

April 1997

## Meeting Minutes, April 1997

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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# MINUTES

## National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors Meeting

DATE: 04 April 1997

LOCATION: Bob Marshall Room at the Smokejumper Center, Missoula, MT

TIME: 08:30 - 17:15

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Anderson  
Earl Cooley  
Ed Courtney  
George Cross  
Lon Dale  
Jack Demmons  
Carl Gidlund

Lowell Hanson  
Tom Kovalicky  
Bill Moody  
Laird Robinson  
Charles Sheley  
Jerry Timmons

Absent  
George Gowen (6-98)  
Larry Moore (6-98)  
Bill Werhane (6-97)  
Term expires

### Also in attendance were:

Stan Cohen - Museum of Mountain Flying  
Phil Davis - Acting Secretary  
Ed Heilman - National Forest Service Museum  
Niki Llewellyn - Temp. Employee of Nelson Personnel  
Jon McBride - Reporting E-mail and Web Site on computer  
Greg Lee - Member  
Bud Clarke - Member

- I. A basic outline of the days agenda was discussed. The order of some topics was changed from the outlined order to better fit the time available for those guests reporting. The revised agenda was adopted.
- II. The minutes of the annual meeting held 29 March 1996 were read and discussed. Anderson moved for approval and Robinson seconded. The minutes were approved as recorded with no corrections.
- III. The minutes of the Special Board meeting held 10 September 1996 were read and discussed. Kovalicky moved that they be approved as written and Cross seconded. The motion carried.
- IV. Ed Courtney discussed the purchase of the new NSA computer and called on Jon McBride to discuss what He, Roger Savage, Jack Demmons and Niki Llewellyn have done to get greater use from the computer including the establishment of an E-mail address at a cost of \$12.50 a month and the advantages and problems of establishing a Web Site. He informed the board that an existing Web Site format had been offered to the association by Bob Hubble, a current smokejumper. He reported that ~~MARS Co. would administer the Web Site for \$50.00 a month which would include the \$12.50 we are currently paying.~~ He stated that an alternate offer was made by Interconnect for \$30.00 per month with a start up charge of \$30.00. ~~In consideration of the successful relationship that the NSA has had with MARS in the past, he recommended that they be chosen to do the job.~~ The use of a Common Domain Name to simplify locating the National Smokejumper Association data on the Internet was also discussed. Jack Demmons discussed the use and success he has had in locating missing jumpers using the "YAHOO" program. After some discussion, Lon Dale moved to go ahead with the Web Site as described and proposed by Roger Savage and Jon McBride. Jerry Timmons seconded and the motion carried. Jack Demmons moved that Bob Hubble be given a ten-year membership for the donation. This was seconded by Ed Courtney and the motion carried.
- V. Stan Cohen, from the Museum of Mountain Flying, was introduced. He elaborated on the relationship between the museum of Mountain Flying and the National Smokejumper Association and suggested that

the two organizations collaborate on manning both museums on weekends during the summer season. He also suggested that we combine the sales of MMF and NSA materials. Since we are in the same location, it would simplify sales to visitors. No motion was made and no official action taken.

- VI. Ed Courtney discussed how money can be and is being generated to construct a common facility with the proposed National Forest Service Museum. Ed Heilman, Secretary/Treasurer of the National Forest Service Museum board was introduced. He discussed possible grants such as Murdock Foundation, life memberships, and challenge grants. He also discussed the possibility of using Job Corps labor and equipment to lower the construction costs. He stated that currently there is about \$30,000 on the books to begin construction. This discussion was informal only and no formal action was taken.
- VII. Lowell Hanson provided the 1996 treasurers report. This report provided: A. the present capital funds of the NSA and where they are invested; B. the expenditures for the 1996 year; and C. the proposed budget for the 1997 year. These figures are available at the NSA offices and are not included in the minutes. Regarding possible expenditures not included in the proposed budget:
- A. Wayne Williams was introduced and he elaborated on the cost and obtainment of Ruana Knives as a possible gift to life members.

B. Jack Demmons cited the need for increasing Niki Llewellyn's hours. Niki explained what she does in the hours she now works and what she would like to do if allowed more hours. These additional tasks would include Web Site, NetScape, advertising and marketing, improving the museum and generation of a brochure. The board discussed the possibility of bypassing the Nelson Temporary Agency who NSA now pays and who actually employs Niki. Ed Courtney discussed the eventual need for a full time Executive Director. No action was taken and possible additional expenditures were tabled until future Executive Committee meetings.

Lon Dale moved that we adjourn for lunch. Time 12:15.

Bill Moody reported that Francis Lufkin, former NSA Board member is in failing health.

The meeting was recalled to order at 13:30. Ed Courtney took this time to give special recognition to Jack Demmons and Lowell Hanson for all the extra work that they have done.

At this time the board returned to the question of how the NSA should employ Niki or any other paid help. Ed Courtney called on Lon Dale to elaborate on the problems and risks of using Niki as an independent contractor. After enumerating numerous risks in obtaining supplemental help directly, Lon recommended that we continue with the temporary agency and the subject was tabled.

- VIII. Membership Report: Jack Demmons displayed the figures for membership as of 1 April 1997 when they were last generated by Phil Davis from the data base file. These figures change daily so are not included in the minutes.

*CSPD*  
Laird reported on problems and solutions of the membership committee. He cited the need to tap into the younger jumper group and suggested that we make an aggressive effort to make the association of more interest to that group. He also suggested the jumpers in the various bases be given a NSA pitch by someone from that base. Board members from other bases volunteered and no further action was taken until the other smokejumper bases were contacted.

