

3-19-2019

## Meeting Minutes, March 19th, 2019

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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## **NSA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING-MARCH 19,2019**

### **WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS FOUNDATION-BOISE, ID**

#### **Call to order, introduction to site, introductions, approval of agenda—McKean**

Bob introduced Larry Breslin, who rookied at NCSB. Intros were made around the table and we approved the agenda.

#### **Approval of previous changes to October meeting minutes—Boatner & McKean**

Quick discussion and approval.

#### **Report on Camp Fire—Sheley**

The Camp Fire will be the feature in the new Smokejumper magazine. Chuck described the start of the Camp Fire and his experiences early on. Chuck was writing a daily blog to an email list of up to 70 people. His daily blogs will all be in this issue of the magazine. Our data base showed 5 former jumpers living in Paradise and Chuck started trying to track them down to see if they needed assistance. Things in Chico were crowded and chaotic. Initial attack was rapid and aggressive, but the fire's starting location was not road accessible. Big winds hit shortly after the start of the fire. Chuck was very impressed by CalFire's performance in the early stages of response, as well as the performance of the Butte County Sheriff. Social media caused rumors to spread rapidly and inaccurately. Eventually, Chico was very crowded and the Walmart parking lot was a tent city. There were lots of great human interest stories. NSA has met the shortterm needs of jumpers who lost their homes, but we need to be vigilant about additional needs that surface as time goes by. Sierra Pacific, from Chico, began brewing Resilience beer. Many other brewers joined them with all proceeds going to the relief effort. Bob asks what else the NSA should be doing to support people. Chuck suggests waiting until the one year mark and then checking back in with those jumpers who lost their homes. Because of Chuck's daily blogs, members began sending in donations to the Good Samaritan Fund. Bob expressed our thanks and our debt of gratitude for Chuck's hard work on behalf of people impacted by the Camp Fire.

#### **Good Samaritan Fund report—Sheley**

With the aging of our membership, we're increasing donations to cover medical expenses. The Executive Committee can approve GSF requests up to \$2500. Recently, Boatner made a GSF request by email at 0830 in the morning. By 1030, the request was approved and Sheley had a check in the mail.

#### **Magazine—Sheley**

About 70 members are receiving the newsletter electronically. They get it a month before the hard copies are mailed and it saves NSA some money. Fred says members of the BOD should set an example and sign on for getting the newsletter electronically.

### **Historic Preservation—Sheley**

Chuck has driven thousands of miles to move and set up the mobile smokejumper exhibit. Chuck has 2 or 3 sets of the exhibit that he would like to find permanent homes for. He's asking for us to consider museum options that we may know of.

We have digitized 5 old films, from 1939-1950, and they are available on the EWU website. Bob Bartlett's Triple Nickels collection is on the site, as well.

NSA has published 3 books. Currently, Chuck is editing Lee Gossett's 300 pages of writing on smokejumping and SE Asia work.

Mike McMillan talked about the photo website: 23 different photographers have contributed photos.

Usage of NSA photos-when Mike gets requests from magazines, he considers the use agreement, and doesn't give photos away without consulting the photographer.

### **Fire Scope—John Culbertson, introduction by Sheley**

John Culbertson handed out his paper on Initial Attack Regulation and Procedure Triage and the idea of submitting a white paper to Firescope to consider it. John Finnerty has worked with Firescope and sheperded white papers through their process. Firescope is a cooperative of California fire agencies that works on interagency fire issues within California. Many issues initially tackled by Firescope have now become national standards, like the Incident Command System, strike team/task force operations and helicopter night flying operations. Why do they want our endorsement? Because we're a nonpartisan outside group. **Motion: The NSA supports submission of the white paper "Initial Attack Regulation and Procedure Triage" to Firescope for their consideration. Seconded. Motion passed.**

