill Strawn and I jumped out of the Twin Beech on Aug. 28. When we packed off carrying the old E-bags, we came to a fork in the ridge as it was getting dark. Paperlegs wanted to take the left fork and I wanted to take the right fork. We finally said, "You take yours and I'll take mine". Both

Photo opposite: Richard A. "Paperlegs" Peterson. Photo courtesy of Martha Gonzalez.

Pat Daly and Bill Strawn went with me and we thrashed our way down through the brush and downed logs to the Paddy Flat Road. Paperlegs finally showed up an hour later.

In my 30 years of smokejumping, Paperlegs Peterson has to be one of our most memorable characters. It was always a pleasure to be around him. He was witty, generous, kind, thoughtful, a gentleman and a real nut! I feel very fortunate to have known him and to have been his friend. □

CHECKING THE CANOPY

Tom Decker (Idaho City 64-65)

Okay, jumpers, remember your first jump? Sure you do!

I remember Carl Roselli's hand on my boot when they put the DC-3 full of eager "Neds" over the drop zone somewhere south of McCall. I had rehearsed everything right: good exit position, eyes on the horizon, step out smartly when the spotter told you to go! It all came together when Carl's hand came off my boot. I knew that it was time to go out the door.

Seconds later, the chute was open and there was an immense quiet as the DC-3's engine roar faded and it started to circle to drop the next jumper. It was then that I remembered to look up and check the risers and the canopy, just as I'd been told. Oh, the beauty of an open parachute overhead! Once you've checked it and know that everything is all right, you begin to enjoy the scenery and quickly look for a safe landing. The observant jumper might even see the wire mesh on his face mask.

The canopy overhead eventually is more than nylon and suspension lines. Friends count. Family relations are vital. That's how we make a living. The stuff of life! Maybe one's standing in the community is important. Heck, it's all important in some ways. But the canopy that most folks, jumpers included, count on is faith in a loving God when the chips are down. Checking one's canopy is akin to checking the Almighty. We need to look up once in a while to see if the canopy is OK. Is our stuff in order so that we can enjoy the trip? Can we make it to the jump spot? Can I do what's expected of me on the ground?

I hope you'll join me in checking the canopy from time to time. We all do it in one way or another even though we may not admit it. The canopy known as God is here for good reason and it's mighty good to know that He keeps things intact!

Tom Decker finished seminary in '69 and served Lutheran parishes and the National Guard before entering the Army as a chaplain in '75. He is now Post Chaplain at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz.

Preserving Our History

By Bill Moody (Winthrop 57)

The Legacy

"Sixty years has rolled by, and for the most we've done a pretty poor job of preserving our history. Our history is scattered all over the country: in old files, basements, attics, base or local museums, and unfortunately, to the dumps or incinerators when agency files were purged."

Those are the words of Bill Moody, newly appointed NSA History Committee Chairman.

"It's about time we try to recover and properly display and archive our 60 years of history before it is lost or rots away. We've evolved from crude, functional equipment to state of the art chutes, aircraft and fire fighting equipment. Fortunately, the NSA Smokejumper history documentary has captured some of this evolution on film. The Forest Service and BLM, for the most part, haven't done a really good job of preserving smokejumper history, so it's up to us," states Moody.

We've come a long way since those experimental jumps at Winthrop in 1939; from a few barnstorming pioneers to a highly, mobile and effective force of 400 jumpers.

The Committee

To accomplish one of NSA's primary goals, that of "preserving smokejumping history," a History Committee has been formed. Members include NSA Board members Bill Moody, Tom Kovalicky (Missoula 61), Ron Stoleson (Missoula 56), Steve Smith (NSA video documentary producer) and active smokejumper base jumpers/historians. Base historians include Dennis Golik (Redding), Leo Cromwell and Scott Anderson (McCall), Mark Corbet (Redmond) and representatives from Region 1 and BLM.

The Concern

Our history — documents, equipment, audio-visual media and memorabilia — dates back to the 1930s. These items are "historically very significant". Unfortunately, all of these items are subject to deterioration and will be lost forever unless they are properly stored according to archival museum standards.

All bases and many past and current jumpers possess items of historical significance, items worthy of preservation. Some items have already been lost or are on the "endangered list." Many "jump career souvenirs" are probably stored away gathering dust or mold. It would be a service to the smokejumper community to donate them to a museum for "proper burial" and for sharing with their "bros" and the public. Most of us, including Base Managers and the agencies, don't realize just how fragile our history is and the archival requirements to properly preserve it. Some donors are now requesting that "family donated items" be properly preserved (archival standards). Not only is the NSA concerned about preserving the past, but also the

future. Hopefully, arrangements can be made to obtain contemporary items for preservation as well.

Committee Objectives

The tasks of the committee are to:

- 1) Inventory what we have in terms of "historically significant" documents, audio-visual media, equipment and memorabilia.
- 2) Replicate "rare items" (i.e., 1939 jumpsuits) so the original can go to a designated museum/archive and copies to jump bases or local museums.
- 3) Identify a primary national archive for preservation of items.
- 4) Enter into an agreement with the Forest Service and BLM to obtain vintage/contemporary smokejumper related items for NSA preservation.
- 5) Assist bases with developing their own base museums and archives.

What Can You Do?

If you have any old souvenirs from those glory days when jumpers were jumpers and you would be willing to donate them to the NSA History Committee for transfer to a designated archive/museum, please let us know. **It will probably be a year before the items need to be sent.** If you're interested, please complete the following History Item Inventory and mail to:

Bill Moody, P. O. Box 262, Twisp, WA 98856
 Phone: (509) 997-5971
 e-mail: bmoody@methow.com

History Item Inventory	
Name:	_____
Address:	_____
Phone:	_____ Base (rookied) _____
e-mail:	_____ Year: _____
I would be willing to donate the following item(s). (Please give general description and year the item was used, produced, etc. Use the back of form, if needed.)	
Equipment:	_____ _____
Audio-visual:	_____ _____
Memorabilia:	_____ _____
Documents:	_____ _____

Video Report

The video has been completed. It has taken two and a half years to complete the project and is well worth the wait. The producer, Steve Smith, has shot over 120 hours of tape.

We have reviewed the video itself and it is an outstanding piece of work. Besides the fire and jumping scenes it includes numerous interviews with jumpers from the beginning to present day. It shows the everyday life we live as jumpers. The tragedies and humor are also well depicted.

Because of the wealth of the material, we have decided to format the video from 90 minutes to 120 minutes. Since we decided to lengthen the video, it will cost us more money to produce. We need more donations and ask all members to donate again whether you have done so or not. It is tax deductible and if you donate \$50 or more you get a free video.

A number of members have donated under \$50. This means you will have to pay for your copy of the video. To get a free video, donate the difference from your previous donation to equal \$50 or more, and you will receive a free copy. If you do this, please attach a note to your additional donation to make the accounting task easier.

The video will come in a hard plastic case with a color insert showing Smokejumping scenes, both on the front and back. **The cost of the 120-minute video will be \$19.95, plus a \$3.50 shipping cost for NSA members and \$24.95, plus a \$3.50 shipping cost for nonmembers.** Multiple copies can be ordered but you will only receive one free copy with your \$50 minimum donation. Any additional copies will be charged accordingly.

For those members who donate \$200 or more, you will receive recognition by name at the end of the video. For those that donated under \$200 you will receive recognition by name on the inside of the video jacket or cover.

If you donate after December 1, your name will appear in the April Smokejumpers Magazine, but not the video. Thank you!

Video Chairman- Fred Rohrbach

Technical Advisor - Bill Moody

Video Committee: Larry Lufkin, Chuck Sheley, George Gowen, Bob Dayton, Titus Nelson, Ron Harper, Jerry Timmons

Following is a list of those who have donated to the video between April 30, 1999 and Nov. 30, 1999. We thank them for their contributions.

Larry Adams - \$67
Donald Roifs - \$50
Thomas Kovalicky - \$25
James Morrison - \$100
James Manion - \$50
Loren Zimmerman - \$50
Edwin Burgon - \$25
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Ronald Barrett - \$70
Brent Woffinden - \$35
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Ashley Courts - \$50
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Edward Hotalen - \$50
Monroe DeJarnette - \$50
Ronald Frampton - \$100
Gary Hannon - \$50
Bob Dayton - \$500
Fred and John Rohrbach - \$5000

Floyd Bethke - \$50
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Craig Boesel - \$50
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Douglas Bird - \$50
I McNabb - \$50
William Laney - \$50
Matthew Allen - \$50
W. Bennett Conner, Jr. - \$50
Chuck Fricke - \$1,000
Daniel Thompson - \$50
Gary Drage - \$75
Ron Roberts - \$100
H.O. Wessbecher - \$25
Robert Snyder - \$50
D.A. Brennan - \$25
Armand Riza - \$10
Dayton Grover - \$35
Ronald Bennett - \$50
Ken Podkonjak - \$100
BLM Alaska Smokejumpers - \$905

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ATTENTION: VIDEO

TO ORDER THE VIDEO USE THE NSA MERCHANDISING ORDER FORM ON THE MERCHANDISING PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE. YOUR ORDER WILL BE FOR "NSA VIDEO" \$19.95 FOR NSA MEMBERS

...And If You Find Out, I'll Have To Kill You

Don Courtney (Missoula 56)

There was a time when certain jumpers coming back in the spring for another fire season were greeted with, "Where ya been? Secret mission for the CIA?"

You weren't supposed to say where you'd been, of course. We usually said that we'd been working in Alaska or Maine or some other place out of the way. Which was a pretty dumb thing to say when you were tan from the waist up, had jungle rot on your feet and were twenty pounds below your best weight. Whatever the cover story, it drew a big smirky, "Har, Har, Har!"

