

September 1996

# Meeting Minutes, September 1996

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors, "Meeting Minutes, September 1996" (1996). *National Smokejumper Association Meeting Minutes*. 115.

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NSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10 September 1996

Time: 1900 - 2005

Place: NSA office, Minuteman Hanger #14, Missoula International Airport

Directors Present:

In Missoula:                      Via Telephone Conf.:

Ed Courtney                      Bill Moody  
Larry Anderson                    Larry Moore  
Lon Dale                            Jerry Timmons  
Jack Demmons  
George Cross  
Lowell Hanson

Directors Absent But Giving Prior  
Written or Verbal Approval  
of NSA/NFSM Agreement:

Written:                      Verbal:

Chuck Sheley                    Laird Robinson  
   Carl Gidlund  
   Tom Kovalicky  
   George Gowen

Members Present: Phil Davis, Stan Cohen

1. Ed Courtney opened the meeting with an introduction of those attending.
2. The first order of business was the Memorandum of Understanding to be entered between the NSA and the National Forest Service Museum (NFSM). All members had written copies of the Memorandum to review prior to the meeting. Ed yielded the floor to Lon Dale . Lon presented a 2nd draft, with minor revisions. Discussion followed. Bill Moody asked for clarification of reasonable square footage as written on page 2, line 2 of the Memorandum. Motion made and seconded to accept the Memorandum of Understanding (2nd Draft) as written. Roll call, verbal vote for accepting the Memorandum: Directors present; and via telephone voted affirmative. Prior written, and verbal approval of Directors not in attendance was also counted in the total vote (14 - 0 in favor of the motion)
3. The second order of business was consideration of a Lifetime Membership proposal, submitted by Lowell Hanson, that would extend such membership to qualified members for a fee of \$1000. All Directors had written copies of the proposal to review prior to the meeting. Motion made and seconded to adopt the proposed Lifetime Membership as presented. Discussion followed. Lon Dale shared George Gowen's suggestion that \$900. of the total fee be deductible, and \$100. be non-deductable. Lowell reported a verbal statement made by a local IRS Representative. He indicated that the IRS reports that the minimum non-deductable should be \$250. or more, but not less. Further discussion allowed that current 5 and 10 year members would be given credit for the amounts they have already paid, and the previous paid dues for these individuals would be applied to the non-deductable portion of the Lifetime Membership.  
Roll call vote : Directors present; and via telephone voted affirmative. Prior written, and verbal approval of Directors not in attendance was also counted

in the total vote. (14 - 0 in favor of the motion)

4. ~~The third order of business concerned the purchase of a new computer for the office. The new system will have more capacity than the old and will allow much faster access to the Internet by the NSA. Motion made and seconded to approve purchase of the new computer.~~ Directors present; and via telephone voted affirmative. Prior approval given by Gidlund and Robinson was counted in the total vote count. (11 - 0 in favor of the purchase)
5. The fourth order of business was a discussion concerning the location of the next National Smokejumper Reunion. Contact has been made with Redding, Boise and Redmond. Ed said that he had visited the base at Redmond and the indication from those he talked to was the isolation of the town, coupled with not a great deal of interest in taking on the responsibility made it a poor choice for a National Reunion. Bill Moody suggested we reconsider ~~Redmond~~, <sup>Redding</sup> and contact Boise again to verify their interest. Jerry Timmons and Larry Moore indicated they felt Missoula was more central. Larry Moore has had prior discussions with Steve Nemore and the feeling is there is not a strong interest in Boise to sponsor the reunion. Jack Demmons reported that a survey by the NSA Newsletter had a total of 41 responses indicating a preference for the location of the next reunion. Thirty of the total indicated a preference for Missoula. The recommendation of the Board is that official contact be made with each area to ascertain interest in sponsorship of the reunion. If no one comes forward, hold the reunion in Missoula.
6. Bill Moody reported on the Columbia Breaks Fire Interpretive Center at Wenatchee, Washington. Mr. Ron Johnston-Rodriguez professionally developed a business and development plan for the Center, His expertise may be available to the NSA for its future planning.
7. Ed reminded those attending that the next regular meeting of the NSA Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, April 4, 1997, in Missoula. The location will be determined later.
8. This Special Meeting of the NSA Board of Directors was adjourned 2:10 p.m.

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION  
FUND RAISING PROPOSAL  
(ROUGH DRAFT)

**LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP** - Purchase a \$1000.00 membership: \$250.00 membership dues portion - non deductible; \$750.00 - deductible. The Life Member could be allowed options as to the application for the uses of the deductible portion the Life membership. Suggestions for the management of dues portion: \$100.00 goes into the general yearly operational fund; \$150 goes into a permanent trust fund with only the interest applied to the general operation of the association.

The \$750.00 deductible portion could be designated by the member for a specific use or project.

i.e. The physical construction of the museum building; Special projects designated the Board of Directors; The permanent trust fund of which only the interest applied to the yearly operation of the Association.

**Payment Plans:** The entire amount paid at one time; IRS will allow quarterly payments over a year. However, only the amount actually paid in a given year may maybe deducted in that tax year.