### **Smokejumper Program 2019—Roger Staats USFS & Todd Jinkins BLM**

Roger: Handed out 2018 National Smokejumper Program Fire Season Summary. Jumpers are still primarily initial attack, but use of qualifications to manage emerging fires and Type III fires plus fires for Resource Benefit are other areas where smokejumper use is increasing. The USFS received 15 SD3-60 Sherpa Aircraft. Five will be operational in 2019. They have more capability than previous A models: 20-30 knots faster, with a 3.5 hour fuel load versus 2.5. Plus, there is rear exit potential. They have done some rear door exit testing with dummies. Chuck: What happened to old time mission of get 'em while they're small? Roger: Preplanning is the biggest issue. Pre-identify where and when fires can be allowed to burn and where and when they need to be suppressed. Diminishing skill sets among line officers are an issue.

Last year, McCall had a spike in parachute injuries, both round and ram air. A review was done, and operations were being conducted correctly. The program tends to get attention when something goes wrong. Cost of entire program: \$23 million. We need to focus on doing a better job at talking about success and not just injuries.

Joint Precision Paracargo Aerial Delivery System: JPPADS. Allows delivery of paracargo regardless of terrain or smoke/light conditions. Up to 500 pound loads are possible Tests are being conducted.

Ram Air transition: up to 70% converted. The last major area to tackle is Region 6. Training will focus in Redmond this year. The biggest limitation is gear manufacture, both internally and from outside manufacturers. Folks that have transitioned are not looking back.

Todd: Highlights of Boise Base: Really busy year, 130% of average in Great Basin. They are shooting for a headcount of 75 to start the season. Fires staffed by agency: 88 on BLM, 37 FS. BLM is pretty aggressive about initial attack because of the desire to minimize the loss of sagebrush and expansion of cheat grass. Todd talked about considering the risks between initial attack and other options. Todd tries to hire all jumpers with a permanent position. The hub and spoke model which the Boise jumpers have used for years to address fires in the Great Basin is now being used more and more throughout the BLM fire program. The BLM fire program is asking itself, what is the best expenditure of IA dollars? BLM hotshots spend most of their time on campaign fires. Alaska is looking at a Dash 8 aircraft. SASES evaluation is coming this summer. It's very expensive, but has great range, speed, and payload. 12 to 16 person loads being discussed. BLM is wary of pushing JPAADS because it will detract from their mission focus on IA.

The current level of collaboration between BLM and USFS is very high and cooperative.

The National Mobilization Guide language changed to require dispatch of IA smokejumper loads from one geographic area to another, if available. This may help improve the mobility and effective use of smokejumpers on a national level.

### **Report on Trails Program—Cooper**

Fred handed out his project summary for 2019's projects as well as a bullet list of accomplishments and issues. Can we link past Annual Reports from TRAMPS website to the main NSA website? Larry is going to check with webmaster, Jon. We have 20 annual reports.

### **Forest Service Museum—Cooper**

Fred showed us an aerial photo of the museum location with the building plan and what is already there. Fred is now on the museum's board. Tom Thompson is the new President of the museum board. The ultimate goal is to raise \$10 million. Currently, they are about halfway there. 50,000 documents and other items are currently being stored at a USFS storage facility in Missoula. The original red canvas jumpsuit used by Frances Lufkin is now in Missoula. Three replicas are being constructed. Fred talked about the Higgins Ridge Fire from 1961 and the presentations about the fire being planned for this summer at the Museum to include video interviews with many of the jumpers who were on the fire. This is going to cost about \$10,000 and **Fred makes a motion for the NSA to contribute \$2500. Seconded by Jim Lindell. Passed unanimously.**

### **Miss Montana Program and Request—Cooper**

Fred passed out his briefing on the Mann Gulch DC-3, currently being restored by the Museum of Mountain Flying in Missoula. Miss Montana will be the artwork on the nose. The goal is to

get it airworthy, fly to Scotland, and then drop jumpers in France on the 75<sup>th</sup> D-day anniversary. About a dozen former jumpers are planning to make the jump. Fred has also heard that Canadian jumpers are going to participate in this event. The current estimate on the scale of this D-day commemorative jump is 25 airplanes and 250 jumpers. There is also a tentative plan to use this Doug to drop jumpers over Mann Gulch on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Bob McKean talked about the initial request for funds made to the Executive Committee which was denied, and his desire to let Fred make a presentation to the whole Board. **Motion made by Fred that NSA donate \$5000 toward the restoration of the Mann Gulch DC-3. Seconded. 5 abstentions, 1 no, 6 yays. Motion carries.**