It got so that we'd just smirk back and say, "Can't tell you. And if you find out, I'll have to kill you." The first part was true and the second part was balderdash. But it usually got an uneasy laugh, the subject got dropped, and we'd get on with the fire season.

All the coyness was more than just a game or a fireline joke. A covert operation is like a premature baby: the odds are stacked heavily against it from the very start. The baby needs an incubator if it is to live, and without the incubator, the baby dies. The covert operation needs secrecy and without secrecy, the covert operation gets stomped and dies. Since the operation is built around people, a lot of human beings get stomped and die, as well.

CIA specifically invited/recruited smokejumpers into the covert operations business for several reasons: 1) We were damned good looking. 2) We didn't get airsick. 3) Off season, most of us weren't doing much anyway. 4) We were strong and fit. 5) We knew a lot about parachutes and about throwing people and things out of airplanes. 6) We were not active duty military, so our direct involvement in an affair of arms didn't constitute an official act of war. 7) We weren't trained to work by the book and could improvise. 8) We didn't need heavy supervision on the job. 9) We were deniable; that is, if the President chose to say he'd never heard of us, he could do so and get away with it, maybe. And 10) Did I mention that we were damned good looking?

The money was good. Not like winning the lottery, but plenty good. I don't remember what it was, but I do recall that it was about a Major's/GS-11's pay. There was danger-pay on top of that, so much an hour for the time spent over unhealthy territory. It was all taxed, more than a major's pay was taxed, because less of it was tax deductible. The deal was, you filed your taxes on everything except your secret stuff and sent it off. You then handed copies of your tax forms to your case officer (your CIA contact/boss), and sometime later, he handed you back some tax forms in another name, which you signed in that name, and came up with some more tax money. Every dime of it. No breaks.

In the early days, the CIA connection took the form of short-term contracts: employer not named on paper, no copy of the contract left in the employee's hand. You'd work a couple of months, and then go away and get called back a few month later. Or not, depending. The job was by invitation only, a phone call in the night. Jumpers already on the job had blackball control over who was added to the crew, which was very small. If a name came up and somebody didn't want to work with that guy, he never got called. It was spooky, fun stuff. "Can't tell you where you're going, can't tell you who you're working for, can't tell you what you'll be doing."

For example: First class (!) tickets to Tokyo, the name of a hotel, a phone number to call. More first class tickets to Okinawa, another phone number to call. Onto an Air Force C-130 wearing Air Force flight suits. Off that airplane into 110 degree temperature, 98 percent humidity, condensation dripping off the cold C-130 making the ramp slippery. Met by a guy who says, "Welcome! While you're here, don't tell anybody where you are or who you're working for or what you're doing." And I just couldn't help it. "Where are we," I asked, "and who are we working for and what are we doing?" And honest to God, I'm not making this up, but he answered, "I can't tell you." We all laughed like hell, but he meant it. He was a very good

guy, by the way, very sincere and dedicated.

We got used to it. I remember getting shot at by a 12.7 mm gun and reporting the gun's location when we got back. Three or four days later when we were getting ready to go back to the same area, I knocked on the door of the ops room to ask, "Where was that gun, again?" The kid in there told me, "I can't tell you that." I knew that he would say that! We all growled and bitched and laughed about it. We weren't supposed to know ANYTHING, and no one was supposed to tell us anything. There was a very good and simple reason for this because there was a distinct possibility that we'd get shot down and captured. What you don't know, you can't tell. Nothing personal. You have to keep the incubator intact while the baby develops and grows.

There was a lot of hard work, long hours and some danger. It was great fun. Then, somebody did get shot down. The casualty rate of our little smokejumper crew suddenly became about that of an infantry unit in the first wave across the beach. Some Air Force puke, a major, said, "Well, that's what they get paid for." Some smokejumpers did a dance on his head, and the major got transferred.

After the funerals, a carload of us driving back to Missoula decided that we'd had enough and were finished with this stuff. Never again. No way. We all agreed and shook hands on it. But every one of us went back again that fall. This time we knew that we were mortal. We were dead serious. Those first losses were just that, only the first.

Some of us worked awhile and then left. Others stayed for years, moving into various other corners of the clandestine world. CIA worked us hard but treated us fairly. Over the years, we were

Continued pg 18.



Low-mileage Marine, a few months before his first Secret Mission.

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to Mr. Peiffer's editorial in issue #25 of the NSA Smokejumper. First of all, if he is not interested in remaining a member of the NSA, I'm wondering why he's still reading the NSA newsletter — not to mention why he's submitting letters to the editor. Secondly, I'd like to make it clear to Mr. Peiffer that none of the Smokejumpers who served overseas as civilians from 1953-1975 (not 58-76) were draft dodgers or soldiers of fortune. In the last two years, six of the aforementioned group have crossed the Great Divide, and all were honorably discharged from the military. Their collective military service spanned operations from landing on the beaches of Normandy through the S.E. Asian War. The CIA recruited Smokejumpers from all the bases in the U.S. including Alaska. The recruiting was coordinated with USFS and BLM managers, and in many cases (in the late 50s and 60s) was off-season work where jumpers were simply furloughed for a period of time from their respective bases. While serving in this capacity, it might interest Mr. Peiffer to know that ten jumpers died. Many others returned to the U.S. to pursue and retire in fire management positions with the USFS and BLM.

Finally, with regard to Mr. Peiffer's suggestion concerning wearing name tags at the Redding reunion, I certainly hope he's sporting one so I can identify him and clear up some of the unwarranted misconceptions he seems to have about what I and others consider to be a significant part of smokejumper history.

Thomas (Shep) Johnson, McCall, 1956

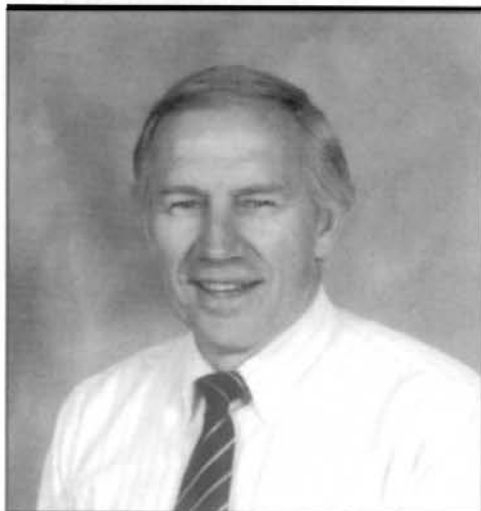
always tired, frequently angry and sometimes scared. But we were never bored. Wherever we were in the agency, we tended for the most part to stick together and to look after one another - an unofficial smokejumpers' protective society. As smokejumpers within the agency culture, we were respected. There remain to this day identifiable traces of the smokejumper influence upon CIA's operations and attitudes.

We weren't an outlaw mob (a Wild Bunch, maybe). We weren't a wart on the butt of the

smokejumper organization. We weren't mercenaries. You don't have to have a Pulaski in your hand or a uniform on your back in order to pay your dues and serve your country with honor.

Some of us were old when we finally got back to the mountains and forests where we started. Some of us — perhaps 20 or 25 percent of us — didn't get back at all.

As required by law, the above article was reviewed by the CIA and approved for publication as containing no currently classified information.



Member Profile:

PAUL TAG (Missoula 1960)

By Carl Gidlund

Paul Tag's first plane ride ended abruptly some 1,200 feet above the Lower Sherman jump spot a few miles south of Missoula's Aerial Fire Depot.

Thirty-nine years and 2,214 jumps later, the 60-year-old president of the Ekco Housewares Company's Bakeware Division looks back on smokejumping as "the best job I ever had."

He's qualified to make that judgment. Since leaving the aerial fire project in 1962 after three seasons in Grangeville and Missoula, Tag's career has taken him through several companies, across the country, to Mexico, and finally to Canton, Ohio.

If that professional life sounds relatively prosaic, his extra-curricular life has been decidedly different. As captain of the United States' Skydiving Team, Tag led the Americans to two world championships, at meets in South Africa in 1974 and West Germany the following year.

His fellow skydivers obviously recognized him for more than his parachuting abilities. Tag was elected Western Conference Director of the U.S. Parachute Association in the late 60s, served as the association's national president from 1970 through 1973, then was board chairman the following two years.

Smokejumping obviously kindled his interest in parachuting, an interest fed during two years at the University of Montana where he joined fellow off-season smokejumpers in the school's nascent parachute club.

He carted that hobby south in 1962 when he joined Intermountain Aviation in Marana, Arizona as a loft technician. Tag was a test jumper there and also joined a Tucson skydiving club with many experienced military free-fallers who helped him perfect his free-fall style.

While on his way up at Intermountain, where he eventually became engineering manager for a crew that modified avionics for BLM, Forest Service, military and commercial aircraft, Tag earned an aerospace mechanical engineering degree from the University of Arizona.

Since leaving Intermountain in 1971, he's managed a Chicago firm that made coatings for electronics, an industrial design firm, also in Chicago, helped perfect high speed automation equipment, and was general manager of a glass company.

He's been with Ekco since 1989 as manager in Chicago, director of a start-up branch in Mexico, then back to Canton where he's lived since 1992.

His wife, Mary, is a retail store manager; daughter Leslie, 32, an electrical engineer with the Molex Corp., Chicago; Chris, 30, a student counselor for Marquette University, Milwaukee; and Stephanie, 15, is a high school sophomore.

He's excited about a pending merger with Corning Consumer Products Co., ("We'll have seven of the top 10 brands in kitchen tools," he says) and retains the enthusiasm of a rookie when he talks about his smokejumping days.

The job had all the challenge a guy could want, and smokejumpers are probably the best bunch I ever worked with," he says. "I can't wait to see them in Redding next summer."



