

July 1998

Meeting Minutes, July 1998

National Smokejumper Association Executive Committee

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NSA Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

~~Date: 14 Jul 98~~

Location: NSA/Museum of Mountain Flying Hanger.

Members Present:

Laird Robinson	Jack Demmons
Larry Anderson	Roger Savage
Jon McBride	Bud Clarke
Phil Davis	Barry Reed

Laird Robinson called the meeting to order at 07:03 PM.

Minutes: Phil handed out copies of the 9 Jun 98 executive committee meeting minutes which were read by those present. Larry moved for approval of the minutes. Roger seconded and the minutes were approved by the committee.

Treasurer's Report: Jon first distributed copies of a summarization of the checks received for the video fund and explained that the discrepancies between the checks received and the checks deposited was caused by some checks not being deposited in the same month received. He stated that the remainder of the treasurers report did not require special explanation. A copy of that report will accompany these minutes. Laird again brought up the subject of how to handle the missing checks problem which has caused considerable concern for the past year. Jon stated that he has asked the Credit Union to run a listing of all checks deposited to include the account to which each was posted. No further action was taken.

Membership: Phil reported that the Data Base now stands at 4940 due to the addition of the names of some of the Triple Nickel jumpers, but not all of them yet. He stated that there are 1123 listed as active with 66 being delenquent. He also stated that we now have a list of the 1998 rookies which will be added to the data base as soon as possible. Jack reported that there are 23 new members since the last meeting. Jack also reported that there are now 31 Life members.

Old Business: Laird asked that the editing of the minuted for the annual meeting, which had been scheduled for this meeting, be delayed until the August meeting. He then asked Bud Clarke to report on the "Products" activity.

Bud reported that he had been in contact with Chuck Sheley regarding his suggestions and stated that Chuck will be attending the August meeting and can report to the executive committee in person at that time. Bud next handed out copies of a breakdown of the products sold at the McCall reunion. He stated that he had gotten permission to copy and sell the USFS Cook Books and stated that several had already been sold at the McCall reunion. Bud reported that the McCall reunion used up so much of the stock on hand that he is now having to back order. Roger inquired about the results of putting sale items on the web page and Jack stated that there had been numerous orders originating from that source. Laird reported that he had attended the National Forest Service Museum meeting and that they had again requested a list of members of the NSA and asked if there was any objection to giving them this list. There being no objections, Laird asked Phil to run them a current list of NSA members. Jack brought up the problem of the Director election, stating that 165 ballots had been returned and to meet the 20% requirement, we needed 225 if we count delenquent members or 212 if we use only those who are paid up in full. Laird suggested that this be discussed with Lon Dale before doing anything. He suggested that we could re-run the election asking for greater participation, but no further decision was made.

New Business: Laird read a letter from Mayor James Doran to State Representative Linda Parlette regarding the Winthrop Airport name change. This letter was very positive, however, the Washington State Department of Transportation remained very negative on the renaming of the airport to honor Francis Lufkin.

The Hall of Fame proposal was very briefly discussed with no new action taken.

Other Business: Jack discussed the Beechcraft aircraft which was donated to the Museum of Mountain Flying by Mark Timmons of Neptune aviation. He also called attention to the offer of the old Bungalow Ranger Station to the National Forest Service Museum and discussed the possibility of it being used as a starter building for the Museum. He stated that the building had been dismantled and was now in storage at Powell R.S.

~~Roger reported that NSA is changing providers for the Web Page because of incompatibility with the system now being used.~~ Roger also suggested the use of some of the video footage from the video project on the web page. Laird volunteered to discuss this with the video producer, Steve Smith.

Jon McBride proposed upgrading the computer program to Windows 95 or 98 at a cost of about \$150. Jon moved to make this upgrade. ~~Barry Reed~~ seconded and the ~~motion carried~~. *not Member of Committee*

Jack Demmons reported that the news letter was being delayed one week. Jon discussed the need for more interaction between the NSA and the various bases such as Bud Clarke's trip to the McCall reunion. However, he suggested that such trips can not be done at a net loss to the association.

There being no further business, Jack moved for adjournment. Roger Seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 08:45 PM.

Addendum

The following addendum contains NSA correspondence after the Executive Board meeting of July 14, 1998, and before the Executive Board meeting of August 18, 1998.

