

October 2009

Meeting Minutes, October 2009

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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Recommended Citation

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors, "Meeting Minutes, October 2009" (2009). *National Smokejumper Association Meeting Minutes*. 65.

https://dc.ewu.edu/nsa_minutes/65

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NSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BOISE, IDAHO OCTOBER 9, 10, 2009

OCTOBER 9TH

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

JOHN TWISS

John welcomed everyone and thanked the members of the Board of Directors for their work and the sacrifices they make in other areas of their lives to attend NSA meetings. Introductions were made around the room. John shared the thank you card from Sara Brown, the former smokejumper who received financial support from the NSA Good Samaritan fund, and news articles about her. As President, John gets lots of requests for info from the media and the public about smokejumpers. He forwards those requests, as appropriate, to current smokejumper bases, if he can't answer them.

WELCOME TO BOISE

HECTOR MADRID

Hector Madrid is the Base Manager of the Boise Smokejumper base and a member of NSA. Hector rookied in 1989 in McCall, and transferred to Boise in 1999. After spending 3 years in Santa Fe, NM as the BLM's State Fire Management Officer, Hector recently returned to Boise as Base Manager. The smj headcount at Boise is currently 77 with 3 Twin Otters plus a Dornier shared with Alaska. The primary area of service for the Boise base is Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, as well as Alaska support. They operate out of numerous spike bases. They are seeing increased use on emerging Type 3 incidents and put a Type 3 Incident Commander on every load. They also train to cover the operations, logistics, and plans functions on Type 3 fires. The wildland fire policy update this year allows multiple objectives on fires, so Hector sees increased smokejumper use on limited, confine/contain, and resource benefit fires. They are also training and fielding Command and General Staff personnel on Type 1 and 2 Incident Management Teams, plus single resource positions in numerous categories. They also actively fill details as FMOs, AFMOS, Dispatch coordinators, and other areas as requested. This year the Boise Base will assist in the completion of 65,000 to 90,000 acres of prescribed fire and fuels management work, with current burning going on outside of Spokane, WA. Hector mentioned that more complex computer driven business practices are a part of the everyday job and all smokejumpers must be computer-savvy. The BLM is doing joint work with the USFS smokejumpers, primarily in Region One, on ram-air training. Hector invited the NSA to come to the Boise Base at any time and talk to the crew about NSA and NSA membership.

Eric Brundige, the Operations Foreman at the McCall Base was also in attendance. Eric rookied in McCall in 1977 and will be retiring in May. The headcount at McCall

is currently 70. Eric reiterated many of the main points that Hector talked about. The McCall jumpers are also active in filling outside detail assignments, including as District Ranger. One McCall smokejumper is currently on a leave of absence to pursue an advanced Forestry degree at Yale University. McCall is also doing a lot of prescribed fire and fuels work around the country. Eric mentioned that the Missoula Technology and Development Center(MTDC) has recently begun a new project to look at the next generation of parachute for the USFS.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TOM BOATNER

Tom gave a quick summary of the meeting schedule, and details of the evening's NSA Smokejumper Social.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

TOM BOATNER/LARRY LUFKIN

Last meetings minutes from Seattle were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLIE BROWN

Membership income is down for the 2nd year in a row, probably because of the economy. Charlie gave a thorough report on NSA finances. He reported on various areas of income and expense including membership, donations, the Good Samaritan fund, the Finn Ward fund, the trails maintenance program, the Art Jukkala fund, merchandise income, and investment and interest income. Net revenue for FY09 was \$25,923. Under the current economic situation and drop in values, retained earnings have been reduced significantly, so not a lot of money available. This is a cautionary note from Charlie.