Reunion 2000 Redding?

Life Member Ben Musquez (MSO - 56) with Cowboy Cheerleader at an October game. Ben is the NSA leader in recruiting new members. Don't be surprised if she shows up in Redding June 2000!

Reunion 2000

Important Information

The following information was received from Scott Warner (Redding 69) who has spent endless hours working on lodging and meals for Reunion 2000. Scott is just one of the hard working members of Dave Nelson's (Missoula 57) committee which has already been meeting for over a year in planning what we hope will be the biggest and best Smokejumper Reunion yet!

Beginning January 10, 2000, you can make your room reservations for special Reunion 2000 room rates. **Be sure to mention the "National Smokejumper Reunion" for the special rates.** The Reunion Committee encourages attendees to make their reservations now as Redding is a popular summer vacation spot and there is another big event (upscale Harley aficionados) in town the same weekend. Redding's "Hotel Row" is just a few miles away from the beautiful Redding Convention Center which is located right next to the Sacramento River. **Call the hotel/motel directly. Do it now!**

A complete Reunion 2000 mailing will be sent during the month of January.

If anyone would like a booth or table to show their product or has a book for sale (other than authors selling through the NSA merchandising table), please contact Jerry Vice (jvice@aol.com, or fax at 530-243-1251).

Red Lion Hotel	Full service/Reunion Headquarters	(530) 221-8700	\$69
Holiday Inn	Full service/nice	(530) 221-7500	\$89
Oxford Suites	BF, beer & wine bar, pool, sauna	(530) 221-0100	\$70/\$75/\$85*
Best Inn /Suites	BF, pool, sauna	(530) 221-4472	\$63/\$68*
Comfort Inn	Nice National Chain	(530) 221-6530	\$59
River Inn	Walking distance to Convention Center	(530) 241-9500	\$50/\$60*
Marina RV Park	On the river, close to Convention Center	(530) 241-4396	\$19.80

*Lower prices indicate 1 bed (1-2 persons); next indicates 2 beds (2-4 persons); last indicates more than 2 beds.

Touching All Bases

WEST YELLOWSTONE

By Chuck Flach (Missoula 68)

One of our rookies, Marty Mitzkus, from Fort House, Mont., got to every Forest Service base in his first summer. In addition to West, he made it to Missoula, McCall, Grangeville, Redmond, Redding and Winthrop.

West Yellowstone has always been an interagency base, in funding and ownership at least. However, for the past two years, we've had our Bureau of Land Management "bros" on our regular list. Most of our loads are now mixed.

Ashley Sites got a promotion this summer. He took over the Yellowstone Parks' smokejumper squad leader job that the Park has reinstated after not funding it for a few years. Jon "Younce" Leland got a promotion too, and is training to learn Bill "Chicken Man" Werhane's position. Trouble is, no one knows for sure what that is!

On one fire, we saved Meg Ryan and Dennis Quaid's ranch, and they sent me an autographed picture.

Right now, Chicken Man and Mark "Duffa" Duffy are in Chicago climbing trees. When we import goods from China, crates, pallets and other wooden packaging should be treated so no bugs can sneak past Customs officials. However, some longhorn Asian wood beetles have hitched rides and moved into neighborhood trees.

Apparently, Chicago has been hit hard, and the story is that there are now clearcuts in some neighborhoods. The crafty beetle is tough to stop, so when there's a dirty job to do, who you gonna call? Smokejumpers!

New York is now getting with the program. Central Park also may become a clearcut. You'll no longer have to travel to a national forest to see one.

Some West jumpers spent October in Minnesota's Boundary Waters. A giant July 4th windstorm had flattened about a half-million acres of timber. Find the blowdowns, and that's where the fires will be next year.

The Superior National Forest is working feverishly to prepare prescribed burns for next spring. Those will combine with lakes to make buffers or corridors to blackline and backfire and that, they hope, will stop big gobblers.

We also did some blasting there, taking big glacier rocks from ski trails.

But our most controversial project was blasting red pines in a plantation set up by the Civilian Conservation

Corps boys in the 30s. The trees are "too perfect" for the Chippewa National Forest biologist and he had us knock off the upper part to create snags. They're to be "condos" for cavity nesters, including owls, flying squirrels, pine martins, butterflies, etc.

We just had an addition built onto the loft at West. It includes a 20'X30' meeting room and two offices plus a bathroom, service room and covered outside entrance.

We have new windows too, so our loft foreman Bill "Bright Eyes" Craig won't have to squint so much. He'd already removed lenses from the fluorescent lights.

We also built a snow roof over the pilots' office trailer. Now, Greg "Melon Head" Anderson, Chicken Man and Younce won't have to drive to West quite as often this winter to shovel snow off the roofs.

If you know me, you know that I could go on for pages, but we're not bleeping cans around a hunker fire on OT, so I'll shut 'er down for now.

MISSOULA

Wayne Williams (Missoula)

Six Missoula jumpers are assigned in the southeast — four assigned to a Type I team on standby and two working as Class III Fallers in various southern states. In addition, we have two people climbing trees in Chicago working with the Asian Long Horn Beetle invasion program. We are gearing up to send people to Mississippi in January where their assignment will be dormant burning and fire suppression."

ALASKA

Murry Taylor (Alaska)

I'll tell you a quick story. Rumor has it that the Alaska crew had a busy tour down south. Most averaged 8 firejumps. Some worked until the first of November on either Rx fire or actual standby in the case of Grand Junction. Our Alaska season was very busy as I mentioned before, but went dead when the majority of the crew (50) went south in late July. I got stuck on the hostage load for five weeks of rain and daily donut flips. It wasn't all that bad since it gave me time to work on another "final" editing of Jumping Fire. I don't have the

final stats for the season, but I know it was a full and busy one with minimal injuries.

My big story is about George Steele's retirement party held in Boise, Sept. 25. Man, was that a great blow-out. We also had Rod Dow there to celebrate his retirement (although I'll believe it when I don't see him in Alaska come spring.) John Dube dropped in on his way back from hiking around in Colorado, and we had some good words for John also. Dow had "wifey" Lisa and young Dow—Julien, in tow at five weeks old. The kid is beautiful and that's the truth.

We held the grand affair at the Lonesome Dove Ranch near Eagle. I hauled an entire pickup load of firewood over from my place and we burned it all before the sun finally came up. So many good folks showed up to pay respects to George and Kathy, et al. To name a few: Erik the Black, Willie Lowden, Tony Beltran, Mike Clarkson, Jeff Bass, Bert Mitman, Jim Raudenbush, Mike Bradley, Chip Houde, Mike McMillan, Davis Perkins, Bob Steiner, Trooper Tom, and about half the Boise crew. A group in Grand Junction couldn't make it, but called on the phone and everyone yelled at them and we couldn't hear a word they said. Mike Fitzpatrick made it over from Portland. Leo Cromwell, Mike Cooper, and Mark Broudom made it down from McCall. Jeff Fereday and Marty Gabica, old McCall bros, were also on hand. Donna Crienschek and Beth Greycloud were there, too. If I've forgotten anyone, I certainly apologize. We had about 100 folks total, good food, and check this, we ran out of beer around 11 p.m. It was a near crisis. And all that beer, gone so quickly. As Erik the Black put it, "Well, what the hell did you expect."

We showed slides for two hours. We had some of the T-Hangar days, mid-seventies fires in Alaska, the famous Twin Lakes demobe, early pig parties, and long lost girl friends. I had no idea that there were photos of some of that stuff. I think it took us all back. It certainly did me. As time passes I see more and more clearly just what a powerful and fine thing this smokejumping circle has become.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday season from the Alaska Smokejumpers.

REGION 5

SEASON OVERVIEW

Arlen Cravens (Redding)

The purpose of the following report is to highlight the 1999 season. It aims to shed light on the Region Five Smokejumpers and their accomplishments on the fireline, the project site and out in the community. The report will provide insight into the Smokejumper Program as it stands today and offer a preview of where we will be tomorrow.

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER PROGRAM

The National Smokejumper Program takes pride in its ability to safely and rapidly deliver a large number of professional wildland firefighters to emerging fires. The scope of the program is extensive; with large payload, high speed, long range, economical aircraft providing smokejumpers the ability to boost distant initial attack forces, often within the same burning period. This augmentation of forces can be a seamless process and, just as it has proven invaluable for six decades, fire managers once again reaped the benefits of the program in 1999. During the 1999 season, smokejumpers were in heavy demand in Northern California. The Redding base hosted jumpers from every base in the country; even visiting jumpers from Russia and Canada provided assistance. The combined efforts, without question, produced numerous successes and undoubtedly resulted in the savings of millions of tax dollars as well as the reduction of countless hours of firefighter exposure.

The 1999 National Smokejumper Program comprised about 404 smokejumpers, divided between the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The Forest Service provided approximately 270 smokejumpers staffing seven bases, supported by 13 aircraft. The Bureau of Land Management contributed about 134 smokejumpers operating out of two bases with the support of nine aircraft. In fact, as the overall firefighting militia becomes smaller, the demand for smokejumpers is increasing; there often are not enough jumpers available to fill requests. Several requests for jumpers went unfilled this season resulting in large expensive fires that exposed thousands of firefighters to great risks. The Aerial Delivered Firefighter Study (available on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/adff/>) highlights the great value of aerial delivered firefighters. The study further suggests that a small increase in presuppression dollars invested in the Smokejumper Program would produce tremendous savings in tax dollars for the American public. In addition to the financial benefits, an increase in the number of smokejumpers, regardless of location, would provide land managers a greater initial attack force to meet both their fire suppression responsibilities and land management objectives.

