

A few days after our hunt, Earl and I and our wives processed the meat. Earl had all the supplies and equipment to make cube steaks and hamburger, etc.,

plus the know-how and patience to do it properly. In the next two years Earl and I shared three more elk. I can guarantee that Early Cooley knew how to make elk meat into “prime-eatin.” 🍖

## The View from Outside the Fence



by **Chris Sorensen**  
(Associate)

WHEN EARL COOLEY (MSO-40), passed away my RSS feed began filling my mailbox with tributes and stories from around the world. Both the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* covered the story along with many smaller local and regional newspapers, mostly in the West.

Even the prestigious British magazine *The Economist* noted his death with an article and a 1940 photo. An Australian newspaper referred to Earl as “One of the U.S. Crazy’s.”

In some ways it’s unfortunate that smokejumpers are still perceived as being “crazy” when they have an impeccable safety record that cannot be equaled in either the firefighting world or the parachuting world.

Twenty-five years ago – before e-mail was common outside of government and academia, and there was no World Wide Web,

and the National Smokejumper Association had yet to be formed – I carried on a correspondence with Earl via the mail. I still have those handwritten letters on Cooley’s Realty stationery.

I also purchased a copy of “The Pictorial History of Smokejumping” from him back in the days before buying a book on the Internet became as simple as typing a few keystrokes.

If you are ever in the Phoenix area, I recommend visiting the Hall of Flame – one of the premiere fire museums in the United States. The Hall of Flame has one of the better wildland and smokejumper exhibits in the country. Smokejumper artifacts were provided by the Missoula Base through the efforts of **Wayne Williams** (MSO-77). **Stan Cohen** (Associate) also provided assistance to the museum’s wildland gallery.

The museum opened in 1961 and is located at 6101 E. Van Buren Street. Hours of operation are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The phone number is (602) 275-3473 and the web site is [www.hallofflame.org/index.html](http://www.hallofflame.org/index.html).

A tip of the hard hat to the Coloradans **Jim Dollard** (CJ-52), **Doug Wamsley** (MSO-65) and **Rich Hilderbrand** (MSO-66) for following up on my concern about the spruce tree that is blocking the view of Storm King Mountain from the memorial in

Glenwood Springs. The Colorado crew has been meeting with the BLM (see the NSA web site), and talks have been underway for the NSA to do trail maintenance on Storm King Mountain.

Trail maintenance on Storm King Mountain will be required in perpetuity. With the change in Forest Service policy from benign neglect and eventual destruction to historical preservation and the backlog of needed trail work, there is certainly enough work for the next 100 years.

My day job is working for a public works department. I have been assisting with the teaching of various ICS courses through the 400 level the past few years. It was a struggle, but last year 95 percent of our employees reached their appropriate level of ICS training.

There were some turf battles and some big egos got in the way, but we got the job done. Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 designates public works departments as first responders. I consider myself an ICS evangelist, and we have done some preliminary work in trying to form a local Type 3 Incident Management Team.

One of the biggest problems with ICS training is that the government had tied funding to ICS training. The result has been massive cheating on the online courses. When I took the ICS 700 course years ago online, there was one exam. The federal

government has now added multiple random exams to the online courses to deter cheating.

Outside of the federal resource agencies and some of the largest fire departments in the country,

I really question the competency of most agencies that have gone through ICS training and claim to be ICS-competent. A lot of people think they know the system but really don't. I will address

some of these problems either in this column or an article in a future edition of the magazine.

This column is dedicated to Earl Everett Cooley and to Shane A. Ewing (MSO-04). 🦋

## Smokejumper Magazine Opinion Piece

by Jerry Williams (Redmond '72)

With Earl Cooley's (MSO-40) passing, an important part of Forest Service smokejumper history and pioneering spirit has passed as well. *The New York Times'* obituary for Earl (11/15/2009) characterized the early smokejumper concept as "efficient and audacious." In Earl's time, only 30-years removed from the Great Burn, controlling remote, inaccessible wildfires was a priority. That need became the foundation of the smokejumper mission. "Hit 'em hard and keep 'em small" was, in clear text, the mission statement.

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*The viability of any program almost always rests on the value of its most recent contributions.*

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Across today's National Forest System landscape, fewer areas are inaccessible, and those that remain remote are often managed to allow natural processes – including wildland fire – to operate "unencumbered by the hand of man." The downward trend of Forest Service smokejumper bases and Forest Service smokejumper numbers over the past few decades probably reflects, in part, the diminished demands for the program within the agency. In today's budget-conscious world, the smokejumper program is often perceived as a relatively expensive tool with a mission largely oriented around protecting lower values at risk.

