

April 2001

## Meeting Minutes, April 2001

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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The April 7, 2001 Executive Committee Meeting was held in Tukwila, Washington.

**Attendees:**

Larry Lufkin, President  
Chuck Sheley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Roland Stoleson 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Dean Longanecker, Treasurer  
Fred Cooper, Membership Coordinator  
Neil Satterwhite, Data Base Manager  
Dan McComb, Webmaster  
Carl Gidlund, Immediate Past President  
Steve Smith, NSA Historian  
Dave Bennett, Secretary

Bill Moody, Director, History Chairman  
Fred Rohrbach, Director, Video Chairman  
Roger Savage, Asst. Data Base Manager  
Ted Burgon, Member

**Magazine Report:** Chuck Sheley reported that 1900 Smokejumper Magazines were printed for April 2001. Deadline for the next issue is 20 April.

**Merchandise Report:** Chuck Sheley receives approximately three orders per day, seven days per week. These are immediately filled and shipped. This is the rate that Chuck has experienced for the last several months. There will be a request in the July magazine for a volunteer to help with merchandising.

**Video Report:** In behalf of the NSA, Fred Rohrbach has negotiated an agreement with a company in the Bay Area for distribution of the NSA video wherein NSA receives 25% of the sale price. Sales price for the video is \$29.95 on the market, \$24.95 to members, and \$139.95 to institutional buyers. Fred has entered the video in several film festivals.

**Membership Report:** Handout attached. Fred Cooper reports that renewal reminders were sent to 650 people in January and a second reminder was also sent in the middle of March. So far, about 50 responses have been received. The dues increase was included in the notices. Membership is steadily increasing, with the total approaching 2000. Life memberships number 54; with one more received in recent responses and three more are in the process of paying.

Larry Lufkin mentioned that NSA has a goal of \$250,000 in life memberships giving NSA a sure funding source via the interest.

Ron Stoleson suggested that a spousal gift of a life membership is a good marketing strategy and would be very much appreciated by the recipient.

Fred Rohrbach offered the view that demographics of NSA/ board members is too old. We need some additional representation from younger members and also from women.

**Financial Report:** Handout attached. Dean Longanecker reported that the treasury balance continues to increase.

The Life Membership fund is in CDs and is valued at \$51,000. Full amount of each \$1000 Life Member fee is invested.

The Forest Service Museum fund was allocated at \$11,000; however, disbursement of this money is on hold until planning for the Forest Service Museum becomes more mature.

Income from videos goes into general merchandise account. It was agreed in discussion that there is no reason to keep a separate account of videos.

14,000  
Retn from Reunion 2000

②

Total cash inflow YTD is \$33,374. Outflow YTD is \$28,053.

Shirley Braxton has been terminated from the NSA office in Missoula and her final check has been issued. Chuck Fricke is now taking care of office matters on a volunteer basis.

Chuck Sheley mentioned that the Reunion 2000 committee returned \$6000 to the NSA treasury after borrowing \$4000, with a net gain of \$2000. + 11,800 Merchandise

**Evergreen Museum:** Bill Moody and Steve Smith reported on a meeting in January with Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon. The \$17M facility, new home of the Hughes Spruce Goose, is recognized as a premier aviation museum with professional curators and interactions with other major museums including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The objective of the meeting was to develop a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between NSA and Evergreen including the following points:

- Evergreen and NSA would jointly plan and create displays of Smokejumper historical items. Evergreen has a high level of interest in working with NSA to create this feature in the museum.
- The document reflects our desire to preserve Smokejumper history and our obligation to solicit donations to further support the museum.
- Evergreen would become the official displayer of NSA historical materials. However, the arrangement would be nonexclusive, enabling NSA to exhibit materials at other venues, such as the National Smokejumper Museum or the Forest Service Museum.
- NSA would screen material donations for authenticity, value, background, and help with restoration as necessary.
- Evergreen will function as the repository for NSA Smokejumper materials.
- Researchers will be allowed access to the materials.
- If the museum should dissolve, NSA would have opportunity to reclaim the entire collection.

The MOU is currently in draft form and is being reviewed by an NSA lawyer. If the MOU moves forward, Bill Moody suggested that an NSA liaison officer be named to work with the museum and also facilitate an agreement with the University of Montana, who is the keeper of the NSA oral history. These two projects are synergistic and require coordination to maximize benefit.

Ron Stoleson asked the question-can we legally transfer items originally supplied by the government to the museum? There was general discussion about transfer of historical materials that might technically be considered Forest Service property from NSA to Evergreen. Fred Cooper said that there is some risk that the government will object, however, the entire endeavor is not-for-profit, making such an event improbable. Previous NSA efforts to address this issue with the Forest Service have been unsuccessful.

