

September 2000

Meeting Minutes, September 2000

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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National Smokejumper Association
Summary of Executive Committee Meeting
September 23, 2000

The meeting was attended by all Executive Committee members. Also attending part of the meeting were Bill Moody and Doug Houston.

Next Meeting Date: The EC set the meeting date for the full board for February 17, 2001. The meeting will be held at the Grangeville Smokejumper Base. Ron Stoleson will be making arrangements with Jerry Zumalt for the meeting room and for the smokejumper social.

Long Range Planning: Harold Hartman has not been able to work on the committee. ~~Jim Hagemier offered to chair the committee of none if the Board was willing to do so.~~

Membership: Fred Cooper reported that there were 1,578 dues paying members as of September 2000. Late dues letters were sent out to 83 members.

Treasurer: Dean Longanecker reported that he has completed the transfer of files and accounts from Jon McBride. Dean set up additional accounting files that will help him obtain more detailed reports. The NSA is within budget so far this year.

~~Website: Dan requested \$2,000 to convert the website from its current format to a database format.~~ This new format will allow other website editors to update the website without going through Dan for every change. ~~Dan commented that he is cutting us a deal on this because it would normally cost \$8,000 or so to do this work.~~ The EC voted to approve the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for this project. It is important that we continually update the website to keep the public interested in it. Our website "hits" have decreased over the past three months to about what they were when Dan first took over the site.

Dan also suggested that the NSA look into signing up for dynamic news services. These services would automatically update our website with pertinent smokejumper news as the articles were written and published. The EC asked Dan to explore the possibility of this service and the cost of it.

Magazine: Chuck mailed 1,628 copies on September 20th. The issue is 40 pages long and is our longest issue to date. He pointed out that we only budgeted for 1,400 copies. The EC concluded that the additional costs of the magazine would be covered by the additional members who joined since June. Chuck also reported that he is adding an

illustrator who will draw pictures to dress the articles. He would also like to eventually hire some one to be an outside salesman to sell ads to vendors.

Merchandising: Chuck reported that he grossed \$24,000 during 1999 and estimates he will gross about \$28,000 during 2000. Website business has increased to about \$1,000 per month. The NSA received two payments from commercial outlets for clips from our video files. Chuck mentioned that we should consider accepting volunteers from our list of associate members as some of these folks really want to participate in the NSA.

History: Bill Moody reported that he had not been able to contact Penn Stohr from Evergreen. (President's note: Since our meeting, Bill and his committee met with members of the University of Montana to discuss archiving our records. The initial contact was productive and additional contact is anticipated. Also, Bill contacted Penn Stohr who indicated that Dell Smith would be interested in meeting with the NSA to discuss including the NSA in the Evergreen Museum. Bill, Fred Rohrbach, and Larry will be meeting with them in November. We have not received any formal replies from the National Forest Service Museum since I wrote them two letters in June and July. It appears that they are not interested in providing the information we requested.)

Dale Longanecker: The EC formally recognized Dale Longanecker's new smokejumper record. We presented Dale with an NSA green coat with his name embroidered on it. Dale also received a plaque from his brothers and sisters and a tremendous picture from Doug Houston, NCSB Base Manager.

The EC discussed the proposed contract from Rocky Mountain Management Services at length. This proposal will be sent to you separately.

Life Membership Project: Jim Cherry is off and running on his project. My personal goal is to get 250 total life members in the next two years. This will give the NSA a Life Member Endowment Fund of about \$250,000 to use for generating revenue for operations.

Reimbursement: The EC voted to reimburse Dan for the cost of website development training he plans to attend. The total will be \$398.

2nd Vice President Vote: Larry announced that a sufficient number of votes had been received to elect Ron Stoleson as our new 2nd VP. Larry will be notifying Ron of the election.

Paid Help for Merchandising: Chuck commented that the NSA should consider making the merchandising function a paid position. He will not be able to continue in that position forever and it would be much easier to recruit a new person if the position was paid. He suggested that the EC establish an amount, such as a percentage of gross sales.

During the discussion, it was discovered that Chuck had lent the NSA several thousand dollars to set up the video and the merchandising functions over the past two years, but

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During the discussion, it was discovered that Chuck had lent the NSA several thousand dollars to set up the video and the merchandising functions over the past two years, but

had never been reimbursed for those loans. Larry instructed Chuck to provide documentation of the total amount and present it at the next meeting. We will make a provision in our budget to repay these loans.

The EC discussed sending a letter of support to the Federal Government in support of Gene DeBruin. The DeBruin family seems to be getting the run-around and need our support. Larry will write a letter to the Pentagon on their behalf.

The EC discussed the current dues structure and concluded that we need to evaluate whether members dues should be increased to pay for the additional services they are receiving via the magazine, website, and other functions. This may be a discussion issue for the full board in February 2001.

We discovered that although Jack Demmons had been awarded a life membership, he had never received his plaque and hat. Larry wrote a letter to Jack apologizing for the oversight. His plaque and hat will be sent to him.