2009-2010 BUDGET

CHARLIE BROWN

Last fiscal year, Charlie predicted a deficit of \$10,900, but we ended up with surplus of \$25,923 for various reasons, like a big Good Samaritan Fund donation (\$6000), repayment of the National Smokejumper Center loan(\$6000), inflation less than estimate, etc. Charlie presented a draft of the proposed 2010 budget and we had a general discussion about financial issues. What are the criteria for using Good Samaritan Fund money-is it pass-through money or should we only use interest. What sideboards should be established for disbursing GS funds? Bob Dayton talked about endowments and fund-raising, and some future opportunities in that area. Consider memorial giving opportunity with Off the List section of website or magazine, plus a possible annual fund. How do we raise money? How do we make decisions on giving money that meets the mission of the NSA without jeopardizing its long-term financial health. Bob thinks we should consider various opportunities for fund raising associated with estate planning as well as posthumous life memberships. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, NSA loaned

\$4000 to the Redding reunion committee. That should be paid back this fiscal year or next.

FINN WARD FUND

CHARLIE BROWN/BARRY HICKS

No financial activity in the last quarter of last fiscal year. Charlie needs more timely info on account activity. It was suggested that a policy be developed for the length of time that a fund will be administered by the NSA. Most felt that a fund should not be kept for a long term. Barry Hicks volunteered that the National Smokejumper Center would take over the Finn Ward Fund if NSA desires. More fund raising activity is coming because of an upcoming trip for Finn to Madison, WI. **Motion to shift responsibility for the Finn Ward Fund to NSC was made and passed.**

INVESTMENTS

JOHN HELMER

John gave a thorough update of NSA's current investment portfolio and its overall performance. Included was a discussion of current holdings and their recent performance as well as current values versus original investment amounts. The Internal Rate of Return on 10/09/09 for amount invested to date is -0.16%. We're behind about \$40,000 in stock value, but we've done better than the market the last 12 months. Should we be dealing with this level of risk for our endowment? John Helmer says yes, that our mix of investments and level of risk is common practice for endowments. We have not lost any money when you count dividends. Currently, dividends go to the Treasurer as income, and are not reinvested. There was some additional Board discussion about how to handle investments, dividends, and endowments.

MEMBERSHIPS

JOHN MCDANIEL

NSA currently has 1588 total paid members: 1567 jumpers, 138 associates, and 21 pilots. There remain 1719 "B" jumpers who have not responded to membership mailings and 1749 "C" jumpers for whom we have no contact information. There have been no significant changes in membership since the last report. John needs ideas on gaining new members. There are few replies to most appeals. Some people don't want to join. John and others think we need a new, updated membership brochure. There was a general discussion of ideas for improving membership numbers, including giving license plate holders or Cold Missouri Waters CDs as membership incentives.

BEQUEATHS/DONATIONS

BOB DAYTON

There will be a transfer of wealth in the next 10 to 15 years of billions of dollars in inheritance, so estate planning, bequests, charitable gift annuities and other ways

of connecting to that transfer are important for non-profits. Bob believes that paid staff, or at least an executive director, in this area, fund raising, may be money well spent. Required IRA distributions can be redirected to a non-profit without the normally required tax payment. It's a tough market to be raising money, but charitable gift annuities are a possibility. We should look for opportunities to partner with other non-profits or the communities where jump bases are located. It was suggested that a policy be developed outlining how the NSA will administer donations. This will be discussed in the Long Term Goal discussion.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE

JON MCBRIDE

This was the program's 11th year and it continues to expand in popularity with the NSA membership, the USFS and, this year, the National Park Service. During 2009, 28 projects were completed with 282 project volunteers. This compares to 213 volunteers in 2008. There were no injuries or lost time incidents during the year. Volunteers cleared more than 150 miles of trail and completed major repairs to FS facilities at Big Prairie in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. They built and repaired trail structures, fence and corrals, bridges, water bars, and check dams and restored a lookout. Response from the USFS, NPS, and the public continues to be very positive. There were more proposed projects than volunteers. The Trails program finished the year in the black with accounts totaling \$19,500. Jon McBride, NSA Trail Maintenance Coordinator, received a Presidential Award from the Chief of the Forest Service for his leadership and hard work in building and expanding this excellent volunteer program.