The National Smokejumper Program is committed to being the most efficient work force in the nation. To that end, smokejumpers actively seek work in support of the agency's greater agendas (i.e., beyond fire suppression) whenever possible. In 1998, the last season that figures are available for, smokejumpers contributed over 4,670 person days of direct prescribed fire support in six Forest Service regions. Additionally, working in eight of the nine Forest Service regions, jumpers provided another 3,020 person days in support of the agency's mission other than wildland fire.

REGION 5 SMOKEJUMPER PROGRAM

Since 1957 the Region Five smokejumpers have been proudly "Caring for the Land and Serving People." The 1999 fire season was no exception. As the calendar year started with the month of January, so too the R-5 jumpers started by providing support for prescribed fire operations in Region 8. In the months that followed, many units cashed in on the benefits of employing this highly motivated, safe and professional work force to support their land management objectives.

A warm dry spring left California with prime conditions for a potentially busy fire year. In preparation for this, the Region Five Smokejumpers held their first refresher on March 15 and spent the following two weeks sharpening a variety of job-related skills and focusing on the fire season ahead. Subsequently, 20 smokejumpers were placed on the fire list and made available for any early season fire activity. Having half of the crew prepared early proved useful as the first fires in Region Five were jumped on May 29, and by the afternoon of May 31, the entire base was jumped out. This included nine new smokejumpers who had just barely completed their rookie training.

Certainly, lightning ignited fires located in inaccessible terrain are traditionally what smokejumpers have been used for. The jumpers' abilities to manage these fires with limited support, while filling all of the Interagency Command System positions and doing so in a safe and professional manner, are recognized throughout the firefighting community. A good example of this occurred during the latter part of July during the 1999 season. The Klamath National Forest experienced a lightning storm that ignited some 40 fires. Smokejumpers safely delivered 48 firefighters to 13 of the highest priority fires, successfully meeting control objectives.

If the fire season had ended in mid-August, the Redding base would have recorded an average season. It did not. As the sun set in the west on Aug. 22, cumulus clouds began to build over the North State. During the darkness and into the morning light of Aug. 23, Northern California experienced an intense dry lightning storm. Before dawn many down strikes had grown into substantial wildfires. The Plumas National Forest, with almost clairvoyant foresight, ordered jumpers as the sun was setting on Aug. 22 and, consequently, received the first service. By 8:30 a.m. hrs, three jumpers were working on the Foreman Incident and had it contained within five hours.

The storm produced hundreds of fires. Requests for smokejumpers to staff these fires began to stack up. As the sun rose in the east, the Lassen National Forest was

quick to act placing the next orders for jumpers. Responding to the Lassen's request, the second load of Region Five jumpers lifted off the tarmac of the South Lake Tahoe Airport where they had been prepositioned and were assisting the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit with the urban lot fuels reduction efforts. There were several successes to be had on the Lassen, the Rock Fire being particularly noteworthy. Smokejumpers were the first crew to staff this 45 acre fire and working through the night with local resources picked it up. The Rock Fire had the great potential to erupt into a major incident and can be counted among the "saves" of 1999.

Region Five received assistance from Regions 1, 4, 6 and BLM Boise jumpers on Aug. 23. Regions 1 and 4 sent booster crews that were quickly deployed. Region 6 and BLM Boise sent IA smokejumpers to access the north and east borders of the state, attacking fires on the Modoc, Shasta Trinity and Plumas National Forests. All

told smokejumpers took action on 14 fires delivering 59 firefighters in Northern California on Aug. 23, but the sheer number of fires was far greater than the number of jumpers available. More smokejumpers were subsequently called in from other regions to help fill the remaining requests, but none were made available until Aug. 25. On the 25th, an additional four fires were staffed with 41 jumpers. The dry conditions and delayed initial attack permitted several fires to become quite large;

therefore, 19-person crew action jumps were undertaken and became the order of the day. Also, the Stein Fire on the Klamath National Forest was staffed by 38 smokejumpers on the same afternoon in a successful attempt to halt two emerging spot fires.

All things considered, the 1999 season was tremendously safe and productive for the Region 5 Smokejumpers. As the millennium comes to a close, the 40 smokejumpers based in Redding are more than ready to engage the next 60 years of smokejumping. Our goal is to continue to evolve and meet the challenges of the future while, at the same time, continuing to fulfill our mission of providing highly trained and self sufficient firefighters to requesting land managers as rapidly as possible.

The table and chart below provide a brief overview of smokejumper activity within Region 5 during the 1999 fire season.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THE 1999 SEASON WAS TREMENDOUSLY SAFE AND PRODUCTIVE FOR THE REGION FIVE SMOKEJUMPERS. AS THE MILLENNIUM COMES TO A CLOSE, THE FORTY SMOKEJUMPERS BASED IN REDDING ARE MORE THAN READY TO ENGAGE THE NEXT 60 YEARS OF SMOKEJUMPING.

SMOKEJUMPER ACTIVITY WITHIN REGION FIVE: 1999

FIRES	FIRE JUMPS	DAYS ON	HOURS
82	523	2,027	29,768

NSA Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program



Jon McBride (Missoula 54)

There's a lot of news, and all of it is good!

First, if we can judge from their letters, the 1999 volunteer crew had a good time:

"I had one hell of a good time out there in the Bob with all you other 'old farts.'"

"It was great to see old friends again and to meet new ones"

"The food we had was oh so good, Maybe too good"

"I wouldn't take anything for having had the opportunity to participate. I'll keep coming back for more."

"The best part for me? Just being with other Smokejumpers, and being back in the country, God's country."

But perhaps the best feed back we received was from one of the first lady Smokejumpers, when she wrote: "My trip into the Bob Marshall with the Smokejumpers Association to do trail work was one of the highlights of my summer. Not only did I get to awaken old skills from my jumper days and see some exquisite wilderness, but also I got a chance to meet jumpers from other generations and backgrounds. Although we all varied in age and present occupations, we all had a common bond that united us. There were lots of hard work and sweat, yet plenty of time to fish, hike and explore, away from the phone and the hurried pace of daily life. Count me in on future trips".

It was not only the volunteer crew that enjoyed the 1999 effort, the Forest Service has pronounced itself pleased and grateful as well. In fact, the word has been going around, and there are bids from other forests for our services for next summer. They like us and they want us.

We don't know yet where we'll work next summer, but we have a variety of choices, and we'll let you know the next location in plenty of time for volunteers to make orderly personal plans. We're working toward camps located central to our work to cut down on nonproductive walking time. We're also looking into availability and cost of pack stock support for progressively moving camp and saddle horse cost, at least for travel to base camp, in the event of a long haul.

And a final bit of good news, maybe the best of all, is that Dave Owen (Missoula 51-54) is assuming leadership of this program. Dave made a good and long career in the Forest Service, and spent fifteen years in the Bob Marshall at Big Prairie and Spotted Bear retiring as the District Ranger of Big Prairie District. Dave has good contacts, and many hundreds of miles of backcountry trails have passed under his Whites and his horse's shoes.

Consider joining us next summer. You'll be glad you did! And consider sending a contribution to the Art Jukkala Memorial Trail Fund, which helps make this program work. See you next summer. Happy Trails.

Funds received by the NSA for the Art Jukkala Memorial Trail Fund as of Nov. 15, 1999.

\$10 = 1 check	\$25 = 10 checks	\$100 = 5 checks	\$500 = 2 checks	\$15 = 2 checks
\$30 = 1 check	\$250 = 1 check	\$20 = 5 checks	\$50 = 8 checks	\$300 = 1 check
Total = \$3170				

NSA Trail Maintenance Program 2000

It is sign up time for the year 2000 NSA Trail Maintenance Program. For those of you who did not or could not take part last summer, all is not lost. The NSA is again beginning preliminary planning under the leadership of Dave Owen to field one or more volunteer trail maintenance crews on National Forests in Montana or Idaho during the summer of 2000. Dave has knowledge of most trail-dependent areas in the region and will begin discussions shortly with interested national forests and foundations in serious need for trail maintenance activities next summer. We will not limit ourselves to one location this year but will attempt to operate where we are needed the most. Dave has lots of new ideas, and we will be seeing samples of this soon.

One of our first steps is to again assess the interest of our membership in this program. To do this we have prepared a brief questionnaire. Those interested in participating should fill it out and return it to the NSA by Feb. 5, 2000. This is a great opportunity for our members to perform a much needed public service in which they are ideally trained and suited for, reconnect with their past, hike the trails where most of us began our working careers and make new friendships. Before you decide to return the questionnaire, please candidly assess your health and physical condition. The work will be hard. The project requires a six-hour daily work shift.

Typically, a project begins on a Saturday, with all parties arriving at a pre-determined location where there is

major air travel and accommodations available. (This was Missoula last summer). Sunday is for traveling on to the project location (with the assistance of horses and pack string). It can also mean a 5-8 mile hike with volunteers carrying their own water and personal gear while tents, sleeping bags and heavy personal gear are carried by pack string. Tools, camp gear and food will be packed in by pack string. Volunteers will be assigned trail maintenance or trail reconstruction work for the following six-day period, (Sunday through Friday), with 1-2 days off during that time. This is followed by the hike out on Saturday so as Sunday can be planned, as the travel home day. The USFS has an excellent current publication covering physical fitness self-assessment and training. We will furnish copies to those who desire.

We have many details to work out, including prospective sponsors, locations, dates for projects, nature of projects, etc. Dave will be working on these matters during the next few months. In the interim, the following should help answer some of your questions:

Transportation / Accommodations – Each volunteer is responsible for his or her own transportation/accommodations to the major arrival city. The NSA or forest will coordinate getting volunteers to the trailheads.

