

June 2004

## Meeting Minutes, June 2004

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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National Smokejumper Association  
Summary of The Board of Director's Meeting  
June 18, 2004, Missoula, Montana

**Attendees:**

Roland Stoleson, President	Chuck Sheley, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Doug Houston, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Larry Lufkin, Immediate Past President
Dean Longanecker, Treasurer	Dave Bennett, Secretary
Fred Cooper, Director and Membership Coordinator	
Bill Moody, Director and History Chairman	Fred Rohrbach, Director
Tom Uphill, Director of Strategic Planning	John McDaniel, Member
John Twiss, Director	Stan Linnertz, Member and Reunion Organizer
John Helmer, Director	Barry Hicks, Member and Reunion Organizer
Karl Maerzluft, Director	Bob Schumaker, Member
Leo Cromwell, Director	Roger Savage, Member
Joe Stutler, Director	Tom Kovalicky, Member
Jim Cherry, Director	Neil Satterwhite, Member

President Ron Stoleson led the group in The Pledge of Allegiance

Special Studies-Roger Savage

Roger introduced Dr. Curtis Noonan of the University of Montana Department of Environmental Sciences, previously with the Center for Disease control in Atlanta. Dr. Noonan, an epidemiologist, studies risk factors in human populations, and in this instance, long-term health affects of smoke inhalation. He would like access to the NSA smokejumper database to evaluate effects of smoke exposure from forest fires. Evaluate jumpers for long-term effects associated with breathing smoke. There are 5500 names in the database, including 500 deceased, and compare them against date of birth. To perform the study, Dr. Noonan would statistically compare smokejumper database with a "standard" group.

**This endeavor is of potential value in to the NSA in that Dr. Noonan will expend resources to locate the 1700 people in the database for which we have no contact information,** which could then be made available to the NSA. An Investigation Review Board from the University would provide over site of the process to be sure that confidentiality is preserved. There would be no direct contact with members.

Chuck Sheley moved to table the activity until we find out if there is benefit to NSA. Tom Uphill seconded the motion. Discussion-John Helmer said that we should help out if it's a legitimate activity. Jim Cherry-Why would Dr. Noonan believe that the Smokejumper population is any different from the general population? The doctor stated that large groups of people such as represented in the data base offer opportunity for statistical comparison to " the healthy worker". Vote-Absent the benefit to NSA, we will not further consider release of the database. The motion carried, 7 to 4. Therefore, we will consider this further by email and reach a final decision in the near future.

Smokejumper Data Base-Roger Savage

There are about 20 years for which records are sketchy. Roger has copied master action logs to CD using PDF format. There is one book missing, containing five years (1946-1950) from Missoula's master action books. Redding is missing records from a fire. Winthrop may be missing records from a flood, so It is important to push for replication of all base records in order to preserve our history. Leo has done a great job in copying McCall's records to CDs. Roger has been working with the Missoula base who has now copied some of their

master action logs to CD's and will be copying more as time permits. **Bob Schumaker has volunteered to further this activity with all bases.** Thanks to Bob for his willingness to help.

Nomination of Additional Board Members and Positions-Doug Houston

Doug moved that Nels Jensen be nominated as the Smokejumper Pilot Board Representative. Ron Stoleson seconded and the motion carried.

Doug Houston moved that John Twiss be nominated as second vice president. Dave Bennett seconded and the motion was carried.

Bill Moody, History Chairman stated that the Historian position is open. Steve Smith took it over, but doesn't have time considering his other duties as NSA Videographer. The Historian position is a demanding job and involves developing a strategic plan and overseeing its execution. As part of our effort to locate a historian, a notice with a job description will be placed in the magazine.

Doug told the group that Dean Longanecker is stepping down as Treasurer. **Charlie Brown is interested but needs more information on the job.**

Minutes of Prior Meeting-Dave Bennett

Bill Moody stated that a correction should be made to "Jerry Williams", not "Gerry Williamson". Motion to accept the minutes was made by Larry Lufkin, seconded, motion passed. Corrections were noted and will be implemented.