SISKYOU BASE UPDATE

CHUCK SHELEY

Cave Junction was established in 1943 and closed in 1982. The Forest Service turned it over to Josephine County. Attempts to preserve the historic structures have been unsuccessful until recently. The County Commissioners approved work on the parachute loft and a group of volunteers spent \$3600 on paint, nails, caulking and did a ton of work last summer. There was a lot of local newspaper and TV interest, plus County Commissioner interest. NSA Trails program support is scheduled for next year. A new roof on the loft is approved for next year. The estimated cost is \$6000, and the CJ group is currently applying for grants. A business plan is on the website, as well as more info on these Gobi restoration projects: www.highway199.org More than 300,000 potential visitors drive by each year on the Redwood Highway. The group is looking for long-term leases on the mess hall, admin building and parachute loft. Next year's project is scheduled right after the Redding reunion and Chuck is hoping to include current smoke-jumpers from Redmond, as well as reunion attendees. **Motion made and passed to give \$2000 to assist efforts, contingent on lease being procured.**

LUNCH

USFS/BLM SMOKEJUMPER PROGRAM
BLM

JOHN GLENN,
KARYN WOOD, USFS

Karyn Wood, Director for Fire Operations, USFS, and John Glenn, Chief of Fire Operations, BLM, spoke with us about the current status of smokejumper programs in the 2 agencies. They were joined by Eric Brundige, Operations Foreman at the McCall base, Sean Cross, Chief of Preparedness for BLM, and Hector Madrid and Jim Raudenbush, Base Manager and Deputy Base Manager of the Boise base. Current and future uses of smokejumpers were discussed and the current status of various deployment systems and parachutes. We talked about ways the NSA, the 2 smokejumper agencies, and current smokejumpers could be supportive of each other.

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER CENTER

BARRY HICKS

Mission: the National Smokejumper Center is a non-profit organization designed to capitalize on the public respect for the honor and proud tradition of the "Smokejumper" image to inspire American youth in stewardship and enjoyment of our wildlands. Barry Hicks, joined by his wife Linda, Mark and Peggy Petrone, and Butch and Susan Perry spoke to the Board about current activities and future plans at the NSC. They are operating out of the historic Ranger Station in West Yellowstone and conducting junior smokejumper programs, fire ecology and outdoor awareness classes, and fitness activities for schoolchildren. Four hundred children came through the center this fall, supported by a grant from the town of West Yellowstone to fund bus transportation for out of town kids. Barry anticipates moving the historic buildings to a great site right at the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park and adjacent to the Grizzly Discovery Center. The cost to move the buildings is \$200,000 and they are applying for grants to raise that money. On the new site, the buildings will be owned by the town of West Yellowstone and leased to NSC for low or no cost, with NSC responsible for maintenance of the buildings. Plans for the next 2 years include doubling paid staff and big increases in number of kids and number of programs. There are opportunities for NSA and NSC to be collocated, share staffing, share merchandising, share maintenance and upkeep responsibilities, and store trails equipment. Both NSC and NSA want to keep lines of communication and cooperation open. After discussion, the Board agreed to support the NSC mission and that there is NSA interest in supporting maintenance of facilities and sharing merchandise. The Board felt that NSA and NSC are 2 separate non-profit entities with different missions. NSA is not interested currently in committing to collocating, sharing staffing, or storage of trail maintenance equipment.

HISTORICAL FILM PROJECT

STEVE SMITH

LARRY LONGLEY

NSA gave Steve Smith \$7000 to do a short video about current smokejumper activities for sale to television. Steve is in France currently and not able to work on this project until January. He says there is little interest currently from channels like National Geographic, History, and Discovery. NSA does not know the current status of this project with Steve. Larry will follow up with Fred Rohrbach for more information.