#### **Treasurer's Report – Berry (Russ by phone)**

Brent went over our financial sheets outlining revenues and expenses. Bob cautioned us to not be complacent about money. Half our funds are in equities, we are 10 years into a bull market, and we are spending some of our earnings to fund operational expenses. We are also getting a lot of work from Chuck for not much money. Larry and Chuck both reinforced Bob's perspective that we are not as fat as we think and we need to be careful.

#### **Russ Enterprises Engagement Letter – McKean**

Bob passed around and explained our updated agreement with Brent Russ and Russ Enterprises.

#### **Investment Committee Report – Packard & Berry**

Our intent is to close the First Internet CD when it matures on 1/10/2020. John Berry went over the other recommendations from the NSA Investment Committee. We have combined our 2 accounts (Mutual Fund and Brokerage) into one Brokerage Account. **Motion made to accept recommendations of the Investment Committee as stated on page 1 of their report. Seconded. Passed unanimously.** We are currently a little cash heavy at 8.2% and our target is %5, but we have some upcoming expenses and the investment committee doesn't see concerns there.

#### **Scholarship Program – Cherry**

Last year, we had 19 applicants for 7 scholarships of \$2000 each. This coming year we're looking at 8 scholarships for \$2500 each. We are using a scoring matrix originally developed by Terry Egan. NSA membership scores additional points. Scholarships are open to spouses, grandchildren, and children of NSA members. The further along you are in your education the more points you get. To apply, a minimum of a 2.5 GPA is required with more points for higher GPAs. Additional points are given for work, extracurricular, and leadership experience. We have already received our first application for this coming year from a current smokejumper. Sheley supplies all the scholarship information in the current issue of the magazine and emails it to the base managers. Closing date for this year's applications are June 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are awarded a scholarship, you can't apply the following year.

NSA also participates with Base Managers in selecting the Al Dunton Leadership Award and we cover the cost of the plaques.

#### **Website Report – Lufkin**

Roger Savage built our original jump list data base, turned it over to Dan McComb in Seattle, then it turned over to Jon Robinson, our current webmaster. Larry is our liaison to Jon. Go through Larry to make a request. We have been compartmentalizing our web updates/changes into “sprints,” but most of the backlog work has been accomplished and we are going task by task right now.

### **Smokejumper Reunion, NCSB—Lufkin**

NCSB contacted Larry about a proposed reunion for this September, but Larry hasn't had any follow up so he's uncertain if this is actually going to happen.

### **Facebook update—Berry**

There are 3300 followers currently on our website page, up from 1500 since John took over. John doesn't anticipate much additional growth.

### **Region 4 Website—Cromwell**

Leo has been working on preserving Region 4 jumper records for many years, most recently by making all the old jump records and photos available on an internet site. Leo walked us through the site. It's easy to use and contains tons of detailed info on fire jumps, fires, aircraft, etc.

**Motion made to support Leo's continued work on this historical preservation effort for \$3000. Seconded. Passed unanimously. Funds will come out of the money already earmarked this year for web page work.**

### **National 2020 Reunion Update-Lynn Sprague**

Assumptions: less formal events, more opportunities to mingle and visit. Third week of June 19-21, Friday-Sunday, 600 total people. Chuck Sheley will be NSA BOD point of contact. They may need some seed money for venue deposits. Are there other sideboards from the board? Lynn's group has drawn up a laundry list of key tasks. First night: beer and barbecue. Second night: less formal. Not a lot of speakers and formal dinner. NSA's job is to make it as easy as possible for volunteers who will be putting it together.

