

June 2007

Meeting Minutes, June 2007

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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National Smokejumper Association

Board of Directors Meeting

June 8, 2007

Boise, Idaho

Attendees:

Doug Houston, President
Chuck Sheley, First Vice President
John Twiss, Second Vice President
Roland Stoleson, President Emeritus
Charles Brown, Treasurer
Dave Bennett, Secretary
James Cherry, Director
John Helmer, Director
Larry Lufkin, Director
Larry Longley, Director
Karl Maerzluft, Director
Gary Johnson, Director
John McDaniel, Director
Jon McBride, NSA Trails Coordinator
Roger Savage, Database Manager
Guy Hurlbutt, Member
Stan Linnertz, Member
Steve Nemore, Reunion 2007 Director

Absent:

Mark Corbet, Director
Bill Moody, Director
Leo Cromwell, Director
Joe Stutler, Director
Nels Jensen, Director
Tom Uphill, Director

Reunion Update-Steve Nemore

Steve said the reunion committee was initially disappointed in registration, however, over 600 registered as of two days prior to the reunion. There is no penalty on late signups. A couple of problems-campus problems-big coordination effort. Steve reported that the committee can't tell if we are going to make money or not at this time. Cliff Dalzell is reunion treasurer, and he reports there is \$63,000 gross revenue realized so far.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Doug Houston

Doug asked for comments on the previously emailed meeting minutes from the Portland Meeting. A correction: Cost of DVDs is \$4500 rather than \$45. The grouped moved and seconded to approve with comment as stated.

Treasurer's Report – Charlie Brown

Income from membership about the same as it was last year. We may have peaked out on membership. Life member donations are up 33% over last year. Investment income is up, primarily because it includes a \$6,110 capital gain from the sale of some CSWC stock. Total cost basis of our stocks is \$154,540. We are using some of the realized capital gains from the CSWC stock sale in our total stock investments, which accounts for stock investments over BOD approved \$150,000. Unrealized capital gains are over \$50,000. Total market value of our stock is \$205,565.

Reunion expenses paid by the NSA are \$7,400. These expenses include money advanced to the reunion committee plus Chuck Sheley's expenses of magazine inserts, booklet printing, and postage.

Actual net income as of June 3, 2007 is \$12,796 (this number excludes the financial activity of Trail Maintenance, Art Jukkala Scholarship Fund, Boise 2007 Reunion, the Finn Ward Fund, and Life Membership donations) which is less than last year's comparable number but ahead of budget.

Total authorized for stock investment is \$150,000 (\$25,000 additional was approved at the last Board of Director's meeting in March). Based on John Helmer's recommendation, the Investment Committee authorized the purchase of an additional 1,000 shares of Qualstar and 64 shares of Bank of Utica. The investment Committee also authorized the sale and repurchase of 100 shares of CSWC. We have closed our checking account at the Mid State Bank-Dean Longanecker's bank is being sold. Finn Ward account has about \$35,000 in it currently.

Revised budget. 2007 Fiscal Year ends June 30. Net surplus is estimated at \$7,925. Boise Reunion financial results may / will change this number.

Budget for FY 2008. Discussed proposed budget in Portland at the March, 2007 BOD Meeting. Charlie presented the proposed revised budget. The Board had proposed a \$3,000 item for audit of NSA books. We budgeted \$3,000 for merchandise sales but this number may be too optimistic. Chuck said that we should be more realistic and reduce to \$1500. Agreed to change to \$1,500.

Audit. Charlie contacted several CPA firms that do audits of non profits. So far, he has received two proposals. These proposals include different prices depending on the type of audit performed. These proposals include a minimum type review of our financial statements to a full audit of our books with a signed opinion. The prices range from \$4,500 to \$8,500. Chuck said we should get input from Larry Lufkin on exactly what service we need. Larry had suggested \$2500 would be a good budget number. Larry Longely suggested trustees. Three elected trustees that meet with treasurer and verify that the money is all there. There is no charge for this. Would require modification of the bylaws. Jon suggested the trustees might go beyond audit. Chuck moved we defer this to September meeting. John Helmer seconded. Doug directed Larry Longely to draft the

bases for the trustees. We will do an email elect/appoint of trustees. We will maintain the \$3000 budget item for now.

