

4-10-1999

Meeting Minutes, April 10th, 1999

National Smokejumper Association Board of Directors

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NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Holiday Inn, Missoula, Montana
Saturday April 10, 1999

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M. by President Laird Robinson

Monroe De Jarnette will take notes. Secretary Phil Davis was away to tend to his family upon the death of his father. The association wishes Phil God's speed, and his family well.

Roger Savage offered to give the Newsletter Report for Jack Demmons who has tendered his letter of resignation.

Those present: Bill Moody, Larry Lufkin, Jim Blaine, Roger Savage, Jon Mc Bride, Laird Robinson, Larry Anderson, Tom Kovalicky, Tim Aldrich, Lon Dale, Carl Gidlund, Jerry Timmons, Earl Cooley, Fred Rohrbach, Chuck Sheley. Member Fred Wolfrum, NSA Membership coordinator Monroe De Jarnette, and Stan Cohen, Museum of Mountain Flying were also present. Those absent: Jack Demmons, George Gowen, Larry Moore, Ron Stoleson.

President Laird Robinson gave his opening remarks, briefly discussing the agenda along with packet items given to the board members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ron Dale moved and Larry Anderson seconded to approve the minutes of the April 1998 annual meeting. Minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Jon Mc Bride presented two reports to the board for approval. These reports are attached to the minutes.

The first report **FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE ORGANIZATION (FHO)**, was read with the following amendments or annotations:

S-2. Museum Fund should read \$11,000; additionally, the Museum Fund is on hold until actual construction begins. The NSA does not wish to pay for planning or blueprints (Robinson).

Lon Dale asked about using Life Membership interest money as seed for the museum. Jon replied that interest from this membership category serves the membership cost of those members. Some other discussion regarding a permanent endowment followed; however, no action was taken. Interest from the Life Membership Account will continue to service those memberships.

FHO page two. Jon annotated the new handling of multi-year membership money (see pages 3 and 4). Page two. "Custom of providing \$100.00" director expense. Jon recommended that we suspend this expense. It was moved and seconded to temporarily suspend the \$100 annual meeting expense for the Board of Directors for this year. Motion carried.

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Director Larry Lufkin commended Jon for his work with our financial planning.

The second report MONTHLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 3/1/99-3/31/99 was read with the following observations:

- Page 1. Account S-1 primary savings is spendable income.
- S-2 Museum Fund is not available
- S2.2 Multi-year memberships is new
- S2.3 Permanent Life Membership is being held
- S1 Reunion Fund, held for NSA sanctioned reunions. \$10,000 for Redding Y2K, waiting for letter from Redding.
- S1 Video Project Fund, \$22,568 as of 04/10/99
- S2.1 Video Project Profit, new. (Sale of clip to History Channel)

PROPOSED BUDGET, fiscal year January 1, 1999-December 31, 1999

Page 1 Proposed Budget. Due to Jack Demmons' resignation, Jon McBride recommended placing \$200/month back into the budget for Office Manager stipend because future office expense is unknown. President Robinson asked for objections. There being none, President Robinson authorized Treasurer Mc Bride to reinstate the sum of \$200/month for Office Manager stipend.

There followed some comment on differences between the fiscal year and membership year since elections do not coincide with the fiscal year. It was felt; however, that any changes would have to be orchestrated in the future.

Tom Kovalicky moved and Larry Anderson seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted as amended. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP AND DATA BASE REPORT: Director Roger Savage reported that our current membership numbers 1,333 jumpers, associates, and affiliates. His full report is appended to these minutes. He showed a graph of training figures for the history of the smokejumper projects. He noted how few are trained currently compared to the past. He noted that the removal of age restrictions by the Forest Service accounts for much of the difference. He also noted that there are over 5000 jumpers, but only 2695 address.

Fred Wolfrum asked if all addresses are valid. Roger replied, "no". Carl Gidlund asked for a definition of the term JUMPER. After some discussion, Carl suggested that the definition read as follows: **completed training and completed one season**. In the data base an asterisk will indicate those who did not complete one season for whatever reason. There being no objection, President Robinson asked Roger to follow through.

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Bill Moody asked Roger to send the data base to all Base Liaison Representatives. There followed a discussion of ways and means for searching out jumpers for whom we have no address. Chuck Sheley noted that the Base Liaison Representative had a good chance to find jumpers through personal contacts. Carl Gidlund suggested putting those jumpers with e-mail on a disc so that contacts and research could be easier and faster.