HISTORICAL UPDATE

LARRY LONGLEY

Evergreen has done some work on the smokejumper exhibit at their museum at their own cost. NSA agreed to split the cost of an updated exhibit with Evergreen. We can probably wait until next fiscal year, unless Larry reports back that we need to move faster. A former student of Chuck Sheley's in Yuba City, CA gave him copies of historical photos from Frank Derry and the Derry brothers, from Frank's granddaughter from the late 1930s. Larry Longley took copies to Bob Derry and got names of people in the photos. Silver City crew photos have gone from Missoula to Larry, hand carried by Doug, to copy and return. Larry has done over 70 interviews with former smokejumpers, most from the 1940s. He is meeting with the Idaho Historical Society because they have 30 interviews with former smokejumpers and they have info on getting grants to use college students to do more interviews. We can also use grant money to pay for written transcriptions, instead of using budgeted money. The Washington State Historical Society is doing the same thing and Larry is pursuing that also.

SMOKEJUMPER MUSEUM TYPE

ARTICLES

LARRY LONGLEY

How do we preserve, collect, and store artifacts from smokejumper history? And where? What is NSA's role in identifying, saving, and storing historical items? The University of Montana is set up to archive our written, audio, and video materials, but not artifacts. **Put on next agenda for discussion.**

STATUS OF D & O INSURANCE

GUY HURLBUTT

Guy talked to 2 sources about options, both experts in this area. Guy and his 2 experts agreed on the best policy. We budgeted \$1000 and it cost \$938. NSA now has coverage of a million dollars for each BOD member, with a \$1000 deductible. The hope is we now have a policy we'll never use, but Guy believes it is a good decision to put it in place.

CLOSE FOR THE DAY////SOCIAL

Approximately 90 people attended the social. Thanks to Jerry Ogawa for donating raffle items, and thanks to the crowd for raising over \$500 for a memorial life membership for long-time McCall jumper, Jim Diederich. Board member Leo Cromwell is coordinating the fund raising.

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MERCHANDISING

DOUG HOUSTON/STAN LINNERTZ

Stan Linnertz thinks Pam and Kasmar Pro are doing a good job for us. Johnson's Corner Truck Stop in northern Colorado continues to sell NSA and trails merchandise. Stan is going to a national truck stop meeting to look at other possibilities. Doug Houston has a gift shop in St Regis, MT selling NSA stuff. Doug has sold NSA merchandise at the Museum of Mountain Flying, the National Smokejumper Center-\$448, Mann Gulch, the La Grande Reunion, the Missoula Smokejumper visitor center, the Forest Service Reunion-\$600. Kasmar pro has added license plate holders, a new t-shirt design, and a coffee cup. Other possibilities-calendar, greeting cards, republish Trimotor and Trail.

Chuck brought up some questions about our merchandising agreement with Kasmar Pro and we discussed the agreement and Kasmar Pro relationship. Both Stan and Doug think that it is a good relationship for NSA right now. Doug will discuss agreement clarification with Pam on a couple of areas to include the terms "profit" and "sales". Kasmar Pro sales the past year were, first quarter-\$809, second quarter-\$774, third quarter-\$846, and \$800 estimated for the 4th quarter.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

JIM CHERRY

Discussed adequately earlier in meeting.

RECENT DONATION/CHUCK

CHUCK SHELEY

Bob Snyder(CJ 46) made \$2500 donation for the Good Samaritan fund.

MUSEUM MTN FLYING PROPOSAL

DOUG HOUSTON

There is a big smokejumper display at the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula. Stan Cohen wants \$1000 to redo/improve that display. Doug will connect Stan with a graduate student at a University for possible help. NSA will get recommendations from the grad student on the best way to proceed. Look at opportunities to help Stan with work-in-kind.

MSO JUMPERS SCHOLARSHIP

DOUG HOUSTON

The Missoula smokejumper welfare fund gives 2 \$500 scholarships to current Missoula jumpers. Should NSA look at doing that as well?

SHORT TERM/LONG TERM

GOALS

JOHN TWISS/ALL

Motion suggested and agreed to accept 1-5 as our goals, both ST and LT. We began to develop action items with who and by when. We started with the Short Term goals. Long term goals will be addressed at the next meeting in Redding.