**Option:** The five and ten year members be allowed to apply their original payment to the non-deductible dues portion. This option allowance would have included as a of the normal operational funds.

**Proposed Projects and Needs:**

The museum buildings (phase 1 and permanent structure)

Museum displays and items

Operational Budget - Permanent fund (only interest *WILL BE USED*)

## **Addenda**

The following addenda contains NSA correspondence after the BOD meeting of September 10, 1996 and before the special BOD meeting called on April 4, 1997.

- Letter September 10, 1996, from Earl Cooley
- Rough draft, Fund Raising Proposal, no date
- Memorandum of Understanding, signed September 16, 1996: between NSA and the National Forest Service Museum
- Memo, September 21, 1996: Enclosures
- Memo, October 16, 1996: Earl Cooley's Suggestions—"NSA Organization 9/10/96"
- Letter, October 16, 1996: To Earl Cooley
- Memo, January 17, 1997: General
- Memo, January 28, 1997: 14<sup>th</sup> Newsletter
- Memo, February 14, 1997: General

Earl  
Cooksey

## ITEMS:

1. I have a few items in the N.S.A. that I would like to see go out in the 1996 October newsletter to be voted on by all members of the N.S.A. that are interested in voting on the management of their organization.

2. Send my membership proposal--fully explained in Dave Atkins letter on non-profit support services. The letter and the advantages has been written up and his proposal looks very practical to me. It would eliminate about 90 percent of the volunteer work that we are doing on membership now and would be much more convenient for the members.

Dave is working in Outer Mongolia now in starting up non-profit organizations and plans to be back in August 1996. He asked me to let him know if there was anything he could do for the Association in a letter sent to me on June 20, 1996.

3. I suggest that we meet with Dave when he returns in August and wants to volunteer his services that we have him help us line up a good professional working plan for our association to be voted on by as many of our members that are interested in the management of the N.S.A..

4. I see the July newsletter finished the last of our "lost address" roster.

I asked Jack to put the last double page of names in the newsletter in the place of the history of my first fire jump on July 12, 1940 that he had planned. I felt it was much more important to get these jumper's names in circulation than the history. It can come anytime.

5. As we have continually told our members that they will each have a vote in the management of their organization, I think we should plan to do so. This is well-explained in our Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. The By-laws state that we will have an indefinite number of directors but not less than three. Therefore I suggest that we send out a self-addressed envelope to all members of the N.S.A.. w/o a stamp and encourage them to vote on the membership proposal and the idea of having the members vote on the management of the organization if they preferred to. This letter could be used for address changes, telephone numbers, suggestions, history, silk stories, etc. This would tend to eliminate some of the social

ITEMS:

calls that take up much of our volunteer time. A 32 cent stamp and time to answer a questionnaire could very well be their voluntary commitment to the N.S.A.

6. I feel that it is very important to keep the logo and trademark that we have a copyright on until we get a vote from all the members to change them. The copyright is 3-26-93 after it was revised from a 501-c-7 social club status.

7. There was also mention in the July newsletter that we were going to try to get a copyright on our N.S.A. roster but I tried to get one some time ago but was turned down, I still have the letter. I tried to get a copyright on my 1989 roster of 4,200 names.

(a) When I picked up an application to James Alexander I noticed the 2-year membership was 40 dollars, just twice the amount of an annual membership. Why not pay 2 years on an annual contract and save one more account to keep track of in the computer. The member does not save anything but does lose interest on the extra 20 dollars I also feel that our

8. (b) thank-you form letter going out to all the new members should have the statement that our primary purpose is to maintain a crew of expert airborne firefighters to go where the action is to help control the ravages of wildfire in our most critical watershed and valuable timber areas, and give pertinent advice on control burns & let burn policies to co-workers. .

(c) We also want to mention in the form letter that we plan to get a permanent stall set up in a museum at some later date in Missoula. We are geographically sitting in an excellent position between two national parks--Glacier and Yellowstone--for members to come to Missoula to go through the Elk Foundation, National Bison Range and both parks during a reunion in Missoula. With a large enough room in the Museum to set up a video of the history of Smokejumping for the families of the jumpers to be entertained while the silk stories are in progress.

9. I still feel that a large enough Museum set up in Missoula to accommodate all the National Resources and Historical units in the N.W. would be the most practical way to go and I think we would have a much better chance of getting government help on a venture of this type. This would be especially good for the N.S.A. as we will be working with all the other non-profit public interest units in the N.W. to protect our most valuable resources from the ravages of "wildfire and floods" our two most dreaded

ITEMS:

public enemies.

10. Condense the minutes of all our monthly meetings into one general report to be carried in our quarterly newsletters as we go along. Most of our members are interested in what we are doing with their dues and donations and I am sure that they would feel more like donating if they knew that part of their dues and all the donations were going directly into a fund drawing interest and held exclusively for a permanent stall in a Museum to be built at some later date in Missoula.

11. I also feel that my donation of 200 books valued at 15,dollars a book or \$3000. should be set aside for use in getting a museum started in Msla. I think that each book should be stamped as a donation for this purpose so the buyer would feel more like contributing to the museum.

