

**National Smokejumper Center meeting on
May 23, 2006 at West Yellowstone, MT.**

In attendance:

Barry Hicks, Steve Nemore, Mary Wilson, Lyndsey Lalicker, John Walden, and Philip Brollier.

Conference call attendance: Doug Houston, Randy Leypolt

Barry Hicks, Concept Leader, called the meeting to order.

Mary Wilson, Administration Lead, informed the group of the incorporation and the 501(c), non-profit status she accomplished since the last meeting. She met with Judge Lew Scott of West Yellowstone who agreed to draw up incorporation papers. The documents were signed by Barry Hicks, and Mary will see that they are processed by the State of Montana. Judge Scott volunteered to meet with the NSC at its next scheduled meeting to inform the members the responsibilities of the incorporated officers. Because of the complex nature of obtaining a non-profit status through acquiring 501(c) status, the assistance of an attorney will be sought by Mary and Barry.

Steve Nemore, Smokejumper Operations, introduced Philip Brollier, a Certified Insurance Counselor, who gave an overview of the liability insurance requirements for the activities the NSC plans to provide. Because demonstration parachute jumping is non-coverable by insurance companies, all parties directly involved with the jumping will need to sign "hold harmless wavers". All other activities are coverable by liability policies and are subject to the creation of employee manuals designed to educate employees on liability issues and avoidance. The liability for this year's youth programs are covered under a corporative agreement with the Forest Service.

Lyndsey Lalicker, Youth Programs Leader, reported that the Junior Jumper Program will be in place this year. Julie Pendleton, experienced smokejumper, will be helping out with the youth program. Lori Messenger and Jen Belitz will also be available as their schedules permit. The program is modeled after the NASA Youth program and is targeted to 5 to 15 year olds. Handouts and booklets have been prepared to tell the smokejumper story. A fire camp complete with fire food and fire line construction will make up part of the program. Junior size smokejumper jump suits are in the works for youth to check out the gear. T-shirts and pins will be given to all attendees. It was noted that the Youth Program is envisioned to be an integral and important part of NSC mission.

Barry Hicks related that Lori Messenger of the Gallatin National Forest will be researching the history of the 1959 Quake Lake story with interviews of smokejumpers and pilots who were involved in the rescue and evacuation effort. Barry said that tour flights over quake lake may be a reality in 07, and he and Randy Leypolt are working out the details. Later, via conference call, Randy informed the group that a Cessna 206 had been located and its use and/or procurement will be followed up.

Steve Nemore with the help of a graphics artist is developing a logo for the NSC and should be available in a week for use on letter heads and all related NSC activities.

Mary Wilson gave the treasurer report and said that the account is solvent with limited funds. During the conference call with Doug Houston and Randy Leypolt, several fund raising activities were discussed. These included a store front, donations at various levels in connection with a NSC non-profit status, and corporate sponsorships. An August meeting will be scheduled to develop a budget for year 2007.

The group met with, Fred Rice, City Manager of West Yellowstone, to inform the town of the NSC plans and explorer avenues that would be of benefit or issues. The manager was very favorable to our project and said that we have a story to tell and West Yellowstone is a good place to tell it. He stated that the city park would be available for the Junior Jumper Program. He suggested that there may a possibility of working with their Economic Development Committee on a grant and we should send a letter to them including our mission statement and vision. Mary said that she would prepare a letter for their consideration and follow up with a meeting if desired.

Philip Brollier agreed to contact the Park Service to inform them of NSC plans and explorer ways that would be mutually beneficial. Phil also suggested that he meet with the Discovery Center in West Yellowstone to gain support and insight into their start up process.

Before adjourning the NSC meeting, the next meeting was tentatively set for July 13th. An open invitation is extended to all interested parties to attend each and every meeting.

John Walden
NSC Secretary