Sleeping and Personal Gear – Volunteers will need backpacks for all personal gear and tents and will provide their own sleeping bags and pads. The host forest will provide hard hats and safety glasses. Other clothing, including good work gloves and boots, must be provided by each volunteer.

Work Injuries/Illnesses – All volunteers are enrolled in the Forest Service’s Volunteer Program, which covers evacuation and medical expenses resulting from injuries or illnesses incurred during the assignments. We plan to have someone with emergency medical training assigned to each project.

Supervision – We will provide our own NSA supervisor.

Meals/Food – Food will be furnished by the forest where we are working. We will need to provide our own cook(s).

This information should help most of you to decide if you want to be placed on our “Jump List” for this program for next summer. When we have additional information (and we will from time to time), we will send it directly to prospective volunteers.

Dave Owen will be project coordinator. If you have any questions you can call him at home in Kalispell MT (406-752-8089). A project group will consist of six to 12 individuals. If interest is low, we will attempt only one project. If high, we will plan for multiple projects. July and August will probably be the months selected; however, each Forest contacted will no doubt set times during the summer that they want the project to operate.

NSA Trail Maintenance Program

If you are interested, please copy and complete the following form and mail to the address listed below.

Trail Maintenance Volunteer Address Information Form

Name (last, first) _____ MI _____
 Street Address or Box Number _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Tel.: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Jumper Information

Year Trained _____ Base Trained _____ Years Jumped _____

Availability:

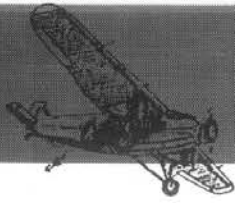
- _____ Only Available July – First Half
- _____ Only Available July – Second Half
- _____ Only Available August – First Half
- _____ Only Available August – Second Half
- _____ Anytime (Can arrange my schedule to fit)
- _____ I am a qualified EMT – MD or Other Emergency Medical Expertise
- _____ I am experienced in cooking for 6-12 people
- _____ Desire assignment with _____

(Jumpers Name)

- _____ Will volunteer only if assigned with jumper named above.
- _____ I live in Western Montana/Northern Idaho and would like to help Dave as he may require, in the many details of organizing or logistics involved in the project.

*Mailing Address: NSA, Attn. Dave Owen, Trail Maintenance Program,
 P. O. Box 4081, Missoula, MT 59806-4081*

Note: The Missoula NSA Office (Shirley Braxton) Phone is (406) 549-9938.



NSA Merchandise

Chuck Sheley • 10 Judy Lane • Chico, CA 95926
(530) 893-0436 • e-mail: cknkgshley@earthlink.net

Caps

Richardson TOL NSA Logo Caps: Upgrading to Richardson top of line caps/new colors. Heavyweight/soft brushed finish.

Colors: (body/visor)
Stone/Burgundy • Top Seller
Stone/Navy • New
Solid Black • Sharp/New Logo Colors
Adjustable

New Caps



Item No. 101
\$15.00

Cap & T-Shirt

Attention Collectors!!

California Smokejumpers "logo" Cap: Black Item No. 102
\$15.00

California Smokejumpers T-Shirt: Navy Large/XL Item No. 103
\$15.00

Both have unique Condor type wings around parachute
Developed by Redding Smokejumpers

Belt Buckle & Key Chain

Belt Buckle: 2-3/4" X 2-1/4" Solid Bronze, Super looking NSA logo emblem. Serially numbered.



Item No. 104
\$25.00

Key Chain: 1/2" X 2" Solid Bronze, NSA emblem design (Rookie Pin).



Item No. 105
\$ 8.00
Sale \$5.00

Coffee Mug

Coffee Mug: 10 oz. durable clear glaze, Ironstone in off-white color. NSA emblem.



Item No. 107
\$ 6.00

NSA Window Decal

New 4-Color Official NSA Logo Decal designed for the inside of vehicle windows. Show your support for the NSA - this decal looks good & professional.



Item No. 108
\$5.00
S/H included

Books

Trimotor and Trail, By Earl Cooley: Earl spent 24 years with the Smokejumpers and participated in the 1st fire jump in 1940.

Item No. 109
\$15.00

New Novel - "Bitterroot": Steve McDonald a U.S. Forest Service veteran, takes you on a whopping good adventure, through time, in the Pacific Northwest. Meet unforgettable characters aplenty--Chinese laborers, frontiersmen, miners, Rangers foresters, packers, business moguls--as a golden treasure turns good people into killers, then entry.

Item No. 110
\$12.95

New Novel - "Baker 30": Steve McDonald's latest release. The author skillfully weaves together several important developments in American history to present an interesting story about an ex-8th Air Force WWII bomber commander. The hero finds himself once again piloting B-17s, this time for, the peacetime mission of fighting wildland fires for the Forest Service.

Item No. 111
\$10.95

"Jumping Skyward" Rev. Stan Tate's (MYC-53) book explores the realm of the spirit, the nature of fire and the place of faith in the lives of Smokejumpers as they fight fires in the remote Idaho wilderness

Item No. 112
\$12.00

New Item: Written & Sung by Joe "Grey Eagle" Wright (MSO-58)

Book: Poems & songs that share Joe's experiences and love for Smokejumpers, the natural world & his heritage.

Item No. 113
S/H included--\$9.00

Sport Shirts

Jerseys Multicolor Knit Sport Shirt:

Adult Sizes: S - 3XL



Colors:
Body Collar
Navy Maroon/Forest
Maroon Navy/Forest
White Navy/Maroon

Item No. 106
\$28.00

NSA Smokejumper

Munsingwear Knit Sport Shirt/Contrasting Collar & Cuffs:

Adult Sizes: S - 2XL



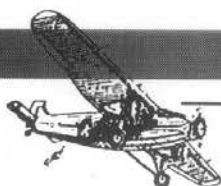
Colors:
Body Collar/Cuffs
Navy Khaki
Maroon Navy
White Black
Green Khaki

Item No. 114
\$34.00

25

Issue no. 26

Sport Shirts - cont.



NEW! NSA T-Shirt!!

Silk screen 5 color NSA logo left front; 4 color Smokey Bear/Parachute/NSA on the back

Color: Ash, White

Item No. 115

Adult Sizes: **Medium, Large, XL** \$15.00

Size: **XXL** \$16.00



T-Shirt: Hanes Beefy-T, 100% cotton, NSA emblem embroidered on left front pocket area.

Colors: White, Ash, Maroon, Navy

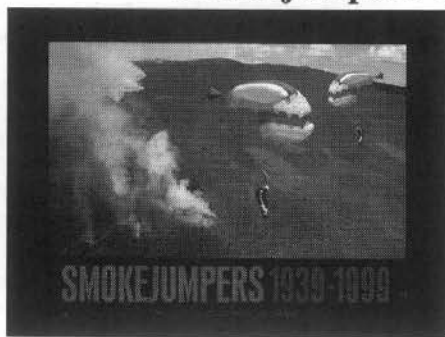
Adult Sizes: **S - XXXL**



Item No. 116

\$15.00

Celebrating 60 years of Airborne Excellence: Smokejumpers 1939-1999



The Limited-Edition Print:

Seattle photographer Dan McComb (MSO 87) has created this digital color photographic montage. Each 18" X 24" lithographic print (fits standard frame) is numbered by the artist Edition of 1500.

Item No. 117

\$29.95 plus \$5.00 S/H

Authentic Denim Jackets/NSA Logo:

13.75 oz. stonewashed denim cotton/ chest pockets with snap down flaps/front slash pockets. Embroidered NSA Logo Left Front

Color: Medium Blue

Sizes: **Small-XL . . . \$48.00**

2XL-4XL . . . \$50.00

Item No. 118

Heavyweight Sweatshirt: NSA emblem.

Colors: White, Black, Navy, Red, Green

Adult Sizes: **S - 4XL**

Crew Neck-Item No. 119

\$30.00

Hooded-Item No. 120

\$35.00

Hood/Zipper-Item No. 121

\$38.00

Denim Shirts:

Midweight (6.5 oz.) Denim Long Sleeved

Best quality denim shirt, generous fit, heavy garment wash for style, 100% cotton, double needle stitched, patch pocket, button down collar, horn-tone buttons, tuck in tails. NSA emblem.

Color: Faded Blue

Sizes: **Small-XL . . . \$32.00**

2XL-4XL . . . \$34.00

Item No. 122



Heavyweight (8.0 oz.) "Lee Brand" Denim Shirt:

Color: Faded Blue or Darker Blue

Sizes: **Small-XL . . . \$34.00**

2XL-4XL . . . \$35.00

Item No. 123

Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

NSA ORDER FORM

Ship To: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

E-Mail _____

Item No.	Description	Color	Size	Qty.	Price Each	Total
106	Knit Sport Shirt (example)	Navy-Maroon/Forest	L	2	28.00	56.00

Make all checks payable to: NSA
Send this order form to: NSA - Chuck Sheley
10 Judy Lane
Chico, CA 95926

Shipping & Handling
1 item - \$3.50
Additional items - \$1.25 each

Sub-Total	
Shipping	
Total Due	

Jump List — January 2000

By Larry Lufkin (Cave Junction 63)

The Jump List is a compilation of information the NSA receives from members, associates, and friends. It is intended to inform our readers what jumpers are doing and where they reside. You can mail your information to Larry Lufkin: 7101 Alderwood Ct SE, Olympia, WA or send email to jumpercj63@aol.com. Larry can be reached by phone at 360-753-9432(w) or 360-459-2534 (h).

Alaska

Tom Boatner, '80 worked as a squadleader, spotter, and base manager until 1997 when he became state aviation manager for Alaska. In 1998, he transferred to Montana where he is the state FMO. Tom Lives in Billings, Mont.