12. I also feel we should leave the wording of "WORLDS GREATEST AIRBORNE FIREFIGHTERS' in our trademark. Just a simple NSA doesnt seem to spell out what the real purpose of our association is. I think we should get more input from the members before we drop this statement out of our trademark. If we dont think we are the worlds greatest we probably never will be. However we should have a " do good " purpose of some type in the trademark in order to qualify as a non-profit public interest organization.

13. Maybe we should think about doubling our list of directors and only keep those that are definitely interested in the management of the organization .to vote on the pertinent issues that come up.in the news letter that we have sent to all the members. I think it is important to let all the members know what we are voting on but not necessary to get all the votes because about 75 or 80 percent would not really be interested and just drift along with the majority. however I do feel that 20 or 21 directors would give us a good representation of the association.

We have several very qualified professional business men that we could eventually get worked into our organization if we only give them a chance

14. .We would only want those that were interested in the organization and would agree to volunteer their services. if they knew they didnt have to meet someplace every month. This arrangement would let all the members know what we were doing in the organization and have all the 21 directors vote for the members. Why are we asking for public input on all our major issues that are brought up today ?.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the National Smokejumper Association ("NSA"), a Montana Non-profit Corporation, and the National Forest Service Museum ("NFSM"), a Montana Non-profit Corporation.

RECITALS

1. The NFSM has obtained a use permit for several acres of property to the west of the Aerial Fire Depot located in Missoula County, Montana, (Property).

2. The NFSM has obtained preliminary plans for building a facility (Project) on the Property and seeks the participation of the NSA in its efforts.

3. The NSA will assist the NFSM with the Project premised upon certain reciprocal benefits.

4. The NSA has committed to raise \$11,000 for the Project.

5. The NFSM agrees to make certain commitments to the NSA for NSA's utilization of structures and space at the Project.

6. The parties agree that each has by appropriate resolution authority for the execution of this agreement and that this agreement is binding upon each.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the NSA and the NFSM to cooperate and work together in fund raising efforts to establish and develop the Project. The NFSM agrees to provide NSA with space to reasonably accommodate an office and display areas for NSA.

COPY

The NSA and the NFSM agree to hereafter enter into a more definitive agreement consistent with the spirit and intent of this Memorandum of Understanding.

DATED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1996.

NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION

BY *Tom Courtney*  
Its authorized representative

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1996.

NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE MUSEUM

BY *Mary J. Bism*  
Its authorized representative

/eph  
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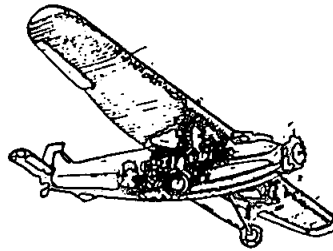


# National Smokejumper Association

P.O. Box 4081

Missoula, Montana 59806-4081

(406) 549-9938



-- BOARD OF DIRECTORS --

-- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE --

PRESIDENT  
Ed Courtney  
406-549-7236

1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Laird Robinson  
406-721-5546

2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Larry Anderson  
406-676-8741

SECRETARY  
Lyle Brown  
406-549-4522

TREASURER  
Lowell Hanson  
406-728-3951

-- DIRECTORS --

George Cross  
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Lon Dale  
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*Historian*  
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Charles Sheley  
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Jerry Timmons  
907-455-7195

Bill Werhane  
406-388-4469

-- HONORARY DIRECTOR --

and  
PRESIDENT-EMERITUS  
Earl Cooley  
406-543-6212  
*First President 1993-95*

September 21, 1996

To: N.S.A. Board of Directors  
From: Ed Courtney  
Re: Enclosures

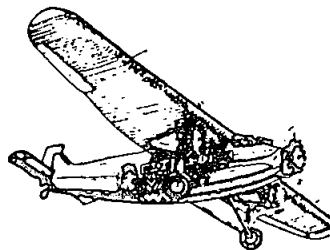
Enclosed are: a) copies of the minutes of the Special B of D meeting held Sept. 10, 1996; b) Memorandum of Understanding (Final Draft) with changes as explained by Ron Dale; c) March 29, 1996 B of D Minutes. (These will need be approved at the April 4, 1997 meeting.); and d) For new Board members: Gidlund, Moore, Gowen, and Sheley, a copy of the July 7, 1995 B of D Meeting Minutes.

For your information letters have been sent to Steve Nemore in Boise, and Arlen Cravens in Redding, requesting they contact a few key people in their areas to determine interest in taking on the responsibility for the 2000 Reunion. I asked for a reply by Oct. 31. I realize there is some hope among you for Redmond, but as I mentioned during the meeting the feeling I got after talking to Dewey Warner was that there is not too much interest. This was pretty much confirmed by some of the jumpers who attended the meeting. Redmond/Bend is expensive to fly into from other cities, and there are 140 plus miles of two lane road to drive from the Interstate that goes to Portland to the North.

Also, word will be out soon in the Newsletter regarding an agreement the NSA is considering with Image Communications to produce a Smokejumper History video. Carl Gidlund and Larry Anderson are the prime movers of this committee. Scripts will need to be written and films collected before the final version is put together. More on this later.