The viability of any program almost always rests on the value of its most recent contributions. Although the smokejumper program enjoys wide public and political respect, no program can forever rest on the accomplishments of its past and hope to last. If the trends in Forest Service smokejumper numbers are any indication, perhaps the program would benefit from a fresh vision.

In some places and at some times, there will remain the need to deal with small, isolated wildfires, but the smokejumper program is capable of larger roles. Specialized, self-sufficient forces with the speed, range, and payload attributes of fixed-wing aircraft delivery make

the smokejumper program well-suited to today's other fire management challenges; including extended attack, wilderness fire management, and backcountry prescribed burning operations.

Certainly some bases and some leaders are adapting to new fire management realities. Some individuals are involved across the full spectrum of fire management activities. However—at the *program* level—there seems a need to re-define the core mission and—in strategies aimed toward safely reaching that end—better position smokejumper training, qualifications, equipment, and parachute systems.

The National Smokejumper Association advocates for a viable, enduring smokejumper program. Maybe Earl's passing signals the need to take pause and think strategically about its future. After all, that's the legacy of Earl and the other pioneering jumpers. In their time, they represented something new. They made good on a remarkably "efficient and audacious" vision. 🦋

*Jerry was National Director of Fire & Aviation Management and is retired from the USFS and is a current member of the NSA Board of Directors. He can be contacted at: jtwilliams50@msn.com.*



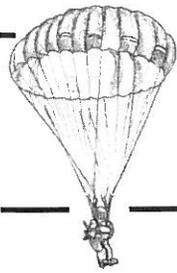
*Self-Spotting 1939 Experimental Program (NSA Files)*

# Fire Jump Leaders

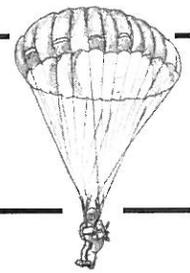
As of Dec. 15, 2009  
**Bold Indicates Still Active**

Name	Rookie Base/Year	Years Jumping	Fire Jumps	BASES JUMPED
1. Walt Wasser.....	(MYC-79)	31	371	MYL, NIFC
2. Dale Longanecker .....	(RAC-74)	35	358	RAC, NSCB
3. Steve Reynaud.....	(NCSB-65)	30	351	LDG, NCSB
4. Doug Houston.....	(RAC-73)	29	324	RAC, NCSB
5. Mark Corbet.....	(LGD-74)	31	305	LGD, RAC
6. Bruce Ford.....	(MSO-75)	31	286	MSO, FBX
7. Rod Dow.....	(MYC-68)	32	284	MYC, FBX
8. <b>Tony Pastro.....</b>	<b>(FBX-77)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>FBX</b>
9. Charles Flach.....	(MSO-68)	35	263	MSO, WYS
10. <b>Tim Quigley.....</b>	<b>(RDD-79)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>RDD</b>
11. Troop Emonds.....	(CJ-66)	23	259	CJ, FBX
12. Ron Rucker.....	(RAC-76)	29	258	RAC
13. Joe Chandler.....	(MSO-71)	29	257	MSO
14. Al Seiler.....	(FBX-85)	20	252	FBX, NIFC
15. <b>Mike Cooper.....</b>	<b>(MYC-86)</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>MYL</b>
16. Larry Wright.....	(MSO-71)	29	247	MSO, GAC
17. Ken Franz.....	(LGD-75)	31	242	LGD, FBX, NIFC
18. Rick Hudson.....	(BOI-73)	35	240	BOI, MYC
19. William Craig.....	(MSO-66)	37	240	MSO, GAC, WYS
20. <b>Dave Hade.....</b>	<b>(MYC-77)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>MYC, FBX</b>
21. <b>Tony Loughton.....</b>	<b>(RDD-83)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>RDD, RAC</b>
22. Tim Pettit.....	(MYC-75)	27	233	RDD, MYC, FBX, NIFC
23. Ron Omont.....	(RDD-78)	26	232	RDD
24. Mel Tenneson.....	(FBX-86)	24	231	FBX, NIFC
25. Frank Clements.....	(NCSB-88)	21	231	NCSB, NIFC
26. John Button.....	(NCSB-75)	35	231	NCSB
27. Mark Motes.....	(RDD-86)	24	230	RDD, NIFC
28. John Dube.....	(RAC-70)	25	230	RAC, FBX
29. Mike Burin.....	(MYC-88)	20	228	MYC, NIFC
30. Paul Chamberlin.....	(MSO-71)	29	227	MSO
31. <b>Eric Rajala.....</b>	<b>(MSO-82)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>MSO</b>
32. Steve Mello.....	(MYC-74)	33	217	MYC
33. Bruce Nelson.....	(FBX-81)	23	217	FBX
34. Jon Curd.....	(FBX-82)	24	210	FBX, NIFC
35. <b>Jim Raudenbush.....</b>	<b>(FBX-82)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>FBX, NIFC</b>
36. Dan Hernandez.....	(RDD-85)	25	208	RDD, FBX
37. Bill Moody.....	(NCSB-57)	33	208	NCSB
38. Palmer, Chris.....	(RDD-75)	22	208	RDD, MYC, FBX, NIFC
39. Hartmut Bloemeke.....	(MSO-77)	32	206	MSO, GAC, WYS
40. Thad Duel.....	(MYC-56)	32	206	MYC
41. Eric Hipke.....	(NCSB-90)	19	205	NCSB, NIFC
42. Shannon Orr.....	(RDD-92)	18	204	RDD, NIFC
43. Steve Nemore.....	(RAC-69)	27	203	RAC, NCSB, FBX, NIFC
44. Jon Ueland.....	(MSO-80)	29	202	MSO, WYS