WEBSITE: Roger noted that the website continues to receive up to 25 hits per day and that it has received up to 100 hits per day. The board asked that the Website include base updates.

~~Roger then asked to be relieved of responsibility for the Website.~~ Chuck Sheley said that he had some names to use in seeking a replacement.

The board commended Roger for his excellent work with both the data base and the website. The board asked Roger to continue with the data base. Roger consented.

BREAK: 9:55. **RECONVENE:** 10:10. President Robinson called the board to order.

DRAFT STUDY, PROJECT 2000. A program of work for the period 1999-2000.

Carl Gidlund presented a draft of tasks for board consideration and approval. Documents are appended to minutes. In the minutes, the tasks are consecutively numbered.

Task One: \$100 travel allowance: deleted temporarily, Treasurer's report.

Task two: Base Liaison Directors. The following directors or jumpers have agreed to work with the following bases: NCSB- Moody, RDD- Sheley, RDM- Lufkin, GV- Kovalicky, FBX-Taylor, MSO-Aldrich, CJ-Reid, Boise-Beebe. MYC and WY still need to be covered.

Task three: role in the future of smokejumping. NSA cannot become a political organization without losing its 501(C3) status. The NSA can become more relevant to current jumpers through the newsletter. Suggestions offered: a column written by jumpers or management, base news, new technology, consistent statements.

Mission Statement

The board shortened the draft mission statement; the original with modifications may be found in the appendix. The adopted form reads as follows:

The National Smokejumper Association (NSA) is the "keeper of the flame" for smokejumpers and others associated with wild land fire fighting, maintains a roster of current and former smokejumpers, and preserves the history of aerial fire management.

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Task Four: role in Mann Gulch commemorative activities. Current plans call for one ceremonial jumper the morning of August 4 with 13 firefighters hiking in to the 13 markers accompanied by the media. In the afternoon, a ceremony will be held at the Meriweather Lewis monument. On August 5 a ceremony will be held at the Montana Capital with Bob Sallee as the keynote speaker. In addition the Senior Class of Helena High School has planned an activity.

The executive committee earmarked \$1000 for Mann Gulch activities. Motion by Lon Dale to ratify the \$1000 voted by the Executive Committee. Second by Carl Gidlund. Points of clarification-- Tom Kovalicky, make the \$1000 specific to the event; Larry Lufkin-- make the NSA Executive Committee the deciding voice. Motion carried as clarified. Treasurer Jon Mc Bride requested that the \$1000 be borrowed from a source other than budget. Fred Wolfrum requested that the money not be given or used without recognition of source (NSA) by the Mann Gulch Commemorative Committee. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

President Laird Robinson reported that it would cost \$4500 in fuel to have the Evergreen Tri-motor fly to Helena and make two trips in the morning and two trips in the afternoon. Holding seventeen seats at \$30/seat, the plane could not generate enough income to fund the fuel.

Lon Dale moved, seconded by Gerald Timmons that the NSA as an organization contribute efforts toward other activities: i.e. fuel for the Tri-motor without using funds from the budget or restricted funds. Motion carried. Monroe De Jarnette, Fred Wolfrum, and Larry Lufkin will research grants for this project.

Task five: records management. Tim Aldrich accepted the chair for this task. Carl Gidlund asked for written recommendations by June Executive Committee meeting.

Task six: Historical Preservation Committee. Bill Moody agreed to Chair. Report to the Association in April. No other specific action taken.

Task seven: Executive Committee. Carl suggested meeting quarterly in area other than Missoula. No objections from the current Executive Committee or the board.

Task eight: elections. Chuck Sheley reported that 14% of the membership voted in the last election. Chuck feels that we need special emphasis from current and incoming presidents. Question, Bill Moody, other ways? Chuck answered that timing needs to be better. In the year 2000 we can time the elections better. No elaboration followed. Chairman Sheley to select members for this committee.

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Task nine: membership committee. Chairman Chuck Sheley to select members of the committee.

Chuck outlined his efforts in Redding with the jumpers at the Fire Center. He has also been working with WILDFIRE magazine to recruit affiliate members. He asked for renewed efforts from each board member— 10 new members each. The Y2K reunion committee in Redding is working to increase attendance at this five year reunion. The committee has been meeting monthly.

