

April 1998

Meeting Minutes, April 1998

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors, "Meeting Minutes, April 1998" (1998). *National Smokejumper Association Meeting Minutes*. 112.

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NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: 10 Apr 1998

LOCATION: Bob Marshall Room at the Aerial Fire Depot, Missoula, MT.

TIME: 08:00 AM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Aldrich	Larry Lufkin
Larry Anderson	Jon McBride
Jim Blaine	Bill Moody
Earl Cooley	Laird Robinson
Lon Dale	Fred Rohrbach
Phil Davis	Charles Sheley
Jack Demmons	Ron Stoleson
Carl Gidlund	Jerry Timmons
Tom Kovalicky	Fritz Wolfrum-?

Absent
 Geo Gowen 6-98
 Harry Moore 6-98
 Geo Cross 6-98

Also in attendance were:

Stan Cohen, Museum of Mountain Flying.
 Bud Clarke, Active Member in charge of NSA merchandise.
 Ed Heilman, National Forest Service Museum.
 Barry Hicks, Active member.
 Barry Reed, Active Member.
 Roger Savage, Active Member in charge of Web Site.
 Charles Wildes, Active Member
 Jerry Williams, Active Member, discussing the smokejumper program.
 Wayne Williams, Active Member and present smokejumper.

I. President Laird Robinson called the meeting to order at 09:00 AM. After welcoming all attendees and shortly discussing the general objectives of the organization, Laird discussed the planned agenda and asked for the minutes of last years directors meeting to be read and acted upon by those present. While Phil Davis handed out copies of the minutes of the 1997 annual meeting, legal counsel, Lon Dale suggested that before progressing with any formal action at this meeting, there was a problem with the legality of votes from those people who were appointed to the executive committee from outside the elected board of directors. He suggested that before proceeding, the by-laws be amended to rectify this problem and make those appointed officers members of the board of directors. Lon Dale then moved to make changes in the by-laws to automatically make appointed members of the executive committee, members of the Board of Directors and, at this time, to make Laird Robinson, Larry Anderson, Phil Davis, Jon McBride, Roger Savage and Jack Demmons members of the Board of Directors, Jack seconded and the motion carried. At this time, Phil handed out copies of the minutes of the May 10, 1998 executive committee meeting to those board members present in order to save the cost and effort of having to mail the minutes as is normally done! After allowing time for the 1997 Annual Meeting minutes to be reviewed, Laird called for any changes or comments and if none, a motion for approval. Larry Anderson moved that the minutes be approved as written. Carl Gidlund seconded and the board voted for approval. The minutes of the special board meeting held in June of 1997 to deal with the directors election were not discussed. Proxies from all out of town directors had been obtained and all were voted in favor of all the candidates on the ballot, since there were no contested positions.

II. A basic outline of the days agenda was discussed and several changes were made to accomodate some of the board members and visitors who had other commitments. The revised agenda was informally agreed to by those present.

Appointed - Historian, Computer *Appointed / designated officers do not have to be BOD members*

*those
 this
 specific
 case*

*Need this
 info*

III. Treasurer, Jon McBride handed out copies of the treasurer's report as well as copies of a condensed profit and loss statement. Jon discussed each entry and responded to questions. The report is self explanatory and copies of both will accompany these minutes or be available at the NSA office. Larry Lufkin, an accountant suggested reducing the number of accounts as the CD's come due in an effort to simplify the accounting. Jon McBride agreed and no formal action was considered necessary. Jon McBride next explained the proposed budget for the following year and requested input from the directors. The dispersal of funds for the next NSA reunion was discussed and considerable discussion was centered around the topic of when and if funds from the NSA should be dispersed for individual base reunions such as the one planned this year at McCall. Chuck Wildes stated that some control of the dispersal of funds for local reunions must be retained by the NSA and that no dispersal of funds to individual bases should be made unless such reunions were sanctioned by the National Association. Fritz Wolfrum pointed out that encouraging local reunions might not be a good idea and that encouraging other bases to volunteer in hosting the national reunion every five years was important. He also suggested that there be a chair on the board of directors from each base. Lon Dale suggested the possible use of honorary directors from each base such as the base manager or other overhead personnel. The board agreed that this route might be the best solution due to the difficulty of getting people from all the different bases to run for regular director positions as well as the difficulty of obtaining enough votes for a valid election. Ron Stolson suggested that the NSA have a membership table at any reunion held. Laird Robinson stated that he felt that there should be a director who would volunteer to head up a committee to deal with the problems of equal representation of the individual bases as well as to make the decision of funding for local reunions. He called for a volunteer and Tim Aldrich agreed to take on this responsibility. There being no further questions or suggestions for the budget as presented by Jon McBride, Ron Stolson moved that the budget be accepted as written. Jerry Timmons seconded and the motion carried. Laird asked for any other motions concerning the treasurers report. Jack Demmons reported that there had been requests for an annual publication of the financial report to all members. This was echoed by several other board members and Laird asked for a motion. Larry Lufkin moved that a financial report be published in the news letter for all members at least once a year. Bill Moody seconded and the motion carried.