Any adds/corrections contact: Tim Quigley (530-226-2885) or [tquigley@fs.fed.us](mailto:tquigley@fs.fed.us)



# Odds and Ends



by Chuck Sheley

**Congratulations and thanks** to those jumpers who donated a **Life Membership** in honor of **Jim Diederich** (RDD-70). Also want to thank latest **Life Members** **Kim Maynard** (MSO-82), **Glenn Hale** (MYC-57), **Guy Hurlbutt** (IDC-62) and **Tom Boatner** (FBX-80) for their support.

**Dave Torgrenud** (MYC-66): "In 1968 we sent a crew of McCall jumpers to New Mexico for a couple weeks. The only fire we jumped was in the western part of the state and looked like it was in a rock pile. I remember landing and finding it was a field full of cow pies! After returning to McCall, we immediately went to Redmond and jumped fires out of there. I almost landed in a 3000-acre fire. What a couple weeks those were."

**Luke Birky** (MSO-45): "Chuck, the January *Smokejumper* just came a few days ago. Thanks for 'keeping us informed,' great job. Of course I have been thinking of my days in Missoula in 1945. The death of **Earl Cooley** (MSO-40) made me sad, but it also brought back so many pleasant memories of when Earl was my trainer and boss. What a great, good man he was. I appreciated him a lot—tough, fair—a straight shooter. I was glad to see the extensive coverage—*Missoulian*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *New York Times*—Earl left his mark. Keep up the good work."

**Lee Gossett** (RDD-57): "Thanks for including the plaque photo in the recent issue. I scanned it and sent it on to Judy Porter and Judy will put it in the Air America Log also. Speaking about **Allen D. "Mouse" Owen** (CJ-70), a couple of weeks ago a friend at the little airstrip where I keep my planes, George Holberton, came over to my hangar and handed me a nylon pouch that contained Mouse's rigging and skydiving log books, along with his membership card and photo I.D. for the U.S. Parachute Club. Apparently when Mouse was killed skydiving in Alaska, his things were gathered up and sent to relatives, but **Ron Lund** (FBX-64) thought these items should go to George as Mouse had jumped out of 'Beagle', the airport where George has his skydiving business. George tucked the items away for all these years and came across them recently and brought them to me to pass on to one of Mouse's friends. I selected **Troop Emonds** (CJ-66), as



they were the best of buddies, and sent it on about a week ago. I guess those of us that had the pleasure of knowing Mouse will never forget what a great guy he was, Corvette, Super Man cape and all. They broke the mold when they made Mouse."

**Starr Jenkins** (CJ-48) put together many of his previously published stories into a recently published book, *More Than My Share*. One of Starr's better-known books was *Smokejumpers '49/Brothers in the Sky*. Anyone interested in any of Starr's books can contact him at 285 Buena Vista Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.

**Garry Peters** (CJ-63) recently sent me an email concerning the USAA insurance company. Since we have so many military veterans, I want to pass this on to our readers.

"USAA is opening its enrollment to all veterans with an honorable discharge. USAA is an insurance company that started out as a co-op for officers of the armed services only. They are the best company I have ever dealt with. They mainly cover auto and homeowners. I don't think I know an officer that doesn't have it. The nice thing is, in addition to the low premiums, you get money back at the end of the year if they have a good year. They opened it up to all active military a few years ago, but now they are opening their doors to everyone with an honorable discharge. This is a good deal. You can contact them for a quote at [www.usaa.com/join](http://www.usaa.com/join) or call them at 800-531-8722."