LONG TERM GOALS

- 1. By 2014 double the size of the NSAs net worth/increase investment fund to \$1.5 million (#2 and #5 were combined as they were similar)--11 votes*
- 2. By 2014 fully fund the production expenses of the Smokejumper Magazine--10 votes*
- 3. By 2104 increase NSA membership by 50%--9 votes*
- 4. By 2104 increase NSA Life memberships by 50%--8 votes*
- 5. By 2014 hire an Executive Director--7 votes*

- 6. By 2014 expand the Trails Program to 250 volunteer weeks of service in 7 states--4 votes*
- 7. By 2014 reimburse the NSA Board of Directors for expenses to attend BOD meetings--3 votes*
- 8. By 2014 develop a Smokejumper Educational Center through restoration of the Seeley lake Bunkhouse--2 votes*

SHORT TERM GOALS

- 1. By 2010 develop a solid working relationship with FS and BLM Smokejumper leadership and active Smokejumpers.*

Actions

**Invite FS and BLM management to update the NSA board about selected current smokejumper issues and policies. John Twiss will write a letter to the national offices inviting them to attend board meetings. Completion Date: January 2010.*

**John Twiss will request that FS and BLM appoint active smokejumpers as advisors/liaisons at NSA Board meetings. The purpose is to provide a continuing dialog between the federal agencies and the NSA regarding issues of interest to both parties. Completion Date: January 2010.*

**Doug Houston will identify a contact at every smokejumper base who will provide a direct liaison between the NSA and each respective base. Completion Date: January 2010.*

2. By 2010 develop a comprehensive Donation Program (bequests, memorials, wills, etc) and policy for use.

Actions

**Bob Dayton and Guy Hurlbutt will draft a policy for raising funds and expending those funds for various grants and projects. Completion Date: June 2010.*

3. By January 2011, obtain a total of 267 Life members.

Actions

**Jim Cherry will prepare a plan for presenting life membership information at the reunion. Completion Date: June 2010.*

**Jim Cherry will prepare a plan for obtaining life memberships through memoriams. Completion Date: June 2010.*

**Each board member will find two life members. Completion Date: October 2010.*

4. By 2010 identify 5 people who will take over future leadership of the NSA Trails Program.

Action

**Jon McBride will prepare a list of individuals who will each agree to perform a specific function of the trails program. Completion Date: December 2010.*

5. By 2011 increase current Smokejumper membership by 40 members.

Actions

**Develop a plan for presenting financial aid for education and training, not to exceed \$1,000 per person, to active smokejumpers who are members of the NSA. Anticipated budget will be \$2,000. Completion Date: June 2010. (John Twiss, Ron Stoleson, Jerry Williams, Larry Lufkin)*

6. By 2011 develop a succession plan to fill key NSA Board Of Director positions--3 votes

7. By 2011 add an Associate Member position to the NSA Board of Directors--2 votes

8. By 2009 review the NSA logo for applicability to all Smokejumpers—1 vote

9. By 2011 collect \$3000 from donations--1 vote

10. Beginning in 2010 allocate \$2000 each year for 3 years to preserve the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base--1 vote

11. By 2010 develop a NSA volunteer trails opportunity for women--0 votes

12. By 2010 expand the NSA Trails program to include intergenerational volunteer opportunities--0 votes

NATIONAL SJ REUNION/REDDING

CHUCK SHELEY

Kasmar Pro will attend and handle all NSA merchandise sales.

NSA member-\$35 registration. Non-member-\$50, but includes 1 year NSA membership. Initial postcard notice of the reunion will go out in January. A registration packet w/ registration form and reunion info will go out in February. Will include membership applications in the February packet.

2010 NSA BOARD MEETINGS

JOHN TWISS/ALL

There will be an NSA BOD meeting in Redding in conjunction with the reunion. The meeting will be June 10 and 11, 2010. All NSA members are invited to attend. The reunion is June 11,12,13 The fall BOD meeting will be October 8 and 9, 2010 in Spokane, WA.

ADJOURN/THANKS