Treasurer's Report-Dean Longanecker

An update of balance and income report as of June 14 were presented by Dean. He reminded the group that Life Membership funds are not to be used for operating expenses. We are using Merchandise money for current operations and also using future year dues for operations, which is a matter of concern. Life Memberships stand at \$126,142, with interest going back into the same account. Dean is still planning on converting to a double entry accounting system and is working with his accountant to accomplish this. He expects to have this completed in the next week or two. This conversion will only cost \$600 and the sustaining cost will be approximately \$60 per quarter.

Dean stated that we need to establish a budget for the coming year. **A very significant part of our income is from Chuck Sheley's management of the Merchandise program.** He will resign in two years six months and if a replacement is not found, we will have a significant funding problem. We must develop an ascendancy plan and diversify.

Larry Lufkin led a discussion on the budget status using a computer-based spreadsheet and projector. The draft NSA budget presented at the beginning of the discussion showed a \$6000 plus deficit for the coming year. The following elements of budget were addressed.

There was concern over \$1200 per year rent to Museum of Mountain Flying. **After discussion, the group viewed the cost as support to MMF operation and will therefore be continued.**

We have an implicit understanding with the Evergreen Museum that the NSA will produce an additional \$10,000 in funds for the Museum. Doug Houston stated that the Stimson Foundation will likely re-initiate its \$10,000 grant to Evergreen Museum. Evergreen will have to re-qualify for the Stimson Foundation grant. This will happen by this fall. If Stimson donates \$10,000 then our obligation to the Museum fulfilled. **Fred Rohrbach will match up to \$5000 of NSA contribution to the Museum as previously offered.**

### **We will budget \$2,500 to the Evergreen display.**

The above changes bring us into balance financially for 2005. Dean Longanecker moved that we provisionally approve the budget as it now stands with further consideration later. Larry Lufkin will provide the formal budget. See file 2004 NSA budget.

### **Investment Strategy-John Helmer**

John is a stockbroker and money manager. Does this organization want to consider a more aggressive investment strategy than we are currently engaged in? Consider investing in equities? John suggests investing at a level of \$25,000. Suggests that three people be delegated to make investment decisions. Suggests convertible bonds at 7% interest. Mass Mutual Corporate Investors. Current price is \$24/share.

Discussion-concern over risk. We've made a commitment to our Life Members that we won't spend the principle. Dean suggests that equities are too risky; bonds might be a better option.

Larry Lufkin moved that \$25,000 be invested as John Helmer recommends also that the decisions be made by the assigned committee, which includes the President, Treasurer, and Second VP. Seconded and motion carried. Dean voted no.

### **Merchandising-Chuck Sheley**

**Chuck presented statistics by year on merchandise profit that is returned to the NSA.**

- 1998 \$6800
- 1999 \$5600
- 2000 \$20,500 (Redding Reunion year)
- 2001 \$11,400
- 2002 \$17,600
- 2003 \$14,500
- 2004 \$7600 through May

The Evergreen Museum has designated some gift shop shelf space to NSA for the NSA merchandise. **The web site sells 90% to others outside of NSA, 10% to NSA members.** John Robinson, our Webmaster, dedicates 20 hours per month, which works out well. Chuck is selling Merchandise to the Museum of Mountain Flying.

Chuck spends 190 hours per month on NSA merchandising and the magazine. He plans to retire from the merchandising effort in January 2007. **A committee is in place, comprised of Fred Cooper, Dave and Stan Linnertz to find new program leads, including a new merchandising manager.** The committee will report at the October 2004 EXCOM meeting. The merchandising job requires about 2-3 hours per day. Plans are to identify a replacement by January 2006 to facilitate a one-year transition. Many details must be understood by the replacement.