IV. National Forest Service Museum Report: Laird introduced Ed Heilman who had volunteered to bring the NSA board up to date on the progress of the NFSM. Ed gave a short history of the organization's origin. He stated that at this time, the NFSM is somewhat stalled in a fund raising mode and is existing on membership fee income. He stated that apparently there will be no financial assistance from the National Forest Service. He stated that the first phase, which would be a temporary location that would later be used for storage, would cost about 580 thousand dollars due to the cost of providing the infrastructure. He reminded the NSA that to a certain extent, the NSA is a partner and has committed \$11,000 to the effort.

At this time, Laird broached the subject of a request by the NFSM for a copy of the membership roster of the NSA for them to use in soliciting memberships. After considerable informal discussion, the board agreed that it would be better to donate an ad in the NSA news letter and possibly include a brochure from the NFSM, rather than let a copy of the membership roster get into other hands when it has been a policy in the past to withhold such distributions. No formal action was taken, however.

V. Museum of Mountain Flying Report: Laird introduced Stan Cohen, president of the Museum of Mountain Flying. Stan reported on the activities of the museum over the past year and on the possibilities and problems for the future. He stated that the airport director had flatly refused to allow entry through the security fence at the NFSM site, but that he was very co-operative in suggesting a site near the Neptune hangers. Stan stated that there was no possibility of any construction this

year, but invited the NSA to continue sharing space at the present location and at any new location until such quarters might be available in the proposed NF5M building.

VI. video Production Report: Fred Rohrbach and Bill Moody of the Video Production Committee reported on the progress of the video to date. Fred reported that the committee has retained Steve Smith of Echo Productions and his partner Bill Stirholm to do the video. He stated that production should probably be complete by Aug or Sep of this year and that it should be ready for distribution by the end of the year. He stated that the Forest Service had turned down any use of equipment or manpower for use in making jumps from the Ford Trimotor for video footage because of safety and precedents. Bill Moody discussed the committee's efforts in obtaining the Trimotor from Evergreen Aviation to get some actual jumping footage. He stated that they had approached the British Columbia jumper project in an effort to obtain equipment and approval to make jumps for video footage. He stated that they were very co-operative to this point. Bill also stated that the video was running longer than expected and it appeared that the final length would be about 90 minutes. Bill Moody and Fred Rohrbach then played a short promotional video which contained some of the actual footage that will be used in the final video.

*Do we have a contract
Steve Smith?*

Laird Robinson suggested that the meeting adjourn for lunch at 12:30.

VII. Francis Lufkin Memorial: Larry Lufkin reported on the family's plans for the memorial to be held at Winthrop, WA on Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00 AM. He laid out a general itinerary which was expected to last about one and a half hours. Bill Moody explained the necessity for having reservations for over night accommodations due to the shortage of facilities in the area. Bill stated that he thought it very important that Jack Demmons, as historian for the NSA, attend the services. He moved that the NSA finance the costs of having Jack attend. Fred Rohrbach seconded and the motion carried. Bill Moody then summarized the plans of the Jumper Association at this memorial which might possibly include a jump from the Ford Trimotor from Evergreen Aviation.

VIII. Vision for the Future: Jim Aldrich reviewed a few things that he, Barry Hicks, and Larry Anderson had previously discussed. Many ideas from the board resulted in a list of possible improvements being generated. This list contained the following suggestions for future improvements.