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and

PRESIDENT-EMERITUS

Earl Cooley  
406-543-6212

First President 1993-95

October 16, 1996

To: N.S.A. Board of Directors

From: Ed Courtney

Re: Earl Cooley's Suggestions - "N.S.A. Organization 9/10/96"

During the past year, or so, Earl has passed on these suggestions several times. The Executive Committee recommended that we answer Earl in writing, and, also, share both the suggestions and my response with the Board. The comments from me represent the general feelings of the Executive Committee. My response was shared with Laird, Lowell, Larry and Jack. Lyle is presently out of the country. We mainly want Earl to know that we appreciate his thoughts, even if we don't always agree with them. As mentioned, we have addressed several of Earl's concerns (membership, Dave Atkins, etc.) at previous Board meetings, and discussed, informally, others.

If you have any questions or comments give me a call.

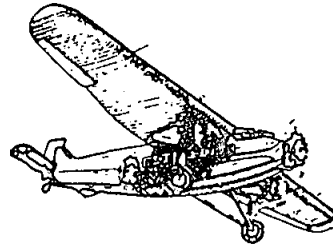
Best regards,

Ed Courtney

PS: I have a copy of Dave Atkin's brochure which describes his business, NONPROFIT SUPPORT SERVICES. For your information Dave is a former jumper (CJ 70), and is an attorney. There are several pages in the brochure and I read through them all, but am not able to find any reference to quarterly memberships that Earl mentions.



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October 16, 1996

Dear Earl,

Thank you for the suggestions dated 9/10/96 regarding N.S.A. organization. Your suggestions were reviewed and discussed as one of the agenda items at the Special Executive Committee meeting on September 3, 1996. As you know the Board of Directors is the governing body of the N.S.A. Approval of items on your list for vote by the membership would have to come from the Board of Directors and not just the Executive Committee. However, I will share your recommendations with our Board, along with the general feelings of myself, Laird Robinson, Lowell Hanson, and Jack Demmons. The recommendations have been numbered by me for easier tracking.

Item #1 - Voting on Recommendations - See above.

Item #2 - The recommendation regarding Quarterly Memberships instead of the current, in-use monthly policy was discussed at the July 7, 1995 N.S.A. Board of Directors meeting. As you recall, both your proposal and the process now being used were presented. The Board of Directors voted to allow the Executive Committee to decide how the memberships would be handled. Our present system is similar to that of many other organizations and companies, i.e., membership commences and ends on the anniversary date the check is received, if the membership has expired. Those renewing before the expiration date will retain their old anniversary date. This system appears to the Executive Committee, and especially to those who process the memberships, to be the most efficient and fair of the two. As you know, we send out reminders to members whose memberships are either about to expire, or have done so. The response has been excellent, with many thanking us for the reminders. This is actually one of three reminders. Your worthy suggestion of placing expiration dates on address labels continues in effect; and this date is also recorded on each membership card sent out after renewals.

Item #3 - Re Dave Atkins - Mr Atkins's brochure indicates that he charges over \$500.00 to do a number of very important things to get a non-profit association started. We have, with the help of two excellent attorneys on our N.S.A. Board, already accomplished the organizational parts that Mr. Atkins mentions. And, both Lon Dale and George Gowen have indicated a willingness to continue their help (pro bono). There may be some other areas that Mr. Atkins might be of service to the N.S.A., but the Board of Directors would need to hear what he has to offer. I cannot speak for the whole Board, but I would, personally, have no problem inviting Dave Atkins to our next annual Board of Directors meeting (April 4, 1997) in Missoula to hear what he has to say. I assume he would not charge to do so.

Item #4 - The "lost address" roster was added as an insert in the July 1996 Newsletter. I would recommend that we repeat the list periodically. This would give new members the opportunity to review the list and help us find those lost jumpers and pilots. But, and I cannot emphasize this strongly enough, your history is quite important and should be recorded in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

Item #5 - Re Membership Votes - We have, indeed given our membership the opportunity to respond to a number of areas of importance such as:

a) Reunion - In Newsletters following the last reunion the membership was asked to let us know where they would like to have the next one. I believe we received less than 50 responses out of a possible 1000+ membership. I have written a personal letter to Steve Nemore in Boise, and Arlen Cravens in Redding, asking them to let us know if there is interest. Thus far, Arlen has contacted several key individuals and will get back to us. I asked both to report back on or before October 30.

b) Nomination of Board Candidates - A call went out in the Newsletter that included a Board member job description. We received 11 replies, and one person declined his nomination. Five individuals were elected.

c) Election of Board Members - Over 1000 ballots were mailed out to the membership - with stamped, addressed return envelopes. About 285 were mailed back.

d) Suggestions - These have been asked for with regards to the Newsletter, Association organization, etc. Responses regarding the Newsletter have been excellent, and all very positive. The only complaints have been from 3-4 former CPS jumpers concerning a lack of recognition at the last reunion. Jack has mentioned the CPS in past Newsletters. Jack has also received considerable contributions of stories for the Newsletter, and answers to questions concerning certain aspects of Smokejumper related incidents such as fires, crashes, special projects, etc.