- Letter, July 23, 1998: Comments on Recent Events

Date: 23 July, 1998

To: Laird Robinson, President
National Smokejumper Assn.

From: Larry Lufkin

Subject: Comments on recent events

I am writing to follow up on, or obtain information for, three recent events.

Chuck Sheley's plans to market NSA merchandise

My proposal to revise membership categories

Results of the spring election of the Board

First, Chuck Sheley and I talked on the phone this past week regarding his plans for marketing merchandise for the NSA. Based on this conversation, I believe we should move, and move quickly, to approve Chuck's plans. I understand that Chuck plans to visit Missoula at the August Executive meeting to give you a formal presentation. My conclusion is that the NSA could increase sales of merchandise and increase our net income per item at the same time. Also, I believe that it is important for all directors to be involved in the operation of the NSA and that transferring some of the day-to-day pressure on Bud and Jack to other directors is critical. We need backup personnel for every function in the event that someone cannot or will not continue. Our recent experiences when Lowell suddenly resigned underscore this need.

Here is what I understand. Chuck can purchase most, if not all, merchandise items at a significantly lower cost in Chico than Bud can purchase them in Missoula. My calculations indicate that the price per shirt to Chuck will be nearly \$3 lower than we can get from vendors in Missoula. The sale of 1,000 shirts would net an additional \$3,000 over and above what we now make on our shirt inventory. Further, the vendor in Chico will allow us to order "off the shelf" which will allow us to purchase only for our immediate needs. In other words, we don't have to pay inventory costs to maintain large inventories. Bud could monitor the Visitors' Center sales and let Chuck know periodically when additional inventory was needed and the specific types of inventory that should be purchased. The inventory would be available within a week, including manufacturing and shipping time and the NSA wouldn't be stuck holding onto a lot of merchandise that wasn't selling. A side advantage would be that Bud would have more time to research and follow up on specialty items, such as special belt buckles, that are available only in Montana area.

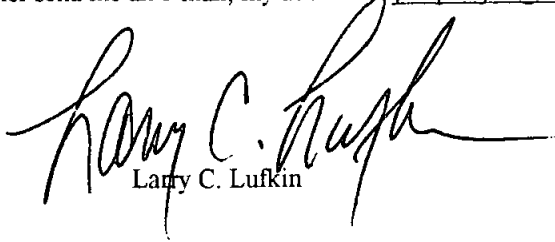
Another advantage with Chuck's plan is that Chuck would be able to purchase and ship all phone and e-mail orders. As it now stands, phone and e-mail orders pass through Jack's and Bud's hands two or three times before the order is finally sent out and it takes two-four weeks to get an order in the mail. Chuck has indicated that he would handle the entire process and that he could get orders out in a week. Chuck's wife is an accountant, recently retired from Chico State U., and she would agree to do all of the accounting for the project. All that would be needed would be for Chuck to forward all of the cash receipts and supporting documentation to Jon Mc Bride each period (month or quarter, as appropriate). As an aside, the NSA should seriously consider setting up a Visa account so that phone and e-mail purchases could be made without a cash transfer. All it entails is setting up the account with a local bank. It would cost us an annual fee and about 4% of each sale.

Second, pursuant to your instructions at the April Board meeting, I analyzed our membership structure and mailed you the results of that analysis in late May. To date, I haven't received any feed back on that proposal, except that it was mentioned briefly in the June minutes. I believe it is important that the NSA revisit the membership structure because we stand to increase our membership income materially if certain aspects of the plan are implemented. Also, it is important that we correct the information on our web site to prevent confusion by prospective members. I would hope that we could effect these changes in the very near future.

Third, I have not heard who won the elections and there haven't been any indications in the May or June minutes regarding the elections. Last year I was never officially informed of my status after the election

and only found out I was on the Board through informal means. We need to make a public announcement of the election in our newsletter and in the local newspapers, and write each person who ran for office a letter informing them of the outcome of the election. If we are to become a truly professional association, we must improve our communications with our directors, members, and the public.

If you have any concerns or comments on these items, please contact me in Olympia at 360-753-9432 (w) or at 360-459-2534 (h). If you would rather send me an e-mail, my address is jumpercj63@aol.com.



Larry C. Lufkin

Cc: Chuck Sheley
Bill Moody
Fred Rohrbach