### **Membership-Fred Cooper**

Fred will no longer be an elected Director after July 1, 2004, but will continue on as Membership Director. Fred is leading a campaign to increase memberships. John McDaniel, a professor at VMI, has volunteered to help and has published a brochure. Cost of the brochure to the NSA is \$1200. 5,000 copies of brochure have been printed. To date, we have recouped a significant portion of the \$1200 in new memberships. Total membership is 1778. Average length of membership has gone up to 4.68 years.

Fred has completed an analysis of rate structure for memberships. Fred handed out a proposal for change of rate structure. For details, please see Attachment 1. These changes will improve rate revenue by several

thousand dollars per year. Fred recommends effective date for new rate structure will be July 1, 2004. Chuck Sheley moved to accept the proposed new rate structure. The motion was seconded by Larry Lufkin, motion carried.

#### Folk Life Festival-Fred Cooper

Bob Beckley and Fred will prepare a written proposal to Forest Service in August 2004. Display of a jump tower, rigging table, and a remote possibility of a jump from the Tri-Motor are being considered. Chuck Sheley, Fred Cooper, and Bob Beckley are interviewing people during the reunion that will form an oral history to be presented at the festival. Fifty of 1940s jumpers are invited to participate.

#### Smokejumper Reunion 2004 Status Report-Barry Hicks

Barry reported that 900 pre-registered. This number of pre-registrants is approximately the same as was experienced at the Redding Reunion in 2000 at this point in time.

Ron Stoleson Letter read a letter from the Whitehouse. President Bush respectfully declined to attend the reunion.

#### Recognition of Effort-Barry Hicks

Barry Hicks had asked previously that BLM and Forest Service people; Jerry Williams and Larry Hamilton, working on a standard parachute for both agencies be recognized for their work. John Helmer prepared the draft text. Tom Uphill moved that the recognition be presented as drafted. The motion was seconded and carried. The Resolution will be presented during the 2004 Reunion Banquet.

#### Contributing Membership-Tom Uphill

A Contributing Membership brochure was mailed out previously in draft form. Brochures would be available at museums. Contributing members would receive a contributing membership card, includes a one-year subscription to the magazine and a tee shirt. \$100 is proposed for an annual contributing membership and \$1,000 for life contributing membership. A memorial to a deceased person can be part of the program. Tom requests input and suggestions by email that can be considered in his revision for October EXCOM meeting.

#### Cold Missouri Waters-Fred Rohrbach

Song/video includes Mann Gulch. We can get the resale rights. **It was agreed that we will pursue this opportunity. Fred has the lead.**

#### University of Montana Archives Memorandum of Understanding - Bill Moody

Bill recently delivered historical information on South Canyon Fire to the university to archive. All of the NSA Smokejumper information collection will be on a university website. A draft of MOU is in a handout that is presented in Attachment 2 to these minutes. There is a special project cost for transferring videotapes onto state of the art preservation media. This is for materials; others cover university labor. **The University is not interested in artifacts. Evergreen Museum also has enough artifacts. The University would also like to have minutes of our meetings and books written on Smokejumping.**

#### Evergreen Museum Display Dedication-Doug Houston

The dedication will consist of presentations by a Forest Service representative Doug Houston will represent the NSA and Jim Allen or Fred Brauer will also participate.

#### CPS-103 Reunion-Doug Houston

CPS-103 will have a reunion in July. Chuck will attend and represent the NSA.

#### October Meeting-Doug Houston

Recommended that. The local organizer in Glenwood Springs suggested against having our next EXCOM meeting there. Memorials will be conducted at Glenwood Springs on July 6, the anniversary of the fatalities. Planned date is October 9, 2004. Boise is suggested as the new meeting location.

#### Strategic Plan-Tom Uphill

Tom had sent out draft plan previously. Tom is asking for board approval after discussion. The plan will be the basis for program definition, and then annual budget will be drafted in accordance with the strategic plan. The plan is about a process, not a yearly budget. Doug Houston moved to accept the process, The motion was seconded, motion carried. The draft plan includes changing the reunion cycle from five years to two years.

EXCOM meets in April, Budget approved in June at the meeting of the full Board.