Item #6 - Re The Logo - A change in the original logo was made for the reunion. To my knowledge it has not been abandoned, The change was made, as I recall, to offer an alternative to the previously used T-shirt design (mostly un-sold until the reunion).

Item #7 - Roster Copyright - This was discussed at some length at the September 10, 1996 Executive Committee meeting. The N.S.A. had received a request for a copy of the roster. It became evident, and was later confirmed, that the individual planned to sell our names along with others. As you know the N.S.A.'s policy has been, and still is, that it will not sell its roster for commercial purposes. Knowing a copyright cannot be obtained, the Executive Committee, with advice from Lon Dale, recommended that a statement be printed at the bottom of each N.S.A. roster page that states the roster is for private use of the membership and is not to be resold. Legally, this will not prevent the roster from being sold, but may discourage most from doing so.

Item 8(a) - Re Two Year Memberships - This was implemented strictly as a convenience to the membership. It was thought a significant number would opt for two years, so as not to worry about remembering to renew after only one year. The two year offer has proven to be fairly popular. To date, Phil Davis reports the N.S.A. has exactly 100 two-year memberships.

(b) - Re Primary Purpose - This was brought up some years ago and the general feeling of both the early organizers of our N.S.A., and later, the majority of the Executive Committee, was a strong feeling that this should not be a "primary purpose". Maintaining a crew... ..", and giving "pertinent advice .....to co-workers" regarding

fires are not areas that it was felt the N.S.A. should be involved. The Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State indicate the Purposes have to do with preserving and promoting history; maintaining a registry of smokejumpers and may establish and promote activities devoted to the promotion of safety, etc. I see nothing there regarding our N.S.A. maintaining crews, or giving advice to co-workers.

Items 8(c)-9 - Re Museum - A previous Newsletter reported the N.S.A. forming an Alliance with the National Forest Service Museum. The October 1996 issue explains the Memorandum of Understanding between the N.S.A. and the N.F.S.M. in which both groups pledge to raise an initial \$11,000.00 each to build a structure that will contain office space and a display area for N.S.A./N.F.S.M. artifacts. Though the N.F.S.M. is, I understand, planning to display only FS displays, the N.S.A. is not limited to such. Agencies with jumper units (USFS, BIM, etc.) will be included in the N.S.A.'s part of the museum. I have no problem with other agencies being represented in the N.F.S.M., but this requires a philosophical change on its part, not the N.S.A. Gary Brown, Ed Heilman, and other members of this group are the ones you should share your thoughts with. I like your idea of a video setup for families and others to watch jumper films. Hopefully, by the time we move into either the initial building or the formal, multi-story museum the N.S.A. will have a video on the History of Smokejumping. And, we are now moving in that direction. (See the upcoming Newsletter.)

Item #10 - Re Minutes in Newsletters - I have, indeed, reported the happenings in the past Board of Directors meetings. Note the October 1996 issue regarding the Alliance, and Life Memberships. Generally, the important issues are reported, though not the day-to-day operations of the Association. I'm not sure the membership would rather read this information in place of the more popular stories, articles, etc. that Jack (and, hopefully, you later) will be writing. WE will continue to report on such things as progress with the Museum, Life Memberships, Hall of Fame, Missing Jumpers, Internet, Smokejumper Video, the next Reunion, and the site, etc. Reports from the membership have been expressions of appreciation for the way things have been going, i.e., short notes, letters, PS's on membership applications, etc. We owe a large thanks to Jack Lowell, Laird, Larry and Lyle, as well as our Board members who are really beginning to get involved. Also, the minutes are available to anyone requesting them.

Item #11 - Re Trimotor and Trail - As stated in the letter sent to you on June 10, 1996, all monies received by the N.S.A. from the sale of your book will be placed in our National Smokejumper Museum Funds account. This has been done with the money received thus far, and will continue to take place in the future. A label will be printed up in the near future that will be placed in the books and attests to the above fact.

Item #12 - Re "World's Greatest Firefighters" - The wording was replaced with the words, "Airborne Firefighters". This was discussed at length, and input was received from a number of members, and Directors. "World's Greatest" was thought to be somewhat braggadocio. All who expressed concern related that during training, and later years, the word was passed by such respected individuals as Len Krout, Al Hammond, and Earl Cooley that jumpers didn't need to go around bragging. We were told that jumpers should know they are good, but telling everybody this fact was just not what a real smokejumper did. This philosophy is still ingrained in many of the "old-timers" today. Thus, the decision to delete "World's Greatest" was agreed upon.

Item #13 - Re Doubling the Number of Directors - WE have been quite lucky to elect members who represent the various bases, and I hope the trend continues. As you know its up to the Board to increase, or decrease the number of Directors. This could be considered, at your request, during the next Annual meeting. However, since these individuals are elected by the membership, nominations will have to be called for in the next Newsletter, this winter, with the election taking place in the coming months. As reported above, we might have a hard time

getting enough nominations for that many more new Board members. Anyway, there will again be 5-6 Board positions up for election this year. From my own experience, and I'll bet yours too, an organization gets a lot more done with a group of 15 or 16 than with 20 or 30. Those professional businessmen that you mentioned, who would be beneficial to the N.S.A., should get nominations in when the call goes out.

