

3-3-2007

## Meeting Minutes, March 3rd, 2007

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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## **National Smokejumper Association**

Board of Directors Meeting

March 3, 2007

Portland, Oregon

### **Attendees:**

Doug Houston, President  
Chuck Sheley, First Vice President  
Dave Bennett, Secretary  
Charles Brown, Treasurer  
Roland Stoleson, President Emeritus  
John Helmer, Director  
Larry Lufkin, Director  
Larry Longley, Director  
Karl Maerzluft, Director  
John Twiss, Second Vice President  
Mark Corbet  
John McDaniel

### **Absent:**

James Cherry, Director  
Jon McBride, Director  
Bill Moody, Director  
Leo Cromwell, Director  
Joe Stutler  
Roger Savage  
Nels Jensen  
Tom Uphill  
Gary Johnson

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting-Dave Bennett**

The minutes from the October 7, 2006 meeting in Wenatchee were approved with the following comment. **Cost for DVDs is \$45.00. (?)**

### **Treasurer's Report-Charlie Brown**

Charlie Brown provided 11 financial statements, summaries and reports for the FY beginning July 1, 2006 thru February 19, 2007. The Trails Program, Finn Ward Fund, Art Jukkala Scholarship Fund, and the Boise 2007 Reunion keep separate books but these subsidiary organizations operate under the NSA charter and their financial summaries are incorporated into the main NSA financial records.

This year, income has been significantly higher versus last year but this number is **distorted somewhat, primarily by The Finn Ward Fund donations plus** the Art Jukkala Fund and the Trails Program incomes. However, life member donations and membership dues income are showing good increases over last year. Associate membership sales by Chuck Sheley, through the website, continue to produce good results. Donations for this period are \$6,774, including the Governor's Bozeman Watch auction for \$5,000. Also included in the total donation income is our one percent of the sales price of 27 Smokejumper watches sold. Total merchandising income was \$748 including \$566 from Western Heritage which continues to be disappointing.

The Balance Sheet shows total assets of \$399,331. Again, this number is somewhat distorted because of the \$75,000 in the Finn Ward Fund. Our stock investment authorization is currently \$125,000, \$121,400 of which has been invested. The current market value is \$161,700 which shows an unrealized capital gain of \$40,276. The Life Membership Endowment Fund inflation adjustment for this period is \$21,300. We have

184 Life Members, with an additional six people on the installment plan. Our estimated annual interest and dividends are \$13,800 based on our current assets investments.

The revised budget (approved by BOD e-mail vote) for FYE June 30, 2007 shows a deficit of \$4,200. Charlie's current estimate for this budget year is an approximately \$8,600 surplus based on the increased membership dues and donations income.

The draft budget for FYE June 30, 2008 was presented for discussion by the BOD. The board made changes and the adjusted budget was compiled and provided to the BOD by email from Larry Lufkin. The FYE 2008 budget was discussed in this meeting since the June meeting will be a short one because of the reunion. Total revenue forecast at \$46,500, expenses at \$41,150, leaving a net surplus forecast of \$5,350.

**Larry Lufkin told the Board that our increased net worth demands an independent professional audit.** We need an independent auditor to annually review our internal controls, revenue and expenditures, and certify our asset accounts based upon an agreed procedure. We will need \$2,000 to \$3,000 for an independent review. John Helmer moved to allocate \$3,000 for an agreed upon audit. Motion seconded by Ron Stoleson, motion carried. The investment committee will find an auditor and adjust the budget if necessary and establish a schedule at the Boise meeting. **Charlie Brown will have bids for the BOD to review at the Boise meeting.**

Jon McBride has requested \$700 for a one-week trail crew on the Helena National Forest. Jon is marketing the Helena for the Mann Gulch trail project and will use the requested funds as seed money on another project. Ron Stoleson moved to increase the Trails budget to \$1,000. Karl Maerzluft seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

#### **Investments-John Helmer**

John reported that the rate of return on investments to date is 28.5%. John has prepared a detailed report on Capital Southwest stock performance. Jon asked for an additional \$25,000 to be added to the authorized amount, bringing the total to \$150,000. He has no special ideas presently where the money should be invested. John Twiss moved to approve the additional funding as requested. Dave Bennett seconded, motion carried. Charlie Brown added that we need approximately \$6,000 per year to offset inflation on our \$200,000 Life Member Fund.