#### Membership at Jump Bases-Carl Mazerluft

Carl has drafted a membership-recruiting poster to be posted at jumper bases. Carl handed out a draft resolution regarding the poster which is provided in Attachment 3. The Board agreed that he should move forward with his resolution. **John Helmer will install a poster at Redding; Doug Houston will do the same at the Missoula base, Bill Moody will deliver one to NCSB, Leo Cromwell will take one to McCall, and Tom Kovalicky will deliver a poster to Grangeville.**

#### Passing the Gavel-Doug Houston

Doug presented the NSA award to Ron Stoleson for his service to the NSA as the President. Thanks to Ron for an excellent job!

Fred Rohrbach moved the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded and passed.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN**

**June 8, 2004**

Submitted by Fred Cooper

**BACKGROUND:**

A special membership effort was made targeting jumpers from the 1960s to join the NSA. A total of 411 applications along with a letter from the President and a specifically designed recruitment brochure were mailed May 12, 2004. Applications were sent to those for whom we had an address in the database. About one-fourth of them had been members in the past but had dropped their membership. Cost for this effort was approximately \$1,200 with the major expense being the printing of 5,000 brochures for \$1,000.

Primary volunteers working on this project have been Carl Gidlund, Dan McComb, John McDaniel, and students recruited from VMI by John.

**PRESENT STATUS:**

As of June 8, we have had the following responses:

Number returned undeliverable has been 20

Number returned with new address and resent has been 15

Number joining the NSA has been 23 with the following Memberships:

1-Year	3
2-Year	8
5-Year	7
10-Year	5
TOTAL	23

To date, we have had responses from 58 of the 411 applications sent. Total revenue received is \$1,755. Net income after deduction for Magazine expenses is \$775.

**PROPOSAL:**

We continue to monitor the responses and identify another target group to send applications and brochures to in another recruitment mailing.

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**Memorandum of Understanding**

Between  
K. Ross Toole Archives, Mansfield Library, The University of Montana  
And the National Smokejumper Association  
DRAFT 22 August 2002

The National Smokejumper Association (NSA) and the K. Ross Toole Archives at the University of Montana's Mansfield Library have created this Memorandum of Understanding regarding the archival collections of papers, photographs, and moving images currently held by the National Smokejumper Association.

It is understood that the NSA will:

- Donate said collection to the archives beginning in 2003.
- Before transferring the collection, transfer all Beta SP video to VHS copies and attempt to identify all photographs;
- Encourage its members to donate personal collections to the Archives through the NSA;
- Once the collection is donated, provide some ongoing financial support to the collection.

It is understood that the Archives will:

- Establish this material as the National Smokejumper Association Collection;
- Process the materials and prepare them for use by researchers in a timely fashion;
- Manage the collection in a fashion consistent with established professional standards and with the University of Montana academic manual;
- And continue to work with the NSA to collect additional materials relating to smokejumpers and smokejumping.
- Should the Archives become unable to maintain the collection, it would be returned to the National Smokejumper Association.

It is further understood that the National Archives has no objection to the establishment of this collection (see attached letter).

For the NSA:

Title:

Address:

Telephone:

Date:

Signature:

For the Archives: Jodi L. Allison-Bunnell, Archivist

Signature:

Date:

ATTACHMENT 3  
RESOLUTION

Whereas, new membership and money is the life blood of the NSA Organization, and  
Whereas permanent posters in all jump lofts would be a continuous reminder and  
Whereas, contact information should be readily available to all jumpers, and  
Whereas, such presence would highlight the importance of the NSA;

Now therefore, be it resolved that, a volunteer NSA member be appointed to be  
The guardian of the poster and attempt to display that poster in each loft, and  
Be it further resolved, that each guardian of the poster be an ad hoc member  
Of the membership committee for the purpose of recruitment and interaction with  
Potential new members from each respective base.  
Be it also resolved, that such guardians will attempt to set up a graduation  
Ceremony for each rookie class to present a rookie jump pin to each graduate  
For the purpose of recruitment to the NSA.

Resolved this date \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_