Insurance for the BOD. Karl Maezerluft has an estimate for liability insurance cost would be \$595. Chuck suggested that we canvas the membership for an insurance expert to provide an opinion on this cost. Chuck will run a notice in the magazine for an insurance expert. We will beat the bushes at the reunion for an adviser. Karl is willing to continue to research this farther. Karl said to increase the budget estimate to \$600. Jon McBride said he will not need the \$1000 in the 2008 budget for Trails. We will reduce it to \$200.

Revised net surplus for the 2008 budget is \$4,350. John Helmer moved to approve the budget. Seconded and approved.

Membership Update-John McDaniel

John McDaniel reports there is a steady decline in members from quarter to quarter. We have a deficit of 69 in the last quarter. Presently there is a total of 1671 members and 191 Life Members. John has a goal of 1800 regular members, and expects to be back up to 1700 in a month or so. John has sent out many letters to the 1970-1979 jumpers, with poor response. Karl asked if it would be helpful to come up with a slogan. Carl Gidlund asked about a gift membership program. This is authorized by the BOD. Doug suggested a discounted DVD be offered to rookies when they join. Chuck Sheley said we could give the DVD to the rookies when they join. John Twiss suggested that the present jumpers aren't interested in the NSA the way the old guys are. Larry Longely said there should be a difference in reunion cost member vs. non-member. Larry also said that we should have an NSA sticker. Chuck said we have window decals, however they mount on the inside window surface and are not easily seen through tinted windows. Larry will look into an outside-the-window decal. John said he has sent out letters to all 10 year members for items for the silent auction. Sales price is to be applied to a life membership. We had two takers. Larry Longley suggested getting corporations to donate items with memberships-discounted items like White boots, Kerschaw knives, etc. Doug will look in to this.

Life Memberships – Jim Cherry

We have crossed over the 200 mark. 191 people have made the full \$1000 contribution, plus others who are on the installment plan will take us over the 200 mark. We may want to increase the price of the life membership. Charlie said we should consider by 2009 that we increase to \$1250. The group decided that we will defer the increase in life member contribution to the September meeting. Jim passed out life membership signup forms. We have a membership table set up at the reunion. Life members are heavily biased pre 1975. John Twiss said we need more hands-on programs that will create linkages, such as the Trails Program. We need to create value that the life members and candidates can relate to. Ron Stoleson said we need to be involved with the Memorial to Fallen Firefighters. Jon McBride said the next effort for Trails will be Mann Gulch, which will bring additional value to the NSA and its members. Doug asked that we think

about goals for this organization that we should work toward. Jim Cherry will work on a donation request letter.

NSA Investment Update – John Helmer

John reported excellent results during the last period. John cautioned the BOD that we can historically expect low double digit performance, and that we are ahead of this value as a matter of luck. Market value of our \$150k investment is ~\$200k. John says that we have reached our investment goal. We should not plan to invest more. John said he is a buy and hold investor and would recommend taking that approach. As a reminder, buy/sell decisions are made by the investment committee with recommendations from John Helmer.

Merchandising Report – Doug Houston

Things aren't going well with Western Heritage. There was a breakdown in communication regarding the merchandise for the reunion, and as a result, **Western Heritage decided not to participate in the reunion.** The reunion committee went to another company for the hats and tee shirts. Doug thinks that we need to be on their main web page rather than the obscure link that we now have. We need to place a flyer in the October issue for Western Heritage merchandise. We have other supplier options that we should consider for a potential move at the end of the calendar year. Based on our experience with Western Heritage, we should perform due diligence on our next vendor. Chuck said we should define criteria for our products and use those criteria to vet potential suppliers. Doug will work the merchandise vendor selection issue. Parameters to be considered are order turn around time, NSA profit, and periodic statements of account. New tee shirt designs are in the hopper. We currently have no tee shirts for sale. Christmas cards are another good possibility. Stan Linnertz suggested a Smokejumper Cookbook for sale. Stan would be the perpetrator.

