Meeting Minutes, October 24th, 2018

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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Call to order, introduction to site, approval of the agenda – Cherry
The Agenda was approved as presented.

Introductions – Cherry
Jim introduced Mike Bina. He jumped 68-69 and is recently retired from the School for the Blind in Baltimore, MD. He has administrative skills and is interested in the BOD activities. Jim also introduced Tony Phieffer. It is his 4th time attending to observe a BOD meeting.

Approval of previous meeting minutes – Cherry
Minutes were approved as prepared by Tom Boatner.

Financial Reports
Investment Committee report – Packard
John handed out spreadsheet of Financial Information ending 9/30/18. Bob McKean suggests we should not exceed 50% in equities due to volatility of stock market. John handed out two documents regarding Vanguard economic outlook for the BOD's general understanding of NSA's investments. Bob identified contributors to Montana Community Foundation. Bob also stated that another person needs to be added to the investment committee. There was discussion that the risk of NSA assets has been mitigated by mutual funds and CD's. The investment committee is not trying to time the market.

Update on 2017-18 Budget – Finance Committee (Brent Russ by phone)
Bob McKean passed out budget spreadsheets and Brent discussed key highlights. Memberships are not supporting the organization, donations are. After discussion on line items of the P&L, the Traveling Museum Expense and Historic Preservation Fund will be combined in order to eliminate a column. Regarding the Life Member fund, 67 members are deceased, and we are still holding funds for them. Should we be? Need to define purpose of fund. The interest/earnings is helping to support the Association. Their membership dues are held in a quasi-endowment and are not eligible to be spent by BOD. A sub-group will be used to clarify this issue. As a reminder, the Art Jukkala Fund is no longer funded by the Trails Program.

Look ahead to 2018-19 Budget – BOD
This is the first year we plan to transfer investment earnings into the budget to fund operations. NSA is spending more than we’re earning. Brent indicated that his expenses have increased. John Berry moved that the BOD President and Treasurer (at the end of this meeting) draft a letter to Brent increasing his fees to $500 month. Motion passed unanimously.

BOD discussed the Life Member Fund. Restricted funds issue. Consider plan for expenses when Chuck Sheley retires (magazine estimate $40,000/yr, decrease in merchandise sale, and salary costs for daily work). Also discussed donations.

Fred Cooper reports:
2018 TRAMPS Program
Fred handed out a TRAMPS Project Summary for 2018. There were 20 planned projects and 3 were cancelled. The trails program operates on the premise that funding has to pay for each proposed project. Wilderness Alliance is a new source of funding this year. The crews need new and younger crew members. Three new members were added to the TRAMPS team this past year; Eddie Ward, Barry Hicks, and Kim Maynard. Steve Carlson is resigning due to health issues and will need to be replaced.

The TRAMPS program was presented with a Historical Preservation Award by the National Museum of Forest Service last month at the Forest Service Retirees Reunion in North Carolina. A handout was provided regarding this award.

National Forest Service Museum and NSA are partnering in November for the "Teddy" Event at the Museum in Missoula. It will be a 3 hour fund raiser event. It will include an exhibit of the “red suit” with other old/historical equipment.

Status of my "1939 Experiment" Book
Fred handed out a partially reconstructed Events Log for the 1939 Experimental Parachute Jumps. There were 58 jumps and 16 people involved. 80 sources are cited for verification of the information. He presented background information of the program.

Miss Montana - Mann Gulch DC-3.
Fred provided a handout regarding this project. The Museum of Mountain Flying is in the process of restoring the airplane. It will participate in the Flying D-Day Reenactment Program next June at Normandy. The refurbishment of the aircraft is well along. It will go to England first for practice jumps. British medical form for participants must be endorsed by the individual's doctor.

MSO Jump Base use of FS Museum Permit Site - "Field of Shame"
A Handout was provided showing the area in conflict. The Museum Permitted land is in conflict with one of the long-established practice jump zones. The Museum permit was issued in 1995. There was a lack of communication between interested parties when the permit was issued. Fred is working on a cooperative agreement between the FS National Museum, Museum of Mountain Flying, Jumpers, and MTDC/lab. The permit is due for renewal. Fred is working on redrawing the lines.

Museum of Mountain Flying NSA Exhibit
Fred provided a handout. Earlier this year the display from the Evergreen Museum was transferred to the Mountain Flying Museum in Missoula where it is currently on display. Volunteer docents developed/created a historical display about 15 years ago which is viewed on the back wall of the museum.

Status of Reproduction of the 1939 Jump suit
The original Red Suit is in Missoula. Material has been obtained to make three replicas of the suit. Copies will be located at NCSB, NSA Traveling Exhibit, and Museum of Mountain Flying. Location for the Original is yet to be determined. Original to FS Museum? The Eagle chute to be included. The chute was possibly used in 1939, but was definitely used in 1940. The Red Suit was originally bequeathed to Evergreen by
the Lufkin family. If Evergreen ever wants it back, we will give them a copy. Larry Lufkin moved to officially assign the red suit to the FS museum. Motion was unanimously approved. Copies to go to Traveling Display, Mountain Flying Museum, and NCSB.

**History Lesson for Missoula Rookies**
Fred and Wayne Williams made a smokejumper history presentation to Missoula rookies using Chuck Sheely's program. (Chuck makes presentation to Redding rookies annually.)