- *Get base managers in attendance at NSA board meetings.
- *Consider an insurance program.
- *NSA to be represented at local reunions.
- *Membership rosters be sent to all directors.
- *Encourage local get togethers.
- *Production of a brochure.
- *More news letter articles concerning current jumpers.
- *Life time jump board.
- *NSA sponsored group travel.
- *Redesign the membership card.
- *Extend membership to Canadian jumpers.
- Extend membership to triple nickel jumpers
- *Improve the data base.
- *Generate a smokejumper calendar.
- *Add the news letter to the internet web page.
- *Expand the internet search for members.
- *Keep the administration small.
- *Review computer hardware.
- *Expand the membership committee and zone it for better coverage.
- *Encourage personal contacts with active jumpers.
- *Look for feed back from jumpers.
- *Get a Fax machine.

* 1998 BOD election 164 voted

$$\frac{164}{1096} = 14.9\%$$

- *Put a membership notice on the web site.
- *Set up a credit card paying facility.
- *Increase volunteer labor.
- *Expand the source of news letter articles.

From these suggestions, each board member marked the three items that he considered most important and from that survey, the committee listed the four items that generated the most interest. This list contained the following items:

1. Get base managers in attendance at board meetings.
2. NSA be represented at local reunions.
3. Encouraging local get togethers.
4. Extending membership to Canadian jumpers.

Laird stressed the fact that all suggestions by the board would be considered for action by the executive committee and not just those which generated the most interest among the directors. Further action was left to the executive committee.

IX. NSA Products: Bud Clarke displayed samples of the items that the NSA has for sale at the present time. He pointed out the need for expansion in products as well as inventory of those that we currently sell. He asked for input from the board regarding new ideas. Bud made several suggestions and numerous suggestions were made by board members. No formal action was taken, however it was agreed that any action be the result of action by the executive committee. Jack Demmons handed out copies of an analysis he had made of cost versus sale price of the items that the NSA currently handles. Bud Clarke stated that he has been keeping records since he took over the merchandise job and planned to study these records and come up with some recommendations when he has more data.

X. Web Page: Roger Savage reported on the progress of the web page during the past year. He stated that about 43 percent of homes in the US now have computers and that about half of them are connected to the internet. He explained what is now on the web page and what the plans are for the near future. He stated that already, the web page is getting about 35 hits a day which is up from about 25 only three months ago. Roger explained that the NSA now has a domain name which probably accounts for some of the large increase in hits. Roger also reported that the NSA Web Page is now on several of the search engines which makes it easier to find.

XI. National Smokejumper Program: Laird introduced Jerry Williams, former smokejumper and now director of fire and aviation management who had asked to speak at this board meeting. Jerry stated that the smokejumper program is definitely in trouble for the future. He stated that it is now the most costly component of the present fire management program. He cautioned that, if the smokejumper program is to continue, it must diversify and adapt to the new Forest Service policies. He pointed out that there are very few former jumpers in management positions in the region. He also pointed out that one reason for this is that most jumpers stay in the jumper program if they desire and are comfortable enough in the program and that they make little effort to go into other Forest Service positions. There was considerable informal discussion regarding what the NSA could do to help, but no formal action was taken.

Terms of officers - No by law change

XII. NSA By-law Changes: Lon Dale handed out copies of the NSA by-laws as enacted in 1993. The first topic considered was to change the percentage of voters voting from a minimum of 33% to 20%. Lon Dale entertained a motion to change article 2, paragraph 6 of the by-laws to read "from one third to twenty percent". Jack Demmons moved to make this change. Carl Gidlund seconded and the motion carried. The next topic considered by Lon Dale concerned officer terms. Lon suggested that the terms of officers should be two years rather than one. He did not ask for the by-laws to be changed to reflect this, but that when an officer is elected, he should be expected to serve a succeeding term if he so desires. Lon Dale moved to reelect the present officers to serve for an additional term. Carl Gidlund seconded and the motion carried. The third topic that Lon wanted considered was the appointment of honorary directors. He stated that to get representation from the various bases,

the NSA needs more directors input from bases outside of Missoula. He stated that article 3, paragraph 9 of the by-laws allows the appointment of honorary directors. Lon proposed and so moved that the board designate an honorary director from each base who would have the right to participate in everything except voting. The Board members present agreed that no board action be taken since the power to do this is already in the by-laws. The board agreed that membership in the NSA would not be required of those being appointed. Lon next broached the subject of who can be members and what the dues for the various categories should be. Again, no formal action was taken and the decision was left to the executive committee.