Item #14 - The Board of Directors "Job Description" sent out indicated that though the meetings are infrequent, Board members are called upon to help in other ways. And, its understood and appreciated that our Board members do knowingly vote on behalf of the membership.

I realize this response to your suggestions has been lengthy, but I want you to know that these issues have, and are, being considered and discussed. I know that you and I do not always agree on some issues, but I do respect your opinion and truly appreciate your input. Know, too, that though I do not always get back to you in a timely fashion, I do read and pass on your thoughts to others. If you have any questions regarding the above "answers", or anything else, feel free to give me, Laird, or any other members of the Executive Committee, or Board of Directors a call.

Thanks again for your continued interest in our N.S.A.

Sincerely



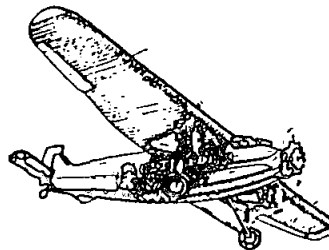
Ed Courtney

cc: N.S.A. Board of Directors





# National Smokejumper Association



P.O. Box 4081

Missoula, Montana 59806-4081

(406) 549-9938

1/17/97

-- BOARD OF DIRECTORS --

-- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE --

PRESIDENT  
Ed Courtney  
406-549-7236

1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Laird Robinson  
406-721-5546

2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Larry Anderson  
406-676-8741

SECRETARY  
Lyle Brown  
406-549-4522

TREASURER  
Lowell Hanson  
406-728-3951

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*Historian*  
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Charles Sheley  
916-893-0436

Jerry Timmons  
907-455-7195

Bill Werhane  
406-388-4469

-- HONORARY DIRECTOR --

and

PRESIDENT-EMERITUS

Earl Cooley  
406-543-6212

First President 1993-95

MEMO TO: Members of the NSA Executive Committee and Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Jack

RE: General

1. Niki LLevellyn has been working on an average of two hours/day and 10/hours/week. She does a truly outstanding job and is very professional in her work. She is the sharpest individual I have seen on computers. Recently, when both of the family cars were out of commission because of the severe weather we experienced, she came out and worked evenings. It is very refreshing to see individuals such as Niki who are not out on extended ego trips.
2. The 14th newsletter will be sent to the printer--American Speedy--on Monday, Jan. 20th at 8:30 A.M. They will be picked up Friday afternoon on the 24th. Folding and preparation for mailing will begin at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday the 25th. It will not be possible to work on them Sunday the 26th, since that is the day of the Super Bowl. They will be mailed out by Wednesday, Jan. 29th. I met with members of the Static Line Advisory Committee on Monday the 13th to discuss the newsletter.
3. Enclosed is information relating to the proposed video that came from Pat Ryan, a friend of George Gowen's. Also, notes that I took over the telephone when talking to Pat at an earlier time. Ed was given a copy of Pat's letter earlier this week.
4. As requested by Ed and Lowell, packages of orders that have been sitting here for some time were mailed out today. We were waiting for shipment of the mugs. (I stood the cost of the mailing, as I also did for those wanting items prior to Christmas to give out as gifts. Lowell said I would be reimbursed, but I am not interested in that. We will consider the costs to be a contribution on my part as a Director of this organization. Of prime consideration to me is the reputation of this organization and the good will of our members. We currently have back orders for more than 20 mugs. However, Lowell has said that we can expect the mugs to be

*copy*

here shortly. Original cap orders have been filled. We have more orders now for caps. Lowell has said that a second order is being made up.

5. More than a year ago it was mentioned at an Executive Committee meeting that membership among current airborne members should be explored. Nothing came of that suggestion.

However, I have subscribed to the Airborne "Static Line" publication, headquartered out of College Park, Georgia near Atlanta, having been a member of the 82d Airborne Div. I have talked to Don Lassen, the editor, and perhaps we can advertise in that publication in our search for former and current paratroopers who were once smokejumpers.

copy 6. We are desperately in need of a MEMBERSHIP GROUP--1 or two individuals who could drop in and go through our files and try to search for more possible members. Recently, Chuck Sheley sent us a new listing of addresses for former Cave Junction jumpers and pilots. Niki and I prepared 85 letters from his list and sent them out. So far, we have received 7 applications from this group for \$430.00. (Cost of postage for the 85 letters sent out was \$27.25.) I am sure we will get more responses from the Cave Junction group. Eighteen letters have been returned, with the notations FOE, or AD UNK. I will send that information to Chuck, and also to Jim Oleson at Kalispell who is keeping an updated listing of Cave Junction jumpers.

7. Recently, I purchased a color print of a painting by Bob Ford from WW at the Missoula base. It is in color and measures 36" high and 24" wide. The title is "Dry Autumn". The background looks like either the Bitterroots or North Cascades, but does not depict any particular area WW said. I picked up print #2 of the signed ones for \$35.00. Unsigned are less. I have been trying to get in touch with Ford. The last address I have is Seattle, but he has apparently moved. Dave Pierce does not know either, but said Bruce may be in Missoula for a meeting next week.

