

10-7-2006

## Meeting Minutes, October 7th, 2006

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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**National Smokejumper Association**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 7, 2006  
Wenatchee, Washington

**Attendees:**

Doug Houston, President  
Chuck Sheley, First Vice President  
Dave Bennett, Secretary  
Charles Brown, Treasurer  
Roland Stoleson, President Emeritus  
James Cherry, Director  
John Helmer, Director  
Jon McBride, Director  
Larry Lufkin, Director  
Bill Moody, Director  
Larry Longley, Director  
Karl Maerzluft, Director  
John Twiss, Second Vice President  
Leo Cromwell, Director

**Absent:**

Joe Stutler  
Mark Corbet  
John McDaniel  
Roger Savage  
Nels Jensen  
Tom Uphill  
Gary Johnson

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

Comments to the minutes by Jim Cherry- Include the vision and mission statements as part of the minutes from the Cave Junction meeting. These items were approved by the board immediately after the Cave Junction meeting. The minutes were approved with comment.

**Treasurer's Report-Charlie Brown**

Charlie described financial performance for the fiscal year ending June 30. The BOD has responsibility to manage the life member fund so that it is adjusted for inflation. An annual adjustment is required with BOD approval. **In a previous meeting, the BOD approved the Life Member fund resolution.** John Helmer said that we must realize that this money will lose value with time and we must consider retained earnings. Larry Lufkin stated that this money is reserved for interest income only for Life Membership. Charlie said we are going to make about \$13,000 on interest and dividend earnings, but inflation is only running about \$3000. The BOD can do as it likes; if they feel the inflation adjustment value is inappropriate, then the BOD can change the value. The

BOD can vote on any inflation adjustment. Karl Mazerluft suggested that the rate be set at 3%. Larry Lufkin said we should set the rate based on the Consumer Price Index as the means for adjusting the LM endowment. Moved by Jim Cherry, seconded by Ron Stoleson, motion passed.

Some funding is needed for Charlie Brown to have a CPA review his work in completing for the first time the 990 long form IRS return for FYE 6/30/06. John Helmer moved to spend up to \$300 for Charlie to hire a CPA to review this NSA IRS Return. Moved and seconded, motion passed. There is enough money in the FY 2007 budget under the Miscellaneous Category to accommodate this expenditure.

The Finn Ward account passes through the NSA treasury and is in accordance with the NSA mission. We will report this fund as part of our income to the IRS. This creates significant paperwork on the part of the Treasurer. Having the NSA in the loop enables the tax deductability of the donation. Jon McBride suggested that for future funds, we take 1% of the proceeds for these funds to administer them. This will cover Treasurer's expenses plus mailing and handling. The BOD felt that this sort of project is so rare that no special arrangements are necessary.

We are improved financially over the first quarter of last year largely as a result of membership income; both Life Members and General Members. We may exceed the budget income.

Karl Maerzluft asked if there is any way to fence off Life Member funds in a trust so that they can't be accessed by litigators?

The BOD congratulated Charlie on his excellent work as Treasurer.

#### **Annual Fund-Jim Cherry**

The Annual Fund concept is a donation by members made annually. This would be predicated on the Vision statement, and would provide the membership and opportunity to make a gift in recognition of their support to the organization. We have a good Values statement now, we need to follow up with a good Vision statement. What would we like to be able to do that is worth while that we can't afford right now? Jim will work on the Vision statement; he suggested that Tom Uphill's strategic plan draft would be a useful starting point.

#### **Investment Fund Status – John Helmer**

Wedbush Morgan Securities is the investing organization. John's company is the introducing brokerage. John requests that an additional \$25k be approved for investment. We have enjoyed excellent performance in Capital Southwest account which owns a significant position in HEELYS, which is going public in the near future. A portion of the additional \$25k is suggested to be invested in LDIS, a technology company with excellent numbers. Larry moved to allocate the \$25k, and motion seconded.. Ron Stoleson mentioned that we are up near 50% on speculative investments-do we want to

extend to this level. We would still be within these limits with the suggested \$25k allocation. We currently have \$100k allocated for investment. The BOD appreciates John's performance on this issue.