Dean Longanecker moved to have the minutes indicate that we considered issue of ownership and we believe we have proper standing. Neil Satterwhite seconded. Motion passed. Ron Stoleson voted no, stating he was uncomfortable with the property ownership situation.

Since the museum is contemplating a significant Smokejumper display that will cost on the order of \$100,000, Bill Moody said that it would be appropriate for NSA to make a token donation on the order of \$5000.

Ron Stoleson provided a position description for NSA Historian. A handout is attached.

Steve Smith suggested that a notice be placed in magazine soliciting donation of Smokejumper historical items. The notice should mention that ex smokejumpers might include in their last wills that such materials be donated to the NSA. Steve offered to store these materials a short-term basis.

Roger Savage reported that NSA materials are still stored at the Mountain Museum of Flight in Missoula. Roger will move these items to the NSA office in Missoula.

Larry Lufkin offered background on NSA's interaction with the Forest Service Museum. Larry had written a letter to the museum indicating our willingness to participate and has received no reply. Roger Savage will extend an invitation to the Forest Service Museum to attend the June NSA meeting where they might provide us with an update of progress and intentions.

**Digitizing old NSA Documents:** There is a need to list and catalog old NSA documents, including old meeting minutes, magazine issues, and other items. Dave Bennett will take charge of scanning paper documents and running Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software to create digital files that can be archived and accessed. Files will be saved on CDs for archival. Ted Burgon will assist with collecting and cataloging these items. Roger Savage will ask members in the Missoula area for copies of early meeting minutes. Fred Rohrbach will contact Jack Demmons about old records that he might have in his files.

**NSA History Book:** Carl Gidlund reported that orders are coming in slowly for the yearbook with only about 30 signups. The due date for submittals has been extended to June 15, 2001. Carl asked for suggestions for book sections. Ideas offered were SEALS, 555 Division, and Pilots.

**Web Site:** Dan McComb states that we have a busy web site with approximately 3000 hits per week. Upgrades to web site not yet implemented, including the planned capability to update news section in real time.

Dan mentioned that an NSA member, Richard Englesfield, has proposed a Meta tag revision service to keep our web site ranking high on search engines. This will ensure that our web site comes up in the top ten listings when "smokejumpers" is entered in the search criteria. His service is \$400 initially and \$25 a month for maintenance. Chuck Sheley motioned that Dan should negotiate a contract with this person at the best rate possible for a six-month period. The motion was seconded by Fred Cooper and carried unanimously.

*need update*

NSA has web addresses reserved for ten years-smokejumpers.com, .net, .org, to preclude others buying the addresses and creating confusion. As an example of what can happen without protection of this sort, smokejumper.com (singular) is the web site a rock and roll band in Southern California.

The web site will be adjusted so that firefighting will appear on the news page rather than in the main page and it will be displayed only during the fire season.

Dan explained that the smokejumper database is currently a two dimensional file resembling a spreadsheet. A relational database is much more appropriate that supports a much broader range of queries than is available at present. A relational database would cover and include all aspects of the NSA records, some of which would be password -protected pages. Dean Longanecker made the motion to have Ron Stoleson chair a committee to investigate the needs for a relational database and develop a recommendation for the June meeting in Missoula. He will work with the database committee. We will authorize a consultant for the initial meeting and a limit charges to \$1000 for initial consultation. Dan will develop a list of consultants in the Seattle area. Motion seconded by Dan McComb, motion passed.

**Database Protocol:** Neil Satterwhite reported the need for cooperation of base managers for last years' jump list. A letter to base managers so requesting will be forthcoming from Larry.

**Guidelines For NSA Socials:** Chuck Sheley emphasized that the vision for socials is primarily to be a venue for ex smokejumpers to assemble, visit, and have a good time rather than a high-budget setting. Food should be modest and beverages should be available. The person arranging the social should invite members from the vicinity and the cost of dinner should have an approximate \$15 limit.

**Upcoming June Meeting in Missoula:** A primary agenda item will be selection of the location for the next reunion. In preparation, Fred Rohrbach will make contacts in Missoula. (Berry Hicks was the chairman for the previous Missoula reunions). It was suggested that Cliff Dalzell might be interested in championing a proposal for the reunion in Boise. Carl Gidlund will call Cliff Dalzell. There is \$10,000 in the NSA reunion fund. We should also be cognizant of the Forest Service's plans for their 2005 reunion in Portland in late summer.

**Other Items:** Carl Gidlund a volunteer is available for institutional fund raising but NSA needs a long-term (strategic) plan for growth of NSA and application of the funds. The volunteer is Chuck Wildes, a recent Forest Service retiree.

**Adjourn:** The Motion to adjourn was offered by Dean Longanecker and seconded by Fred Rohrbach. Motion passed.