Boise

Don Stenberg, '74 lives in Watford City, N.D. where he operates his parents service station.

Cave Junction

Gary (Sugar Bear) Thornhill, '68 is eight years from retirement as a vice principal at Illinois Valley High School in Cave Junction, Ore. Gary still doesn't have respect for his elders and recently referred to a certain Cave Junction squadleader as "butt old." He should be very careful because I know where he lives and intend to get even.

LeRoy (Lead Hook) Cook, '64 lives in Idaho Fall, Idaho. LeRoy has 30 years with the government and currently is Area Manager for the Bureau of Land Management.

Larry (BG) Lufkin, '63 plans to retire in September 2000 from the federal office of child support enforcement. He previously worked for the US Department of Health and Human Services office of Inspector General. Larry, who lives in Olympia, Wash., is 1st Vice President and Board member for the NSA.

Gary Welch, '60 currently is president of First State Bank in Riesel, Texas. Gary, who lives in Waco, Texas, previously worked as a band examiner and bank official in Waco. He reports that he is still trying to make a profit from the cattle business and will keep trying until he runs out of money.

Fred Cramer, '59 lives in Medford, Ore. where he is owner and manager of a truck works and manager for Southern Oregon Galvanizing of Oregon and Alaska. He previously worked for DuPont and Oregon Explosives Company where he retired in 1995.

Chuck (Red Rabbit) Sheley, '59 lives in Chico, Calif. where he retired as an athletic director, teacher, and coach in 1998. Previously, Chuck organized Forest Service fire crews during the summers. He was inducted into the Chico State University Hall of Fame in 1990. Chuck serves as 2nd Vice President and Board member for the NSA, is chair of the NSA Smokejumper Magazine and Merchandising Committees, and serves on the Reunion 2000 Committee.

Wayne Schrunck, '57 retired in 1995 and does whatever he wants to. He previously was a pilot with Braniff, Piedmont, and US Airways. Wayne lives in Dallas, Texas.

Harold (Jim) Maxwell, '55 lives in Reno, Nev. Jack Demons wrote an article in the July 1997 Static line about Jim.

Jim Yandell, '55 owns and operates a commercial janitorial business. Previously, he worked as a fireman for Rocketdyne for 15 years. Jim lives in Palm Spring, Calif.

Robert Scofield, '49 lives in Lander, Wyo. after retirement from the Ochoco National Forest in 1984 as a staff officer. Robert was also a district ranger and regional staff officer for the Forest Service.

Roger Wofertz, '48 retired in 1992 as legal counsel for the California Department of Education. Roger currently works part time as a legal counselor for the same department. He lives in Sacramento, Calif.

Bob (Rigger) Snyder, '48 first retired in 1985 as director of security at Pocono International Raceway. He reports that he has since retired three more times. He also worked as an insurance salesman and gunsmith. He is presently retired and means it. Bob, who lives in Easton, Pa., landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

Albert DeVoe, '47 lives in Carmichael, Calif. He retired from the Navy in 1989 and became an adjunct professor of engineering and forestry at Sierra College. He retired again in 1995 and currently does part time work in forestry.

Terry Fieldhouse, '47 retired in 1998 and lives in Santa Clara, Calif. Before retirement, Terry was an extension forester with the Peach Corp in Central America, tree farmer, agricultural field rep and forester.

Richard Courson, '46 was appointed to the district bench in 1967 by Governor McCall and retired as a district court judge in 1992. Richard lives in Pendleton, Ore. Previously, he was elected district attorney of Umatilla County in 1958. Richard currently rides his saddle horses and plays golf.

Dan O'Rourke, '46 retired from the Forest Service as an assistant forest supervisor in 1978. He also served as a staff officer and district ranger for the Forest Service. Dan, who lives in Cedaredge, Colo. spent 12 years building his house and operates a tree farm. Dan served with the Marine Corps from 1941 through 1945.

Idaho City

Ted Bergon, '51 lives in Sun River, Ore. Ted administered schools in Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, China, South Africa, and Russia. The schools he worked for were sponsored by various governments and companies. He has scuba dived in the Red Sea and camped out in the deserts and jungle.

La Grande

Kirk Hale, '79 is a Captain in the Canby, Ore. fire department. He previously served as a training officer, human resources director, and division chief at the Tualatin Valley fire and rescue department. Kirk lives in West Linn, Ore.

McCall

Bruce Egger, '46 retired in 1979 after a career with the Forest Service as a District Ranger. Bruce suffered a heart attack in 1997 and had a quadruple bypass in 1998. He lives in Prineville, Ore.

Roger Taynton, '52 lives in Reno, Nev. since retiring from the IRS. Roger work for the Forest Service for several years at the district and regional levels, then transferred to the IRS where he audited large timber companies. Since retirement, he has rehabbed four residences and keeps busy bowling and golfing.

William (Wild Bill) Yensen, '53 retired in 1992 after a long career as a teacher, coach, and smokejumper. Bill continued to jump fires up to 1986 at McCall. He taught photography for over 20 years and now travels, plays golf, and does whatever else he pleases.

Paul Schulz, '71 lives in Westhaven, Calif. He works as a log scaler and plans to retire soon.

Tom Duffy, '89 lives in San Diego, Calif. He received his Masters in Geography at San Diego State University in 1999.

Missoula

Leslie Anderson, '84 is married to Thomas Cook ('84 McCall) and lives in Missoula, Mont. Leslie currently works for the Missoula Technology and Development Center as a project leader for fire shelters and fire clothing. She previously worked as an assistant fire management officer and served in the Peace Corp in Costa Rica.

Steven Hall, '70 is working as a computer specialist for Region 3 of the Forest Service. He previously worked as a dispatcher and assistant fire management officer. Steven lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

John Crues, '70 earned his medical degree in 1979 from Harvard and currently is medical director of a radiology clinic in Playa del Rey, Calif. John, who specializes in radiology, previously was director of MRI at Cedars-Sinai Hospital and Cottage Hospital.

Randall Cribbs, 69 lives in Flagstaff, Ariz. He earned his degree in accounting from Northern Arizona University in 1981.

David Everett, '69 passed away Nov. 3, 1998 in Wenatchee, Wash. He and Carla moved back to his hometown of Manson, Wash. in March 1998 due to Dave's illness with MS and cancer.

Thomas Coleman, '67 earned a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Brigham Young University and currently owns a private practice in Manhattan, Kan. He previously worked as a psychologist for the US Army and at Kansas State University.

John Payne, '66 lives in Plymouth, Minn. where he is a special agent for the FBI. John, who faces mandatory retirement in 2001, plans to move to Texas after retiring. John previously worked as a forester for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Major Boddicker, '63 is currently owner and operator of Rocky Mountain Wildlife Enterprises in LaForte, Colo. Major earned a Ph.D. in zoology and entomology and previously worked for the Colorado State University Fish and Wildlife Department.

Nels Jensen, '62 lives in Charlo, Mont. Nels retired in 1992 from the national aviation operation office for the Bureau of Land Management. He currently drops smokejumpers for Leading Edge Aviation. Nels also flies lead plane.

Jerry Timmons, '62 owns Northern Construction and Equipment Co. in Fairbanks, Alaska. Previously, Jerry was fire control officer, area manager, chief of the division of fire management, and manager of Alaska fire service for the Bureau of Land Management. Jerry, who doesn't plan to retire, also is on the NSA Board and serves on the Video Committee.

Robert Meinrod, '62 lives in Dolores, Colo. after retiring in 1994 from the Dixie National Forest in Region 4 as a branch chief for range, wildlife, water, soils, and fire. Robert previously was a district ranger and forester. He reports that he has a few acres where he keeps a couple of saddle and packhorses. He does lots of volunteer trail maintenance for the San Juan National Forest.

Laird Robinson, '62 is a public affairs specialist for the Forest Service in Missoula, Mont. Laird also served with the Air Force. He is the immediate past president of the NSA, where he served two terms, and was one of the founding members of the NSA.

Erik Hansen, '62 works in commercial real estate development and management for Lincoln Property in Newport Beach, Calif. He previously worked for Coldwell Banker and Memorex.

Larry Ashcraft, '62 lives in Big Fork, Mont. and plans to retire in 2002. Larry was a pilot with Transworld Airlines and is a check airman for TWA. Larry also operates Osprey Aero that provides scenic flights over Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

Lloyd Hougaard, '62 lives in Tucson, Ariz.

David Bennett, '61 lives in Richland, Wash. where he is the manager for Oceaneering Remote Intervention. David earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Robert Schumaker, '59 lives in Hamilton, Mont. after retiring in 1997. Robert worked in the Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash. in plant equipment design and for Sandia Laboratories in nuclear weapon design. He currently enjoys flying, hiking, and skiing.

James Cherry, '57 has been semi-retired since 1997. He currently serves 28 hours a week as interim pastor of a church in Ventura, Iowa. James previously worked Plymouth Christian Youth Center in Minneapolis, MN and was a pastor, camp director, camp consultant in Iowa.

Craig Smith, '57 lives in a full time care facility in Klamath Falls, Ore. where he is suffering from Parkinson's Disease and early dementia. Prior to his illness, Craig worked in several positions with Plum Creek Timber Company, Weyerhaeuser, Intermountain Lumber Company, and the Bureau of Land Management. Craig's wife reports that he enjoys reading Smokejumper Magazine and would like to receive letters and cards from old jumpers. Craig receives mail at 1195 Eagle Court, Klamath Falls, Ore. 97601.

David Nelson, '57 retired in 1990 as a fire management officer on the Tahoe National forest. He previously was a district ranger and was base manager of the Redding Smokejumper Base. Dave, who lives in Nevada City, Calif., is currently a consultant in wildland fire management.