### **Trails Report – Jon McBride**

For 2006, a total of 136 volunteers participated; many worked 2, 3, or 4 weeks. There were 17 projects in Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and Colorado. Jon has been flooded with calls from federal agencies to take on more projects next year. Some have paid in advance, among them are the Spotted Bear District on the Flathead, and the Helena National Forest for a trail project into the Mann Gulch site. There are currently no trails in the area. Jon proposes to build a trail approved by the Forest Service that is routed to all of the obelisks. The Forest Service is not completely sold on the idea at this point, however, negotiations are still under way. The Trails Program has created an Art Jukkala Scholarship Fund to award college scholarships to qualifying children of KIAs. The initial funding for this program was from the memorial funds donated by family and friends of Art Jukkala after his untimely death on a Trails Maintenance Project in 1999. Subsequent funds have come from donations especially for this Art Jukkala Scholarship Fund. There are currently four children that qualify for these projects. Two scholarships have been issued \$2000 each. Hal Howell asked if he could use the Trails Program name to establish a Trails Maintenance Chair at University of Montana School of Forestry. A student would be selected each year. A chair costs \$25,000 at the university. Hal has raised \$15,000 so far.

Jim Cherry will represent NSA at a National Trail Symposium, put on by the American Trails organization. We are trying for a major grant from the National Hiking Society.

The BOD congratulates Jon McBride on the success of the Trails Program.

### **Reunion Update – Leo Cromwell**

The 2007 reunion is on schedule. The committee is paying close attention to cost at Taco Bell Arena. There are typically about 20 people participating at planning meetings. Response to flyers so far indicates approximately 100 people already committed.

Based on cost issues, the reunion committee decided not to engage the convention management company-the work will be accomplished by volunteers. Steve Nemore is a chairperson. Dick Terry is doing logistics. There will be leads assigned for each event as the time draws nearer.

The Idaho City tour will feature artifacts of the ID Jumper Base. The reunion committee is working on support from the BLM jumpers. There is not as much interest in the history since the BLM base was re-established in the mid eighties.

The tee shirt design and hat is well underway for the reunion. John Twiss asked if NSA will make a profit on these items-Leo said that there will be a 100% profit on these items, all returned to the NSA.

John Helmer asked if the BOD is doing enough to help reunion committees get started. Things like credit card capability and on-line, web-based registration. The idea will be held for further discussion.

Jim Cherry said there is an opportunity to sell Trails Maintenance shirts and hats at the reunion. There will be tents set up for regions to sell their tee shirts or other merchandise.

#### **Merchandising Program – Doug Houston**

Doug had a discussion with Western Heritage brainstorming on how to improve sales. Basically, the same merchandise is available from Western Heritage as when Chuck Sheley was managing the program. Western Heritage sales are only a small fraction of the previous levels. John Twiss said the Forest Service has agreed to do a DVD jacket for the Smokejumper video so they can distribute it within the department.

#### **New Smokejumper Video-Bill Moody**

Steve Smith will work on new video documentary that will be ready at the end of the calendar year. Doug will follow up with Steve Smith to verify the agreement between the NSA and Steve.

#### **Bozeman Watch Company-Doug Houston**

Watch # 23 was donated for to NSA for auction. During the first week in December, Bozeman Watch Co. will hold an auction and will take top 12 bidders and ask for a best and final bid. One of the Bozeman Watch customers donated \$500 to the NSA. When the watch is sold, Doug will poll the board via email to decide what to do with the proceeds. The original thought was to donate all to the Finn Ward program.

#### **Left Hand brewing Company-Doug Houston**

The brewery is marketing Smokejumper Porter, a seasonal beer. Tasting events are ongoing at several Colorado Front Range locations. Left Hand Brewery will donate proceeds from tasting functions to the NSA.