**Sheley reports:**

**Magazine**
The Fire issue received the biggest response ever. Michael Raines has agreed to do a 3 part series regarding fire solutions. Murray Taylor will prepare an article on how to clear land. Considering a Bio plastics article.

**Good Samaritan Fund report**
The balance ending 2018 is slightly over $29,000. This fund is in good shape. Distributions are mainly for medical needs and are published in the magazine. Remind Members to pre-arrange a memorial donation or remind their family to include NSA in a memorial when they pass.

**Traveling Smokejumper display**
The traveling display is for educational purposes. Twisp/NCSB. Chuck is planning only 1 exhibit per year due to time and effort required to deliver and assemble the exhibit. Redding and Redmond are providing help with the equipment for the exhibit. Bellevue Michigan has a permanent exhibit. The FS Retiree reunion had an exhibit about a month ago in North Carolina. Mark Corbett is providing support packing chutes for the exhibits.

**Historic Preservation Progress**
Chuck handed out an overview of this project. It involves a huge amount of work. Stan Collins is representing NSA with Eastern Washington University. Jon Robinson is providing website work. Steven Bingo is the EWU Archivist handling that portion of the project. Information on the NSA web site is now available on the EWU site. Legal problems with photos is being worked through. Museum(s) have to sign over photos and books. It is desired to digitize historical films but there are issues with ownership and release. Larry Longley material (Interviews, etc.) inclusion is in progress. Negotiating for reimbursement and inclusion.

**Membership Report – McDaniel**
Current membership consists of 1346 jumpers, 170 associates, and 14 pilots. There are 2120 “jumpers” with no contact info. Data base discussion. Recruitment discussion.

**Report of partnership possibilities – Derr & Berry**
Bill handed out a copy of several e-mail correspondences. Discussed FS-WO policy, a draft letter to western governors and Utah concerns regarding perceived FS ineffective fire attack and large fires.
Update on FB page – Berry
The Facebook NSA site has 2963 followers currently. He showed the actual FB site with actual posts on same.

Partnerships – Smokey generation, NIFC, various bases, wildland firefighter foundation, etc.

Website Committee update – Lufkin

Scholarship program update – Cherry
There were 19 applications this year for the 6 scholarships offered. Scholarships were increased to $2000. Improved clarity was provided on the application process. A special donation/gift for a 2018 scholarship was received and resulted in making a 7th scholarship award. All are NSA members. Winners will not be eligible for a scholarship next year. Jim advised the BOD on the administrative procedure to process and make selections. Once selected the scholarship check is not awarded until the individual provides a picture. Jim briefly reviewed the information sent to Board members by email. At Jim’s prodding, all awardees sent thank you notes. Question to BOD; Do we want to increase the number of scholarships, increase the amount of scholarships, drop the names of scholarships and just list as an NSA scholarship. Are earnings of life member funds appropriate for scholarships? McKean made a motion to increase the number of scholarships to 8 and increase the amount to $2500 each. Approved with one dissention.

Committee Members: Jim remain as chair, Larry Lufkin, Mike McMillan, and Mike Bina will replace Bob McKean.

NSA website Photo Gallery
It is now a standalone site.

Transition of President position: Cherry to McKean
Jim has been President for at least 7 years. He said it has been a joy and feels that NSA is on solid ground. We are part of a dying breed and have made appropriate adjustments. Going forward requires innovation and change. Bob has agreed to accept the new position with the following caveat, it will be a 2 year position. John Berry to follow Bob as treasurer. Jim will remain chair of scholarships. Jim will work with Bob during the transition. Jim made a motion to nominate Bob as President immediately. The motion was approved unanimously and Bob assumed control of the meeting.

Appointment of new treasurer – BOD
Bob made a motion for John Berry to be treasurer. Motion was approved unanimously. Bob made a motion to add signatories for financial institutions and remove Jim. “I move that the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) President Bob McKean and Treasurer John Berry be hereby authorized as the official NSA signatories on all NSA financial accounts at the following institutions: First Interstate Bank, First Internet Bank, and Vanguard. And, that these individuals be granted individual and collective authorization to make transactions to and from said accounts on behalf of NSA. And that all other previous NSA signatories be removed from said accounts.” This was unanimously approved.
SJ reunion report – Chuck
At Lynn Sprague’s request, the reunion has been delayed to 2020.

**Looking forward:**
**BOD succession planning**
A subgroup will develop a proposal for BOD. Bob will follow up.

**Strategic Planning – BOD**
Subgroup to develop life member fund strategy. Jim to Chair.

**New business**
Chuck - Swiss watch request. High dollar, not used by jumpers on job, some small return to NSA

Jim – Motion to accept Mike Bina to BOD. Approved.

**Evaluation of meeting and travel/lodging vouchers, future meeting date/location**

Adjourn

**In Attendance:** Jim Cherry, John Packard, Larry Lufkin, Fred Cooper, Bill Derr, Jim Lindell, John McDaniel, Bob McKean, Chuck Sheley, John Berry, Charlotte Larson

Unable to attend: Tom B., Mike McMcMillan

Minutes prepared by Charlotte Larson in the absence of Secretary Tom Boatner

Minutes Approved by Electronic Vote November 29, 2018.

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Robert A. McKean, President