Alan Dieffenbach, '57 sold his business, Upper Crust Bakery, in 1998 and is taking a long, and maybe permanent, vacation. Alan also was a secondary school teacher, served in the Peace Corps in Nepal, did research and consulting in Nepal, and did human resources planning and advocacy. Alan lives in Brattleboro, Vt.

Robert Wilson, '57 retired in 1990 after several years of selling machinery in Denver, Singapore, San Francisco, and Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada. He also owned and operated his own brokerage for several years. Robert, who lives in Campbell River, B.C., has contributed several cartoons to the Smokejumper Magazine, most recently in January 1996.

Kenneth Purcell, '57 lives in Carrollton, Ga. after retiring in 1994. Before retirement, he was a forester with the Georgia Forestry Commission. He currently is a part time forestry consultant.

Roland (Ron) Stoleson, '56 lives in North Ogden, Utah where he is a regional staff officer for the Forest Service. Ron previously was a forest supervisor and district ranger, and served in the Washington Office for the Forest Service. Ron is a member of the NSA Board and is writing a history of deceased smokejumpers.

John Mathis, '55 retired in 1998 as a teacher and administrator for the LDS Church. John also worked as a claims representative for an insurance company. He lives in Midvale, Utah where he does a whole lot of what he wants to do and very little of what others want him to do.

Ray Carter, '54 lives in Denver, Colo. after retiring in 1999. He worked in the life insurance industry and flew in the Navy Reserves. Ray currently plays golf and tennis, hunts, and enjoys life with his grand kids.

Charles "Ted" Nyquest, '54 retired in 1996 and lives in Missoula, Mont. Ted worked as a school counselor, dry kiln operator, and cartographer. He currently operates rental property.

Randle Hurst, '54 lives in Mustang, Okla. since retiring from Mercy Hospital in 1993. Randle also worked as a math and science teacher in California and wrote a book "The Smokejumpers" that was published in 1966. Since retirement, he worked as a security guard and presently is a mail clerk with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Paul Bowen, '54 retired in 1993 after a career as a geology and surveying teacher in Petersburg, Alaska. Paul was Alaska's teacher of the year in 1978. Paul also worked as a petroleum geologist. He currently does surveying and is a commercial fisherman in Petersburg.

Nine Mile

Marshall Spencer, '42 retired in 1977 and lives in Corvallis, Mont. on his 10 acre farm. Marshall worked in a number of finance, budget, and management positions during his career. He currently is president of the Hamilton Senior Center, board member of the Council on Aging, and board member of the Bitterroot Historical Museum.

John Andes, '43 lives in Rochelle, Ill. John was associated with agriculture all of his life and retired in 1982. His hobby is woodcarving.

Lee Hebel, '44 lives in Karihous, Pa. Lee retired in 1986 after 35 years as a parish pastor, specializing in town and country. He pastored various congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland. Lee still leads Sunday worship twice a month, serves on local ecumenical committees, and is a member of the Quehanna Lions Club and a local trail and hiking club.

Fred Schilling, '49 earned his Ph.D. in 1959 in chemical engineering from Montana State University and worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory until 1990 when he retired. Fred lives in Silver Gate, Mont. where he enjoys living in the mountains.

Joe Gutkoski, '50 retired from the Forest Service in 1982 after 32 years of service. He currently has a private practice that provides land planning and design services. Joe lives in Bozeman, Mont.

Herman Ball, '50 lives in Lafayette, Colo. after retiring from the Forest Service in 1982. Previously, Herman worked for the CIA. Herman is currently a consulting forester.

Sherwood Hall, '50 lives in Portland, Ore. after retiring from the Air Force in 1970. Sherwood drove F-80s and F-86s in Korea in 1953 and F-100s later on. Sherwood reports that he is currently CEO of "R" to the "Third Power" (Retired, Retarded, Relaxed).

Robert Cutler, '51 lives in Las Vegas, Nev. where he works for Southwest Medical Associates. Robert, who earned his medical degree in 1958, previously worked for Los Alamos National Laboratory and owned a private medical practice.

Richard Kreitzberg, '52 owned and operated a company that designed, manufactured, and installed microwave towers. He sold the company in 1995 and is currently a private investor. Richard lives in Salem, Ore.

William Fredeking, '52 retired in 1985 as the assistant director for computer science in the Forest Service Region 5 in San Francisco. He previously was a district ranger, timber and fire staff, and deputy forest supervisor. William, who lives in Sonora, Calif. currently is owner of King EDP Services and provides computer consulting services.

Orrin Pilkey, '53 retired in September 1999 and lives in Durham, N.C. Orrin earned a Ph.D. in Geology and was a professor of Geology at Duke University from 1965 to 1999. Orrin has written numerous publications and produced several videos about the geology of the east and south coasts of the US.

North Cascades

Roy Goss, '46 retired in 1988 and does volunteer work with the master gardeners' program. He is also an advisor to the Northwest Turf Grass Association. Roy, who lives in Okanogan, Wash., previously worked for Washington State University as a research and extension agronomist.

Howard Betty, '48 owns and operates his own cabinet shop. He previously owned and operated a lumberyard and was a general contractor. Howard lives in Twisp, Wash.

Jack Lince, '50 retired in 1997 after a career as a contract administrator with the Boeing Co. and the State of Washington. Jack lives in Olympia, Wash.

Bob Hough, '51 lives in Olalla, Wash. after retiring from the Air Force. While in the Air Force, Bob was a command pilot. He currently works as a safety program manager for the State of Washington.

Bill Eastman, '54 currently is a consultant with several large university publishers and some smaller commercial publishing houses. Bill, who lives in East Greenbush, N.Y., retired as the director of the State University of New York Press in 1995. Bill serves on the NSA Smokejumper magazine committee.

Doug Bernhard, '58 lives in Ben Lomond, Calif. Doug retired July 1999 from the San Jose fire department after 40 plus years in fire fighting.

Keith Fitzjarrald, '63 retired from the Forest Service in 1986 as a district fuels specialist and dispatcher. Keith lives in Omak, Wash. where he owns and operates a pear orchard.

Redmond

Warren Maxon, '66 retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Marine Corps in 1989. Since then, Warren worked in real estate and other private business. He currently works as a veterans employment representative in Florida. Warren lives in Palm Harbor, Fla.

Stan Jackson, '67 lives in Eads, Tenn. where he is currently a widebody captain for Fedex. Prior to that Stan was a C141 pilot with the Air Force and taught private and commercial flying. Stan has been married for 22 years and has two boys aged 16 and 18.

Sid Spurgeon, '70 is a teacher and coach at Mountain View High School in Bend, Ore. He previously taught at Pendleton, Ore. high school.

John Aschim, '77 lives in Vancouver, Wash. John has been self-employed as a cattle rancher, arborist/nursery man, carpenter, union activist, and writer.

Redding

Lee Gossett, '57 lives in Eagle Point, Ore. where he is building a cabin on the Rogue River. Lee has been a pilot for the last 34 years during which time he flew for Air America and Continental. He also was a crop duster, flew a ski plane, and flew for a tourist airline in New Zealand. Lee still flies four months a year.

Leonard Askham, '63 retired from Washington State University in 1993 and is currently the president of a small corporation. Leonard lives in Pullman, Wash.

Robert Wilcox, '64 retired as a district ranger in September 1997 after 35 years with the Forest Service. Robert and Lucille currently live on seven acres outside of Eagle Point, Ore. where he does custom woodwork.

Terry Sheen, '68 currently works as a private consulting forester in five northern California counties. He lives in Weaverville, Calif. Previously, Terry worked for Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Land Companies.

Gary Johnson, '69 works for the Bureau of Land Management as an aviation and operations safety manager. Gary was previously base manager of the Redding Smokejumper Base. He lives in Boise, Idaho.

Ted Corporandy, '74 is a Battalion Chief in the San Francisco Fire Department, where he has worked since 1978. Ted also worked in the San Jose Fire Department. He lives in Sonora, Calif.

Tim Huntington, '77 retired in 1997 as the operations foreman of the Redding Smokejumper Base. Tim, who lives in Redding, Calif., currently works as a fire apparatus engineer and just completed 26 years in the military reserves with the Marine Corps and Army National Guard.

Brian Miller, '85 worked as a certified medic and fire captain for the South Bay Fire Department. He retired and in July 1998, at age 40, entered the Penn State College of Medicine. Brian, who lives in Hershey, Pa. says his graduation date is May 2002.

Dennis Terry, '90 jumped seven years at Redding and three years at Boise. He currently lives in Boise, Idaho.

Barry Layton, '92 is an apprentice carpenter in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. He previously worked for the Forest Service in timber and resource management and for a private forest management firm.

Bryce Jensen, lives in Bremerton, Wash. and is attending Cornell Law School. Bryce will get his law degree in 2001.

Smokejumping at the Dawn of the New Millennium

Charlie Palmer MSO-95

The jumpers had gathered by the hundreds for the National Smokejumper Association's 2005 Reunion. Old acquaintances were reunited, stories were swapped, and jumpers from across eight decades of smokejumping reaffirmed that, while much had changed in the last nearly seventy years, the act of parachuting from "perfectly good airplanes" had metamorphosed only slightly from those first experiments in 1939. Sadly though, one major change in smokejumping had occurred, and it was evidenced by the lack of any current jumpers at this reunion event. Two years before, 2003, had seen the closure of all smokejumper bases, thus making extinct the profession of smokejumping.