IX. Newsletter Report: Jack Demmons outlined the formats that can be used for assembling and folding the newsletter for mailing, the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Lowell reported on the use of advertising in the newsletter and stated that getting any significant amount of advertising with a circulation of only 1,100 is questionable. The use of bar codes in mailing the newsletter, to lower the postage rate, was researched by Lowell and he reported that he was informed that a circulation of less than 10,000 copies, bar codes would not save any money for the association. No motion was made and it was informally decided to continue with the current bulk mailing procedure.

X. Fund Raising: Ed Courtney reported that we currently have 10 life members and suggested that an incentive to draw more life memberships would be for life members to receive a Ruana knife as well as a plaque. After some general discussion, Lon Dale made a motion to make a gift of an engraved Ruana knife to all life members. This was seconded by Jerry Timmons and the motion carried.

Concerning the sale of smokejumper oriented books, Lowell cautioned against loading up on books of unknown market potential. He made a motion to handle the situation by buying only one book at retail price for display and handling any sales by ordering as needed. This was seconded by George Cross and the motion carried.

Carl Gidlund suggested soliciting outfitters to help with getting groups of smokejumpers for wilderness trips with a kickback to the NSA as a fund raising opportunity. Ed Courtney suggested that Carl further pursue the idea. No motion was made.

XI. Museum: Lowell Hanson proposed that NSA purchase a membership in the "National Museum Association". Discussion of advantages followed and Bill Moody moved that NSA join the National Museum Association. George Cross seconded and the motion carried.

Jack Demmons cited the need for a visitors log at both the NSA office and the Nine Mile Interpretive site so that we can better keep track of the groups taking advantage of the information and materials that we offer. He stated that a visitor's log would help keep track of what the NSA is doing to further the education of school and adult groups. Jack also cited the need for a brochure which could be printed and used as a hand out for those groups.

XII. Smokejumper Video: The ongoing study of the possible production of a smokejumper video was addressed by Ed Courtney. Carl Gidlund discussed Media Entertainment's offers; and Jerry Timmons introduced another possibility. Lon Dale moved back to the executive committee. Rohrbach, Moody, Gowen, and Timmons were tentatively asked to serve on this committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

XIII. Bylaw Review: With balloting for the new board members approaching, Lon Dale discussed Montana Law regarding the necessity of written ballots. He stated that the NSA bylaws require a quorum of Association members to vote for the election to be valid. Currently that quorum is one third of the active members. He suggested that the bylaws could be changed if it proves impossible to get one third of the members to return ballots, however, it is too late to change the bylaw for the coming election. It was decided by the Board to continue with the election and make an extra effort to encourage all members to return their ballots. Ed Courtney stated that there are six openings on the board and we have six candidates so there is really no contest. Those persons running for the board are Ron Stoleson, Jim Blaine, Larry Lufkin, Tom Kovalicky, Tim Aldrich, and Fred Rohrbach.

# increased by one - from 5 what is reason?

95-96-97 BOD  
Courtney  
Robison  
Kovalicky  
Werhouse  
Demmons (2 yr)

Bylaw violation

- XIV. Appointment of Secretary: Ed Courtney stated that since Lyle Brown is out of the country most of the time and is not running for re-election to the Board, the NSA needs to appoint a secretary. Ed suggested that Phil Davis be appointed secretary and cited the necessity of having someone from Missoula in that position. ~~He also informed the board that the officers of the organization are supposed to be elected from the board. He proposed that the board appoint Phil Davis to the board with his term to be contemporaneous with his term as secretary and not be a specific length of time.~~ Ed Courtney moved that Phil be appointed to the Secretary position as well as a member of the board of directors. Tom Kovalicky seconded and the motion passed. Consequently, from this point on in the minutes, Phil Davis is no longer the acting Secretary and is now Secretary and a board member.
- XV. Informal discussion was held on the possible reunion at Redding in the year 2000. No formal action was taken.
- XVI. Hall of Fame: Discussion on the implementation of a Smokejumper Hall of Fame covered three needs: 1. the need for a common form for all nominees; 2. the need to limit nominees to a maximum number per year; 3. the need to appoint the best nominees. The Hall of Fame Committee was instructed to continue their work with the above needs. The Committee consists of: Tom Kovalicky, George Cross and Lon Dale.
- XVII. Certificates of Appreciation: Ed Courtney discussed the issuance of certificates of appreciation to deserving people. Other than agreement that all former board members be recognized, there was no formal action taken.
- XVIII. Other Business: Bill Moody informed the board that Jack McKay, a former jumper, had suggested generating a questionnaire to be sent out to former jumpers regarding what being a smokejumper had done for them and how it had affected their lives. Ed Courtney suggested letting him put an article in the newsletter, but that the Association does not have the manpower to implement such a study.

An extensive letter from Earl Cooley to Ed Courtney and the board regarding NSA Organization was passed around and read by the board. No formal action was taken at this time.

A slate of NSA officers to serve from July 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998 was presented by Ed Courtney. This slate of proposed officers were: President, Laird Robinson; 1st Vice President, Larry Anderson; 2nd Vice President, open until the new directors are installed; Secretary, Phil Davis; and Treasurer, Lowell Hanson. Jerry Timmons moved that the slate be accepted. Lon Dale seconded and the slate was accepted by acclamation.

Ed Courtney moved that the newsletter Editor be added to the Executive Committee. Lon seconded and the motion passed.

Ed Courtney suggested that the next board of directors meeting be scheduled for 10 April 1998. The board members present agreed and the meeting was tentatively set for that date.

Lowell Hanson stated that the budget prepared for the following year required a motion for acceptance. George Cross moved that budget as prepared by Lowell be approved. The motion was seconded by Bill Moody and the motion passed.

Ed Courtney moved the meeting be adjourned at 17:15. This was seconded by Carl Gidlund and the motion passed.