History Update -Larry Longely

Larry reported that Steve Smith is working on editing the new Smokejumper DVD. The Evergreen Supertanker video is another project that Steve is working on. Larry will be doing interviews during the reunion. He is also in the process of transcribing the oral history project and video interviews and working on the NCSB September reunion book. Ron Stoleson said that there are ~50 interviews of McCall jumpers available. There is a website for the Idaho Historical Society where these are located at [//www.net/smokejumper.html](http://www.net/smokejumper.html).

The NSA has sent our annual \$200 donation to the MSU library for their support in jumper history archiving.

Trails Update – Jon McBride

Jon is in the middle of the planning period for 2007. This year will set another record for participation-170-180 one week volunteers. Emergency trail maintenance has been requested in Colorado and is being led by Doug Wamsley involving six to eight NSA volunteers. Bill Ruskin cancelled the originally planned June Colorado trails project because it did not meet our standards. Bill is working with Colorado Trails Foundation to further our participation in that area. The Mann Gulch commemorative sign project in

the Helena National Forest was completed in early June and involved 14 NSA volunteers. This was a high-visibility project that made all of major Montana newspapers. Letters of appreciation were written to our volunteers from a major Montana corporation. There is an on-going discussion with the Helena National Forest regarding a Mann Gulch interpretive trail that would visit each fallen jumper's cross sight. The plan is to build/improve a trail from the interpretive sign to cross sites. Merriweather Campground will be the new entry point from the Missouri River for Mann Gulch. Jon is meeting with the Helena Ranger district, and the first meeting occurred in May. A meeting is also planned with the Forest Supervisor on 6 August. Jon is confident that we will be successful; the goal is to build the trail during the summer of 2008. The Fallen Firefighters Foundation may be willing to grant funding support to the Mann Gulch project.

Jon would like to use a memorandum of understanding as a vehicle of agreement with Region-1 for trail maintenance activities. This would include a clause for liability insurance. Forest Service Districts like to work under another agreement that does not include liability insurance.

Jon reported that Bill Ruskin and Jim Cherry were successful in obtaining a \$4,000 grant from the American Hiking Society for replacement tools.

Trail Maintenance is continuing with the 50 year rookie projects each year. The "rookies" (1957) will be working on Double Arrow Lookout project near Seeley Lake this summer.

Endowment/Gift Giving Update – Doug Houston

Doug reported on follow-up actions on the Dick Timm presentation from the Portland meeting. The plan would involve a partnership with the NSA; and testing the waters with a Missoula meeting/presentation on endowments. The NSA would send postcards to people in our database in the Missoula area, with a scheduled meeting and presentation in late summer. John Helmer said that we have asked Dick Timm for a sample contract-he has not provided this. John said we should be cautious in using our letterhead without certainty of his intentions.

Jim Cherry said that we need to actively engage in educating ourselves on annuities and then proceed.

John Helmer advises us that it is possible for NSA to do this ourselves without Dick Timm. Doug will investigate Dick Timm's intentions further and report again at the September meeting.

Forest Service Retirees Reunion Update – Doug Houston

The NSA is generally committed to participate in this reunion. There will be an organizer's meeting scheduled this summer and Laird Robinson is our liaison. Doug will update the BOD via email.

History – Roger Savage

Records have been lost, i.e., five years of records were lost at MSO, and another loss occurred at RDD when a plane ran into the hanger. We need to duplicate records from the jump bases and create a repository for pictures. Roger said we could list all fires for all years on our website and people could post photos to those fires. Larry Longely has

many photos in a searchable database; he will have them loaded to the website. Doug will talk to base managers about organizing records and providing copies to the NSA. Ron Stoleson said that we don't have an overall system for linking all of our history resources together.

Next Meeting –The meeting originally planned for September 8 at the NCSB in Winthrop has been rescheduled for September 7.