8. Currently, I have an order in for a color print from a painting by Tim Larson of Nampa, which shows Bud Filler in the door of Gene Frank's Tri-motor N-1077 at Caldwell, Idaho. (It is the oldest registered Tri-motor in the United States.) Bud borrowed the jumpsuit from McCall. Wayne King is acting as the spotter, getting ready to throw out some streamers. (In the last newsletter we mentioned that this painting was in the process of being completed. The cost for a signed print is \$65.00.)

9. Minuteman Aviation had been selling metal models of Ford Tri-motors in Humble Oil Co. colors--red and silver. They have a 12" wingspan and are 8" in length. I was able to purchase one, but Minuteman is now out of them. The model is excellent and is at the Hanger on our desk.

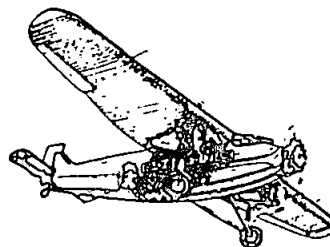
10. More pictures have been coming in. Joe Gutkoski recently sent me a story about one of his free falls, when he bounced off the roof of a home near old Hale Field. Quite hilarious. Today he called and said he would be sending a picture to go with the story--a group of former Missoula jumpers. Former jumper pilot, Wally Tower, recently sent along two excellent photos. One is in the 14th newsletter and the other will be in the 15th.

copy 11. During this past month Niki and I have prepared and sent out more than 300 letters. Incoming correspondence has totaled almost 90 within the past month.

12. I have tried to contact Dave Nelson a number of times for Ed and left a message for him to please call or leave a message on our recorder. As of Saturday, Jan. 18 he has not responded--all we get is a recording at his home. Ed has been trying to find out something about the possibility of the Reunion being held in Redding in the year 2000.



# National Smokejumper Association



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(406) 549-9938

-- BOARD OF DIRECTORS --

-- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -- MEMO TO: Members, Board of Directors

PRESIDENT  
Ed Courtney  
406-549-7236

FROM: Jack

1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Laird Robinson  
406-721-5546

RE: 14th Newsletter

2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Larry Anderson  
406-676-8741

DATE: 1/28/97

SECRETARY  
Lyle Brown  
406-549-4522

Enclosed is a copy of our latest Newsletter.

TREASURER  
Lowell Hanson  
406-728-3951

In "Chute the Breeze", under Bob Walkup, Portland, Oregon was spelled Potland - the way they pronounce it in the south.

-- DIRECTORS --

George Cross  
208-476-5827

Under the Brollier article, the last two words are: "The Brolliers". We had "The Brolliers truly made Smokejumper history." Unfortunately the computer did not print the last several words.

Lon Dale  
406-728-1455

As you know, it takes much time to produce a newsletter. I took it upon myself to have them folded only once this time. In the past they were folded twice and this created a rather awkward package. I am standing the cost of differential between the former format (letter size for bulk-mailing) to what is called a "flat". It is my donation as a Director and I will not accept any reimbursement. I think we will receive some favorable comments about mailing the newsletter out as "flats".

Jack Demmons  
*Historian*  
406-549-9938

Carl Gidlund  
208-772-8299

George Gowen  
212-682-8818

Tom Kovalicky  
208-983-0281

Bill Moody  
509-997-5971

We have already received 9 new memberships since the last newsletter was prepared, plus 3 who paid using the old rates. (I will contact each and explain the new dues structure.) We are searching for more new members.

Larry Moore  
208-345-2829

Work has already commenced on the 15th newsletter which will be mailed out late in April - two articles have been completed.

Charles Sheley  
916-893-0436

Jerry Timmons  
907-455-7195

Bill Werhane  
406-388-4469

I have joined the Pararescue Association. Earlier, I had contacted Bill Vargas, Editor in Chief of their publication "Canopy Chatter", and he agreed to exchange newsletters with us. (Their last one arrived last week - 24 pages, plus 22 pages of the Association's roster - 809 names. The size is the same as ours in dimensions - 8 1/2x11 per page and they stapled them shut as I did with the newsletter of ours.)

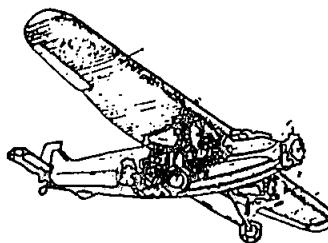
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406-543-6212  
*First President 1993-95*

MEMO TO: Members, NSA Executive Committee and Members,  
Board of Directors

FROM: Jack

RE: General

DATE: 2/14/97

1. We have received two more NSA Life Members -- Maynard Rost, MSO '58, currently residing at Silver City, NM, and Jim Murphy, MSO '48, living at Reno, NV.
2. Thus far, we have received two NSA Board of Directors Nomination Forms -- Fred Rohrbach, MSO '65, residing at Seattle and Tom Kovalicky, Grangeville, ID.
3. Work is progressing on the 15th Newsletter, which will be mailed out late in April. So far, four articles have been prepared and sent out to the Advisory Staff and Carl Gidlund to look over and offer comments about. (Bob Nicol came by to see me last week and discuss "Operation Skyhook" that I have been wanting to write a story about. That operation has now been declassified and there is a book out, PROJECT COLDFEET, SECRET MISSION TO A SOVIET ICE STATION, that includes "Skyhook", which he dropped off for me to read. Bob was involved in flights during that operation, as were other former Smokejumpers. Truly a James Bond type of adventure. I talked to Gar Thorsrud last year about the story and he asked me to hold off for awhile until declassification took place. Jack Wall was also involved and has sent me a lot of material about "Operation Skyhook".