While completely hypothetical, the aforementioned scenario could well become reality, at least according to current Alaska smokejumper Jim Veitch. One year ago, Veitch posted an article on his homepage entitled *The Death of Smokejumping*.^{*} In his opening sentence, Veitch quotes an ex-smokejumper in a high fire management position who says,

"Smokejumpers will be gone within five years." Could this really happen? Is it possible that firefighters will no longer parachute into fires, but instead be forced to rely more on helicopters and other slower forms of transportation into their incidents? Why would such an illogical step be taken? According to Veitch, "Forces are at work to kill smokejumping, to end a proud tradition and valuable service to the American public."

When this article first appeared, I approached then NSA Newsletter editor Jack Demmons with the idea of writing an article about it for the Static Line. I was

^{*}As a note, *The Death of Smokejumping* can be viewed online. Go to [Error! Reference source not found.](#), click on Links, click on Jim Veitch's personal homepage, click on PG Bag, then click on the article by its title.

told that the topic was "too hot to handle" at that time, and that I should wait before addressing it. Out of respect for Jack (I view him as one of the most hardworking and dedicated individuals I have ever met), I conceded. Although I did not ask any probing questions, it seemed apparent that Veitch's article had ruffled some feathers, which only made sense considering some of his rather pointed comments. Among some of the reasons that Veitch cites for the termination of the smokejumping program are: ex-smokejumpers no longer moving into upper fire management positions, the loss of CIA ties, short-sighted bureaucrats within the Forest Service and BLM, policy programs that "fast-track" sub-sets of individuals, and fire managers made greedy by the big money available on project fires. Clearly, *The Death of Smokejumping* does not pull any punches. But when our livelihood and the future of smokejumping in general is at stake, the kid gloves must come off and we need to begin fighting for our collective lives.

According to Veitch, active steps must be taken to keep smokejumping alive.

He cites education and information as being the keys for both the general public and politicians at the local, state, and national level. Most importantly, he recognizes the role that the NSA can play as the unified voice of smokejumpers past and present. As an organization, we need to assume a proactive, not reactive, response to this threat. Veitch also notes that a current jumper at each base needs to spearhead local efforts at bringing this issue out into the forum of public debate. Veitch has done his part, and it is now up to the rest of us to heed his call to arms. I use military terms because they most accurately convey the situation for what it is, a battle for existence.

Veitch, in closing, notes that, "Like the Pony Express, it (smokejumping) will become part of the legend that Americans are bold and strong. But it will

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be gone, and America will be a poorer place because of it." In the October issue of *Smokejumper*, Veitch clarifies this statement when he recognizes that, unlike the Pony Express, the smokejumping program has not been replaced by newer, faster technologies. We still represent the most cost effective, efficient means of getting firefighters to incidents be they small, remote two-mannors or raging conflagrations in the urban interface. Our training and experience separate us from the thousands of other wildland firefighters. The broadening of our role into such activities as prescribed fire, various overhead assignments, tree climbing for bug infestations, training of military special forces, the use of fireline explosives, and an assortment of other specialized tasks has clearly shown that we are a viable, important, and necessary part of the governmental departments to which we belong. Now it is up to us to re-educate the rest of the country as to just how valuable we really are.

As a force, current smokejumper managers need to begin finding more ways to sell our services, be it to Districts, governments, or the general public. Fire has always been and will continue to be our specialty, but we are capable of so much more. The broader our role becomes, the more difficult it will be to eliminate us. As jumpers, we need to strive for complete professionalism in every thing we do. Like it or not, we are closely scrutinized. So we must endeavor to do the highest quality work each and every time we are called. Lastly, we need to band together, through the NSA and present an allied front. It has come to my attention that certain members of the BLM smokejumping community feel that the NSA only represents Forest Service jumpers. This is our organization, so if you believe that your voice is not being adequately heard, then speak up and get involved. In-fighting will only drag us down and distract us from these wolves at our door.

I commend Jim Veitch for having the fortitude to bring this contentious, disturbing topic into the open. This may be viewed by some as a "Chicken Little" mentality and that this concern over termination of the smokejumper program is much ado about nothing. If these predictions are wrong, jumpers will continue to fall from the heavens, just as they always should. If correct, though, the only thing falling from the sky will be the sky itself. Regardless, we cannot stick our jump helmets into the sand and hope that this threat to our existence goes away. Unfortunately, we all may be called upon in the very near future to defend the common thread that weaves us all together, the proud profession of smokejumping. My hope is that we attack this threat, get it lined, mop it up 100%, and move on to the next challenges that await us. □

CPS JUMPERS SCHEDULE JULY 2000 REUNION IN IOWA

Jumpers and historians who want to know "how it was" during World War II can learn it right from the men who did it at a convention of the Civilian Public Service smokejumpers next summer. Organizer Lee Hebel, now a retired Pennsylvania minister, jumped from Missoula in 1944 and 1945. He said he expects about 75 fellow smoke-jumpers and some widows at the gathering, scheduled for July 14-17 at the William Penn College in Oskalooska, Iowa.

Three anti-war churches, the Brethren, Mennonites and Quakers, and other peace groups established the CPS program. It gave young conscientious objectors a chance to serve their country without bearing arms. When the armed services drained the manpower pool normally available for smokejumping duties, CPS members volunteered to serve in the aerial fire suppression program. According to Hebel, about 60 men trained in its first year, 1943. The number doubled to 120 in 1944, then doubled again in 1945. When the war ended that year, returning veterans displaced most of the CPS jumpers who had amassed some 5,000 jumps.

Hebel said he and his fellow jumpers remain very proud of the work they did and the relationships they formed with the regular Forest Service jumpers under whom they trained and served. Those included Earl Cooley, Frank Derry, Art Cochran, "Wag" Dodge and Bill Woods, he recalled. "We assembled for many reunions in beautiful, inspiring Montana," Hebel said, "but since all of us are now in our 70s and 80s, we've scheduled them in mid-continent states to be more accessible. But we surely miss Missoula and Seeley Lake." Hebel recalls that in addition to the Montana operations, some of his fellow jumpers were also "spiked out" to forests in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Scheduled reunion events include displays, films and videos, devotions and hymns, talent shows and time for story telling. According to Hebel, the three-day, two-night event should cost \$115 or less, and anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Additional information and registration packets may be obtained from CPS jumper Dick Flaharty, 11615 Ostrom Ave., Granada Hills, Calif. 91344, phone (818) 360-6690.

Membership Corner

When the October issue of the SMOKEJUMPER was published, our membership had reached 1209 which included jumpers and associates. As of Dec. 1, 1999 that total reached 1296. The other good news is that we have added 173 new members since the first of January.

Unfortunately, from our point of view, 56 former members will not receive this newsletter. They are the members from January through September 1999 who have not yet renewed their membership. The total number of jumpers whose membership has expired since January is 46. The total number of Associates is 10.

True, we have picked up 173 new members this year! This good news is the result of a ground swell of hard work by officers, board members, and members like Jim Cherry, Richard Englefield, Herm Ball, and particularly Roger Savage, and I know that Roger has a list of correspondents beyond those I know about.. Plus I receive requests from jumpers through our web page. This effort is really great, still we sure would like to see those 56 members back in the fold.

I have been working on your memberships for a year now. The work is interesting, and the accomplishment of

individual smokejumpers over the past 60 years is legion! It is fun.

Now- I do my best to answer all of the mail that I receive. If you have not received a reply from me on any question that is important to you, please bug me about it. Yes, every now and again, I misspell a member's name or put a name on the membership card that does not suit the owner. Don't get mad at me. Sit back; have a tall cool one; write me a note. I will fix it.

We ask each of you to completely fill out the renewal card when you receive it. Perhaps it seems redundant to keep filling in the same blanks year after year, but to us it is the hard copy proof of your current membership renewal in your handwriting. When we need to answer a question regarding a computer entry at some later date, the hard copy provides the answer.

I copy both the card that you have personally completed and your check. The check goes immediately to the treasurer accompanied by information from your renewal card that he needs. The copy that I have made is put into alpha notebooks after I print your membership card. If something happens to me, the hard copy notebooks will give the NSA and my successor immediate access to a finite record of your membership: new or renewal.

*Smooth sailing,
Monroe 'Spud' De Jarnette, Secretary (Missoula 49)*

New Members

Abeita, Fernando CJ-71	Anderson, Scott MYC-84	Ashbrook, Roy RDD-63
Martischang, Michael NIFC-74	Baumann, Roddy CJ-70	Mathiesen, Josh RDD-94
Bowman, Albert MSO-49	McComb, Dan MSO-87	Bucklew, Doug CJ-67
McMurtrey, Gary MYC-73	Bustamante, Ed MSO-61	Mitman, Bert RAC-70
Byrne, Mike CJ-57	Moore, Annette Assoc.	Croxson, Bill RDD-65
Nelson, Jeff FBX-85	Dutton, Daniel MSO-75	Nicholas, Victor FBX-69
Golik, Dennis MYC-74	Noe, Michael NCSB-99	Gonzales, Martha Assoc.
Palmer, Charley MSO-95	Grandalski, Richard RDD-64	Pierce, Sara NCSB-99
Haagenson, Rick RDD-79	Ramos, Jason NSCB-99	Hill, Norman FBX-63
Schmokol, Steven RAC-66	Hill, Stuart NCSB-99	Speece, James Assoc
Hronek, Bruce IDC-55	Strong, Richard MSO-48	Johnson, Patty RAC-97
Summerfield, Ed NCSB-47	Kile, Les NCSB-48	Szacik, Matt NCSB-99
King, Jack MSO-47	Tecube, Richard MSO-65	Kitchen, Jim FBX-87
Torgerson, Donovan Assoc.	Lightner, Dorsey RDD-89	Ulrich, Gus MSO-53
Maerzluft, Karl FBX-66	Upole, Harland MSO-50	Mansfield, Lowell RDD-72
Wallace, Don CJ-49	Whitmer, Dave FBX-92	Wilkenson, Joel MSO-80

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