#### **Life Membership Update – Jim Cherry**

There are currently 165 Life Member jumpers plus four associates, and two pilots for a total of 171 Life Members. There are five more on the payment plan. We started year with 143 life members. People that were five year members that paid \$100 should be paid back the remaining value when they become Life Members. There are 7 deceased Life Members.

#### **History Program – Larry Longley and Bill Moody**

The University of Montana oral history project is in the process of placing oral histories on their website. During the Cave Junction reunion in June 2006, there were 14 video

interviews completed by Larry. Larry plans to set up three or four rooms for simultaneous interviews at the Boise reunion in 2007.

**NCSB Reunion – Bill Moody**

The North Cascades Smokejumper Base Reunion is September 7-8-9 2007. The second announcement will appear in the January 2007 NSA magazine. The NTSB book and CD of historical pictures will be for sale at the reunion. Attendance will probably be around 400-500.

**National Smokejumper Center (WYS) - Doug Houston**

Barry Hicks is the director. The center had a youth program going all summer. Thirty to forty young people participated in the three-day Smokejumper program. The vision is to have an aircraft on hand so retired jumpers could come and jump. The Junior Smokejumper Program would include youth size jump suits and training. The Forest Service has property in downtown West Yellowstone and the program is attempting to acquire this property for the Smokejumper Center. Three million tourists per year come through West Yellowstone. There is a plan to create a Smokejumper Candidate membership category within the NSA that would provide a mentoring service for prospective jumpers. Bob Kichen has a lady that would chair this division.

**Forest Service Reunion – John Twiss**

The all Forest Service Reunion is scheduled for September 2009. The venue will be Missoula. Perhaps NSA would be a co-sponsor. The Forest Service Museum and the Region 1 Retirees Association are the only other co-sponsors. John Twiss speculated that they will ask for volunteer labor to support this. Jon McBride suggested that we would want a seat on the board and be part of the decision making for the reunion. We will need a clear statement in writing that defines expectations for “sponsorship”. John will explore the possibility further and report later.

**Succession: Next NSA President and First Vice President – Doug Houston**

John Twiss has a Conflict of Interest in his present job that causes him to decline the presidency. John has another year of service and will then likely retire and would be able to take on the presidency. Ron Stoleson suggested that we need another VP that would be a #3 person in the NSA. Chuck Wildes is a good candidate brought forward by Ron. Gary Johnson is a new board member and should also be considered. Larry reminded us that whoever it is, they need to show up for the meetings. We have an election coming up in January. There could be two potential spots open in that election. Karl is not going to run again, Joe Stutler has quit coming to meetings, John Helmer is up for re-election. The BOD consensus is to ask VP candidates to attend BOD meetings and then run for the position in the next election.

The investment advisory committee is comprised of the President, VP, and Treasurer. Chuck will replace John Twiss as the VP serving on the committee.

Jim Cherry voiced a concern regarding the NSA not operating to the bylaws, which creates potential for litigation. Referring to the By Laws Second Article: Members and annual meetings. Regular annual meeting for election of directors held between 1 April and 30 June. We aren't doing that. Meetings of the membership shall be held on written notice. Not less than 15% of the members shall constitute a quorum. This requires at least 240 members.

One of the meetings in 2007 will be the annual membership meeting June 8, 9, and 10. Doug will write up a notice for the April magazine.

**2007 Meetings-**

Our 2007 meetings will be March 3, 2007 in Portland, June 8 in Boise, and September 8, 2007 at NCSB.

**E-mail voting by the Board of Directors-**

December, 2006, Doug Huston proposed, which was approved, to revise the FYE 6/30/07 budget as follows:

Income: Revise to show an anticipated additional \$4,700 donation from the auctioned Bozeman Watch Company Smokejumper Watch.

Expenses: Revise to show a donation of \$4,000 to the Finn Ward Fund. Also, set up a new expense item, President Special Recognition Fund for \$700.