The membership committee and the board need to target those bases like Redmond and Boise using personal contacts to stimulate membership.

Time line: April 1999 to October 1999.

Gidlund asked the committee to consider a scholarship fund for children of jumpers through the NSA.

Task ten: logo. Drop Tri-motor from logo. NSA president to solicit designs/bids for submission to the board. First, solicit designs from members who are professional graphic artists. Then, go outside membership. Time line: April 1999 to April 2000. Sheley has been working on this item. The board voted to use the 'Flying Christmas Tree' logo.

Task Eleven: social activities. Purpose retention of members. Carl proposed initiating yearly activities for local, current, former, prospective jumpers & families with media attention.

Task Twelve: Director at large. Discussion digressed to Base Liaison Officers. Gidlund asked Bill Moody to find Base Liaison Officers for all bases, add duties for Liaison Officers to job descriptions, and fill in duties for Association Directors. Sheley can provide Moody with a list of bases that already have a Liaison Officer. Time line: May 1999.

Task Thirteen: Collect e-mail addresses for Directors/Members. Gidlund proposed asking the webmaster and Newsletter Editor to collect e-mail addresses for all members. Sheley noted that all renewal mail to members now asks for an e-mail address, and the current B/W membership brochure asks for an e-mail address as well. No other action was suggested.

Task Fourteen: Monitor budget and dues structure; propose changes as appropriate: Gidlund asked that Treasurer Mc Bride and Director Lufkin follow through on an ongoing basis for increased efficiency. Mc Bride and Lufkin consented.

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Task Fifteen: Complete NSA brochure. Director Larry Anderson showed the board a proposed membership brochure. It was an 8 and ½ X 11 folded to business envelop size. The brochure was referred to the membership committee for approval. Suspense date: June 1999.

Task Sixteen: Survey membership to determine talents available for NSA work. Gidlund asked that the directors feedback ideas and comments to the President so that he can draft an article for the Website and the Newsletter. Board members suggested finding graphic designers, printers, and writers for a beginning. Suspense date June 1999.

Task Seventeen: Review, amend, and adopt position descriptions. The discussion at Task 11 overlapped this task. It is urged as important to the association that Directors assume job descriptions as well as policy making roles in order to expedite and further the association's mission. Directors should have a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities. It was noted in the discussion that in many non-profit organizations, Directors chair the committees, and serve on more than one committee. Bill Moody moved and Larry Lufkin seconded to adopt position descriptions. Motion carried.

Task Eighteen: Solicit Corporate memberships. Director Rohrbach was asked to develop a plan that would set corporate membership dues and initiate plans to recruit corporate members. We need to know the vendor companies that supply smokejumpers.

Task Nineteen: upgrade service to members. Provide more service to members. Look into possibility of new office location. Recruit additional personnel for office operation. Treasurer Jon Mc Bride agreed to chair a committee to facilitate the project. He suggested breaking elements into "chewable chunks". Suspense date: January 1999.

Task Twenty: Newsletter operations. Director Roger Savage agreed to chair a committee to oversee the changing editorship of the Newsletter and to see that the next Newsletter is released on time. Sheley outlined savings to the association by using a magazine publisher such as WILDFIRE as opposed to a local copy company. A package deal could save the organization publishing costs, as well as folding and stapling. An inviting feature would be glossy print. Sheley also outlined a reduction in postage costs as WILDFIRE MAGAZINE has a mailing program which automatically adds bar codes to the addresses. The Association would also see an enormous reduction in its work load. Lufkin suggested that any contract should include the application of postage.

Fred Wolfrum, editorial control question to Sheley. Sheley replied, "NSA retains all editorial control". An examination of possible negative consequences followed. Sheley re-emphasized that the contract is a printing contract. Editorial control remains with the Newsletter committee. In fact, the Newsletter Committee can also direct the layout.

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Savage agreed to head a delegation to Spokane to talk to Jason Greenlee, Publisher of WILDFIRE magazine.

Task Twenty-one: NSA Regional Councils. Discussion and possible adoption. Chair Stoleson. Suspense date for report: April 2000.

Task Twenty-two: smokejumper yearbook. Chairman Fred Wolfrum gave this report. The first yearbook would include pictures and narration from the 1999 rookie class. He does not have specifics i.e., amount of color photography vs. black & white etc. The project, if approved, needs time lines. Each unit would have to have information in by this time next year. Moody concurred emphasizing, however, that our guidelines would need to be timely and specific. Wolfrum estimated the cost to be between eight and ten thousand dollars.