### **Wildland Firefighter Foundation—Vicki Minor**

Vicki showed us a short video introducing the Wildland Firefighter Foundation. Vicki talked about her original idea of a place to remember fallen wildland firefighters. They gave over \$200,000 to firefighters who needed help after the Paradise fire in California. They have programs dealing with Line of Duty Death(LODD), Line of Duty Injury( Lodi), extended care, Santa's helper, camp kit, a suicide program, and support dealing with workman's compensation. Tom Harbour is joining their board next week. Steve Gage is already on their board. They will move to their new building in the coming year.

### **Membership Report—McDaniel**

1351 active members, 183 associates, 14 pilots for a total of 1548. John has some renewals pending back home. This is a slight drop in numbers. Bad news-each quarter a few members don't renew. Between June and December, 2018, 66 people didn't renew. We lose a certain

number every quarter, pretty steadily. We have picked up 10 or 11 new life members this quarter and last. We now have 372 life members. Fred reported from Roger Savage that at the end of 2016, 6089 jumpers total are in the data base. Chuck has sent magazines either hard copy or electronically to lapsed members and some have rejoined.

### **NSA Policies—McKean & Berry**

John and Bob have been reviewing our policies and updating them, correcting errors and cleaning them up.

- 1) Revisions to the NSA Investment Policy and new policy-John provided a handout showing suggested changes and new policy. **Motion made and seconded to pass this as new NSA Investment Policy. Passed unanimously.**
- 2) NSA Conflict of Interest policy-one is required by IRS. **John passed out a draft for first review of an updated policy. Give any feedback to him.**
- 3) Life Member policy- Bob updated our old policy and passed out his draft. If we want a person who contributes over \$1000 over time through memberships and donations to become a life member, we need to specify that in our policy. We had a long discussion leading to the general consensus that we want an accumulation of \$1000 over time to qualify a person for a life membership. There is some disagreement on details. **Bob will write it up and circulate.**

### **Policies in General**

Many of our policies and bylaws are old, out-of-date, or no longer enforced. There is a need to review all of them and update them, as needed. John and Bob will continue to work on that.

### **Budget FY 2019-2020—Lufkin**

**Motion made and seconded to put a group together to look at Chuck's salary. Chuck is currently 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Magazine Managing Editor, and Website Coordinator. Passed unanimously.**

Larry and John walked us through the proposed budget and using the best info available, we made adjustments. The biggest unknown is a potential change to Sheley's salary. This resulted in a draft budget which will be distributed to the board electronically for further review and consideration. Jim Cherry reminded us that there are three legs of the fundraising milking stool: annual fund, capitol funds project (like asking for specific support for Historical Preservation) and accumulated wealth (gifts from people's estates). Info for estate giving is on the website, but we have not pushed it. Jim Cherry asks, "Is there someone from our community we could ask to take this on?" Something to consider. Other suggestions: raise membership costs or life membership costs? No decisions were made, but there are items there for future consideration.

### **Consideration of new Board member**

Dennis Breslin told us a little about his background as a smokejumper, a Navy pilot, a commercial airline pilot, and pilot's union representative and expressed his interest in being on the Board. **Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to add Denny to the BOD.**

### **Consideration of addition of Treasurer to Executive Committee**

The Executive Board consists of the president, vice president, secretary and past president. They handle any business that comes up in between scheduled meetings, mostly requests for GSF funds. **Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously to add Treasurer to Executive Committee.**

### **Special recognition**

Bob presented Jim Cherry a plaque with our grateful thanks for his seven years of service as NSA President.

### **Social**

Our pizza and beer social followed at 1800. About 40 people attended.

**In Attendance:** Bob McKean, Jim Cherry, Fred Cooper, Larry Lufkin, John Berry, John Packard, Chuck Sheley, Mike McMillan, Jim Lindell, John McDaniel, Dennis Breslin Mike Bina, Bill Doerr, Jon Culbertson, Leo Cromwell, John Finnerty, Roger Staats, Todd Jinkins, Lynn Sprague, Jim Lancaster, Tom Boatner