The 14th Newsletter, as you know, was mailed without the second fold in them -- some members had inquired earlier about this, including Ed, concerning the feasibility of preparing them that way for shipment. (We have already received good compliments about doing away with the second fold on the 14th newsletter.) Earlier, I said I would pay for the increased cost, which amounted to approximately \$59.00. However, Ed said not to. Preparing the newsletters with only one fold saves much time and the newsletters arrive at their destinations in much better shape.

*copy*

No one showed up to help with the preparation of the newsletters for mailing. However, it was a weekend with Lady Grizzlies playing on Saturday and Superbowl Football on that Sunday. It would have taken forever for me to do all the double-folding alone, as I did a number of times in the past.

4. Fred Rohrbach left a message on the recorder recently, asking about the status of the video. He had called Ed, and Ed referred him to me. I have tried to call Fred back several

time, including today, but no luck. I will continue to keep trying. (Just talked to Fred a few moments ago in Seattle. He just got back from China 8 days ago. He stresses: Do not give the rights to a video away! Fred is sure the money can be raised through donations, from corporations, grants etc. He is still willing to pay in \$5,000 himself, once a plan is set up. He said Steve Smith is still interested in helping with the video. Fred stresses that he knows there are outlets that would purchase the videos from us. Pat Ryan, who had expressed an interest in working on the video left a message also. I need to get back to him too.) As you will recall, I sent out information Pat gave us to each member of the Board of Directors not too long ago. George Gowen had asked him to contact us.)

5. We seem to have a Web page out there yet, dating back to 1995, with the old dues on it. CORRECTION! A few moments ago I talked to Carl, who is now on the way to the meeting tonight. He has information about the Web page that was set up from Boise in 1995. Sounds like the situation has been cleared up. Thanks Carl! (We have been receiving a number of E-mail messages since the last newsletter went out. Bill de Creef at Homer, Alaska -- an Associate member, a pilot and owner of one of Johnson's former Travel Air's, sent us a message three-fourths of a page long.)

6. I am currently preparing a log of past activities I have been involved in as concerns presentation of Smokejumper history to the public. This has involved three schools in the Blackfoot Valley during the past two years--one twice; presentations during 1995 and 1996 at the Salmon Lake campground; presentations to three historical groups in Missoula; presentations to school groups at the Hanger--approximately 300 junior high students from two different schools; and presentations to more than 50 smaller groups, to include one handicapped organization. Also, I have been with the Museum of Mountain Flying at the Southgate Mall in the spring, during the past three years, where we had Smokejumper items on display, and at the Missoula County Fair during 1994, 1995 and 1996, with displays and selling items. Total travel has been more than 700 miles--at my cost.

We have been very fortunate in having space in the Hanger for displays. We have had few groups out this winter because of the coldness in the hanger, but by March people and organizations will again want to come out here. We will keep a log of visitors viewing and listening to Smokejumper history. (Again, the log from past endeavors mentioned above will be completed and dated.) I assure you, we have been, and are, deeply involved in the history of smokejumping.

7. Saturday, February 8th, I attended memorial services for Ken Heare (MSO '79, and an active jumper until brain cancer took him out of operation less than one year ago) at the Frenchtown St. John Church and took some pictures. The place was packed. My second cousin, Deb Demmons Dillon played the guitar.

8. We are still in need of a brochure. Perhaps a committee could be formed to work on this. Even a temporary brochure, which Niki could probably do here, would be of great help. (I believe the last proposal for such an endeavor was in the spring of 1995 when Martin Onishuk was going to work one.)

9. I took <sup>50</sup>400 copies of Earl Cooley's book to WW at the base last week and there is a check from him for Lowell in Ed's box--for \$400.00.

Copy 10. Correspondence: At this time, more than 150 items of mail have been received since Dec. 15th. I have prepared more than 200 letters during the past month and Niki typed them up for me.

11. Later this week I will be talking to Lynn Sholty at the Nine Mile Ranger Station, concerning the history of Smokejumping at Camp Menard. I had mentioned to her that it would be nice to have an interpretive site set up there, like the District did at the old CCC camp farther to the north. This is simply a meeting to see what could possibly be accomplished, with information to be given to the Exec. Com. Right now, all that is at Camp Menard is a faded paper on a bulletin board, briefly mentioning that Smokejumpers once trained there. (I have seen the memorial at Idaho City, and it is outstanding.)

12. I certainly want to thank Phil for the outstanding job he does in keeping the membership roster updated in the computer. Without his help we would be in trouble. We are gradually filling in a lot of missing telephone numbers.

13. Still searching for more members and a number of letters have been prepared and sent out to possible prospects. There are many more out there.