Chuck Sheley moved, seconded by Fred Rohrbach that the board give conceptual approval to the yearbook proposal. Chairman Fred Wolfrum would be authorized to bring his finished conception back to the association Executive Committee for final approval. Discussion. Question. Motion carried.

At the end of the Gidlund report, President Robinson commended Carl for his work on behalf of the association. The board responded with a heartfelt round of applause. Lunch was served while the meeting continued.

CHICO SALES REPORT: Merchandising Chairman Sheley reported a profit of \$1771 in the seven months since he has taken the job. His original goal was \$1190. He decided to publish a colored brochure to improve sales. He is continuing to research vendors and products to improve sales and expand the market. Chuck anticipates that reunions and air shows will provide other avenues for sales..

VIDEO PROJECT: Chairman Rohrbach reported that a 90 minute rough cut of the Smokejumper video should be ready by July. The final copy should be completed by August. Funds raised to date: \$62,000. Video jacket designed through Chuck Sheley. The board expressed general approval of the design. President Robinson asked about sunset for committee. Rohrbach estimated by the end of 1999; however, he said that marketing is yet to come. We also need to copyright the product. Bill Moody told the board that the script has been reviewed and has critical quality. Chairman Rohrbach was commended by President Robinson for his work on the committee.

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REUNION 2000: Former Smokejumper Dave Nelson (MSO 57,58; RDD 59, 65-67) now retired in Nevada City, CA is the incident commander. Six meetings have been held in Redding to date. The Redding Convention Center has been booked for Friday July 16th, Saturday the 17th, and Sunday the 18th. Committee member Chuck Sheley also reported that room rates are excellent. The rental of the Redding convention Center will be at the lowest if 400 rooms are sold in the Redding area. Budget figures for the convention will be released shortly.

MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION: Director Chuck Sheley is chair of this committee. A discussion of membership categories followed. It was felt by some that the association could cut down on the number of categories. Roger Savage moved, seconded by Chuck Sheley that the association adopt the following membership categories: **Smokejumper, Associate, Corporate.** Motion carried.

Fred Wolfrum displayed a painting of a tri-motor ford on the Big Prairie landing strip. He would like to offer eight copies of the painting as a sales feature for the Y2K Reunion in Redding. Proceeds will go to the NSA. Comment was favorable. Fred will proceed with the project.

Chuck Sheley reported that the committee is also looking at streamlining the dues structure to encourage more 2 year memberships and associate memberships. Chuck is actively recruiting new members through merchandising and through contacts with regional bases. Membership coordinator Monroe De Jarnette noted that eight new members have been processed as result of these efforts.

BY-LAWS: Director Lon Dale clarified the procedure for amending the by-laws: i.e., membership categories. Publish proposed change one month in advance. Convene special board meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Lon Dale presented the following slate of officers for the term year beginning July 1, 1999 and ending June 30, 2000.

President, Carl Gidlund
1st Vice President, Larry Lufkin
2nd Vice President, Bill Moody
Secretary, Chuck Sheley
Treasurer, Jon Mc Bride

Bill Moody declined the office of 2nd Vice President, nominating Chuck Sheley for that position. Chuck Sheley agreed to serve in that capacity and declined the office of Secretary. Chuck then nominated Monroe De Jarnette for the position of Secretary.

Lon Dale, point of order. The association membership coordinator is not a member of the board and therefore not eligible to serve as an officer of the board.

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Membership chair BOB
Member

Director Sheley withdrew his nomination. He then moved to make the position of Membership Coordinator, currently held by Monroe De Jarnette, a member of the board. Second by Bill Moody. Motion carried. A discussion followed regarding Carl Gidlund's term on the board which is due to expire at the end of June. *

Lon Dale moved, second by _____ to extend Carl Gidlund's term on the board of directors for the period of his presidency (1 year). Motion carried.

Chuck Sheley nominated Monroe De Jarnette for the position of Secretary of the NSA. Monroe accepted the nomination.

President Laird asked if there were any further nominations. Sheley moved, Mc Bride seconded that nominations be closed. Motion carried.