Laird discussed the upcoming director election. He stated that the ballots would go out with the next news letter and that there were two positions open and both incumbents were willing to run again as well as two more who had been nominated. He pointed out that there would be a need to have a quorum of members vote to legally decide the two positions.

not done -

XIII. Membership: Jack reported that the NSA now has 26 life members. Phil Davis reported that the data base currently stands at 4879 of which there are 1096 members. Of those members there are 32 delinquent members still being carried on the active file. He also gave a breakdown of how many members were in each category of membership length. For the record, those numbers were, Life Members 26, 10 year Members 162, 5 Year Members 297, 2 Year Members 161, and 1 Year Members 449. Jack Demmons showed a breakdown of the same data on an overhead projector. He also broke down the number of renewals before and after the implementation of the three reminder system now in use.

XIV. Newsletter Report: Jack Demmons gave a short summary of the status of the next newsletter. He stated that it will go to the printer on April 22. Roger Savage reported on the review committee. He stated that the committee meets before the printing of each news letter to check over and OK what is planned for publication.

XV. Reunion 2000: Barry Hicks reported that four weekends were available. Jun 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, and 30-Jul 2. He stated that the NSA would prefer the earlier dates. The board members present recommended the Jun 16-18 dates. Fritz Wolfrum reported that the National Forest Service Reunion also is scheduled for the year 2000 in Missoula, but was not sure of the dates. Informal discussion was held concerning what the NSA might do to generate income at the reunion 2000. Fritz Wolfrum showed a book put out by the Air National Guard for their reunion and reported that it sold very well. He suggested that the NSA might consider undertaking such a project. He also suggested that the Ford Trimotor painting be used to make 250 to 500 signed prints. Tom Kovalicky suggested that a committee be formed to look into both projects. Fritz Wolfrum and Carl Gidlund volunteered to serve on such a committee and it was suggested that the committee include Stan Cohen, an associate member and owner of Pictorial Histories Publishing Co.

XVI. Other Subjects: Laird Robinson thanked the video team for their efforts and accomplishments.

Bill Moody reported on an effort to rename the Winthrop Airport the Francis Lufkin Airport. He stated that the request was turned down, however, since Francis Lufkin's death there is considerable renewed interest. He asked for support from the NSA. Tim Aldrich moved that such a letter be composed and sent. Jack Demmons seconded and the motion carried.

Bill Moody expressed his concern over the lack of preservation of historical artifacts and documents. He suggested that the NSA try to get individual bases to work on this and asked the executive committee to consider a plan of action.

Laird handed out copies of a letter written by Barry Hicks regarding a letter sent to all board members by Jack Demmons. Both Barry and Jack briefly reported on events leading up to the situation. Lon Dale suggested that a letter of gratitude be sent to Lowell Hanson. Fred Rohrbach strongly suggested that the whole problem be dropped as of this date. Tom Kovalicky praised both Jack and Lowell Hanson for their

efforts and suggested that some sort of recognition such as a letter of gratitude or plaque be issued.

Tom Kovalicky discussed his efforts to honor smokejumpers on a postage stamp. He asked other directors to get the request form and send it in. He also broached the subject of a "Hall of Fame". He discussed what progress had been made and asked the executive committee to reconsider it. Laird agreed to discuss it at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Jerry Timmons moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Blaine seconded and the meeting concluded at 18:10.

Ammendment To By-laws. Page 1. Article 2. Paragraph 6.

Persuent to the annual directors meeting held 10 April 1998. Paragraph XII of the minutes, an ammendment of Article 2, Paragraph 6, of the by-laws was changed to read: "Quorum, except as otherwise provided by statute, the presence in person or by proxy of not less than 20 percent of the members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business and the vote of a majority of members present, shall be the act of the members."