#### **Errors and Omissions Insurance-Karl Maerzluft**

Karl moved that we should investigate the feasibility of the BOD obtaining errors and omissions insurance. Roland Stoleson seconded, motion carried. **Karl will take this assignment and report on progress at the Boise meeting.**

#### **Membership Report-John McDaniel**

John reported that the NSA membership including jumpers, associates, and pilots totals 1756. There are 3300 ex jumpers who are not members and we have addresses for 1500 of these. There are many memberships that will come due on March 30; therefore John has a major campaign under way to maintain these members. John forecasts 1800

members by the end of 2007. He is also focusing on converting 10-year members to life members. He is concentrating on past jumpers from the 1950s. John said that the ongoing Lost Jumper program achieved good results initially, but returns on the program are now marginal. John questions the value of continuing with the program now.

Jim Cherry's work on Life Memberships during 2006 has increased Life Members from 143 to 186.

Chuck Sheley and John McDaniel will approach 2006 rookies from all bases with membership packages. A total of 10 rookies have signed up thus far. John will have a table at the Boise reunion for memberships.

The BOD congratulated John on a job well done.

**Smokejumper History Program-Larry Longely**  
**Larry reported that Steve Smith's new video will be delayed because of other priorities.**

The University of Montana website [HTTP\\catalog.lib.umt.edu](http://catalog.lib.umt.edu) now includes 138 oral histories that were recorded in 1984. All of these recordings have the prefix OH-0133 on the website.

Larry will have three cameras going for interviews at the Boise reunion. He will need assistance with interviews. Larry will have a table with a History Program banner at the reunion. The NCSB History book is now available.

**Youth Dynamics of Billings-Dick Timms**

Dick Timms gave a presentation on endowments that would provide relief on estate taxes. Dick proposed that he could work with the NSA to create endowments. His first action would be to hold a meeting in Missoula to explain the program to potential donors. John Helmer will perform due-diligence on Dick Timms and the Youth Dynamics Group. Karl Maerzluft will perform due-diligence on Legacy Global; the licensed company that would handle the money generated by Dick Timms. Doug Houston will obtain a sample contract from Dick Timms. We will discuss this opportunity further in the Boise meeting.

**Merchandise Report-Doug Houston**

No merchandise report was supplied by Western Heritage. Their performance has been modest thus far in selling NSA merchandise. **Western Heritage will have a table at the Boise reunion.**

**Boise Reunion-Chuck Sheley**

Chuck has completed mailings of the reunion booklet. Steve Nemore sent Doug Houston an email reporting good progress.

**National Smokejumper Center in West Yellowstone Update-Doug Houston**

Doug reported that the Smokejumper Center committee is evaluating some excess Forest Service property in West Yellowstone as a potential site for the Center. There are currently three log buildings on the property that could be utilized.

**Trails Program-Doug Houston**

The Trails program received kudos from the R-1 Regional Forester. Jon is working with the Helena Forest to improve the Mann Gulch Trail and other facilities there. This would include a formal trail with interpretive signs, toilets, and a boat dock. The Planning Committee will meet in September to evaluate options.

The Trails Scholarship Fund now has \$15,000 in it. Charlie Brown oversees the fund and it is in CDs presently. Charlie provides Jon a periodic report.

**2007 Meetings-**

Our remaining 2007 meetings will be June 8 in Boise, and September 8, 2007 at NCSB.

**2007 Reunions-**

Redding Reunion May 17.

National Reunion June 8, 9, and 10 in Boise.

NCSB Reunion September 7, 8, 9.