Lon Dale then presented to the board the amended slate of officers for the year July 1 1999 through June 30, 2000 as follows:

President, Carl Gidlund
1st Vice President, Larry Lufkin
2nd Vice President, Chuck Sheley
Secretary, Monroe De Jarnette
Treasurer, Jon Mc Bride

Tim Aldrich moved, second by _____ that the slate of officers be approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Lon Dale presented a proposal for the make-up of the Executive Committee from April through June. It is as follows: President Ex-officio Laird Robinson, President Elect Carl Gidlund with the balance of the present and future association officers serving concurrently. Chuck Sheley moved, seconded by Fred Rohrbach that the board accept Lon's proposal. Motion carried.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS REGARDING THE DEFINITION OF A MEMBER. Lon Dale. This amendment could be: 1) noticed for next year's meeting, or 2) noticed to the board in advance by one month and acted upon by telephone vote.

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NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lon Dale suggested that we enlarge our board by three members. Discussion. The suggestion centered on the need to enlarge the representation of the board so as to include members from as diverse a selection of jumper centers as possible.

Thus, in addition to nominating Chuck Sheley, George Gowen, and Bill Moody, whose three year terms will end June 30 (They will accept re-election), the NSA can also accept the nominations of Grant Beebe, BFIC 90; Harold Hartman, CJ 65; and Murry Taylor, RDD 65-71 FBX 73-78 BFIC 87 FBX 88-98 for election to the Board of Directors.

It was moved and seconded by Gidlund to expand our board by three members and accept the nominating committee's slate for submission to the membership. Motion carried.

The 1999-2000 ballot for NSA directorships shall consist of the following members.

Grant Beebe, new, term to be determined.
George Gowen, incumbent, 3 year term
Harold Hartman, new, term to be determined
Bill Moody, incumbent, 3 year term
Chuck Sheley, incumbent, 3 year term
Murry Taylor, new, term to be determined

Lon Dale reminded the board that the by-laws require balanced yearly elections. The term for the three new positions, 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years respectively will be determined before the Newsletter ballot is printed.

~~**JACK DEMMONS' RESIGNATION:** President Robinson read Jack Demmons' letter of resignation to the board. Carl Gidlund moved, seconded by Larry Lufkin that we accept Jack's resignation with regret, appreciating all that he has done to make the organization prosper. Motion carried.~~

REPORT FROM THE AIR MUSEUM: Stan Cohen has located Johnson's last DC-3 in Arkansas. The air show is July 2000. Stan expressed his desire to keep the NSA in the hanger. And, they have 2.3 acres of land, owned by the museum, up for sale. Intent of the sale is to build a larger hangar. The museum is open during the summer months on weekends. They need volunteers to man the facility.

OTHER: It was moved Carl Gidlund, seconded by Larry Lufkin to present Jack Demmons and Phil Davis with plaques, and an NSA memento. Motion carried.

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Tom Kovalicky moved and Lon Dale seconded that we make Jack Demmons **Historian Emeritus** with life membership in the organization. After a brief discussion, the motion carried.

President Laird reported that the Powell Ranger Station cabin has been disassembled and is ready to move as the temporary house for the Forest Service Museum.

Bill Moody is on his way to Mongolia to help train their jumpers and monitor their crews. He says that they jump both rounds and squares. He also discussed various projects they have .

The Executive Committee will meet in **Missoula on Tuesday May 11. From 7 to 10 P.M.**, also in **Missoula on June 15. From 7 to 10 P.M.** Then the Executive Committee will meet in **Fairbanks on August 14, time to be determined.** Time and place of Executive Committee meetings after August will be announced.

Addendum: President Laird announced that his boat will leave the dock at the Meriweather Lewis monument for Gates of the Mountains at 8:30 A.M. August 4 to visit the individual monuments of the Mann Gulch thirteen. Interested jumpers may contact him.

Respectfully submitted,

Monroe De Jarnette acting for NSA Secretary Phil Davis
Dated April 10, 1999

Appendices:

- A. Financial Health of the Organization
- B. Monthly Treasurer's Report for the period 3/1/99-3/31/99
- C. Proposed Budget fiscal year January 1, 1999-December 30, 1999
- D. Membership and Data Base report.
- E. Draft Study Project 2000
- F. Draft Mission Statement before being edited by the board
- G. Historical Preservation. Notes by Bill Moody
- H. Jack Demmon's letter of resignation