In the October 2009 issue of *Smokejumper*, **Hank Brodersen** (MSO-54) threw out the name of a person, who lives close to him in Maryland, who thought he had been a smokejumper. Turns out that person was only a smokejumper in his own mind. This is not an uncommon occurrence. Several times a year names and articles of people who claim to have been smokejumpers are forwarded to me. I check them out in the database and then contact the newspaper if the information is false.

A couple years back a major Minneapolis newspaper ran an article in one of their Sunday sections featuring a lady who had done just about everything, including being a smokejumper. The biggest clue that the person is a "wannabe" is their failure

to answer my emails and phone calls. The latest two listed in publications are a med-school student and one of the five finalists for a national Teacher of the Year Award.

Besides the dishonesty of the individual, what bothers me the most is the newspaper writer taking everything as fact without doing any checking to see if the material is factual.

Just read today (1/2/10) about a firefighter retiring from a fire department after 37 years in the fire service. In his career summary he lists smokejumper. Not in our database however.

In the January 2008 issue of *Smokejumper* it was reported that **Scott Anderson** (MYC-84) was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and underwent a bone marrow transplant.

In a recent email (Dec. 10, 2009) Marie Bates, NIFC Administrative Assistant, relayed on the following news: "Just wanted to let you know that Scott's leukemia cells came back about a month ago, and he was admitted to the local hospital here in Boise. He went through one round of chemo and last week had a bone marrow biopsy done and no leukemia cells found - so that was good. He struggled with a fever for about a week and is having some side issues due to the chemo, but the plan is to wait another week or so, do another bone marrow biopsy and make a plan on the next step. He will eventually be going back to the Seattle Cancer Center again to get a different procedure done, called a lymphocyte infusion. This is a much milder type of procedure and will require less time in the hospital than the stem cell transplant." *The NSA sent Scott a check from its Good Samaritan Fund to help with expenses for the Seattle trip. Please read the Good Sam Fund insert in this issue and donate to that valuable effort; smokejumpers helping smokejumpers, across the generational lines, in times of need. (Ed.)*

If you are in the market for any artwork, take a look at Scott's website: [www.anderson-illustrations.com](http://www.anderson-illustrations.com).

With the passing of **Jerry Sullivan** (NCSB-49), **Bill Moody** (NCSB-57) passed along an interesting event that Bill recorded in his diary concerning a rescue jump to help Jerry in 1971.

"June 20, 1971, while on trail crew in the Pasayten Wilderness, Jerry was disposing of dynamite caps when one of the 'unstable caps' struck a rock and exploded. The explosion blew his hand off and sent bits of shrapnel over various parts of his body. Shortly after 2100 **Don Fitzjarrald** (NCSB-62) dropped me, **Dick Wildman** (NCSB-61), **Mike Marcuson** (NCSB-64) and **Craig Boesel** (NCSB-

66) near the accident. Jerry had blown his left hand off and was in great pain. From about 2130 until 0630 the next morning when we evacuated him via helicopter to the Twisp Medical Clinic in Twisp, Washington, I administered multiple Demerol shots, each effective for a little over an hour. Jerry was transferred to Wenatchee for final medical attention. He recalls that the worst part of the ordeal was the medevac in the Bell G3B1 helicopter. Fitted with a prosthesis Jerry returned to work as a range technician on the Winthrop Ranger District until he retired in 1982."

**John McDaniel** (CJ-57), NSA Membership Chairman, wants to remind any of you who are renewing your membership that anyone renewing or upgrading to a 10-year membership will receive the new "Smokejumpers-Jumping Fires" license plate holder and a copy of the "Cold Missouri Waters" DVD. A good deal! 🙏



*Francis Lufkin After 1939 Experimental Jump (NSA Files)*

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# Newly Minted Smokejumpers Make First-Ever Rescue Jump After Civilian Crash

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*This article was published July 16, 1940, in "The Missoulian," Missoula, Mont.*

Robert Maricich, 26, Missoula manager of the Northwest Airlines division, was killed Monday in a plane crash near Cub Point, 25 airline miles due west of Darby, when a private plane he was piloting for the Forest Service was believed caught in a "down-draft" and crashed as it circled over a "pothole" between a 700-foot wall of rimrocks and a heavily wooded section of forest land.

Dell Clabaugh, "cargo dropper" and brother of Civil Aeronautics Inspector C.L. Clabaugh of Helena, was "badly injured" in the crash, which smashed the left wing of the plane as it made a forced landing in the 400-foot pothole clearing.

Clabaugh was given first aid treatment by Harry Neilsen, lookout at Cub Mountain, and later by Chet Derry (MSO-40), who dropped from a plane piloted by Earl Vance. Maricich and Clabaugh left here at 6:30 o'clock Monday morning, and the crash occurred about an hour later.

Neilsen said that he saw two bundles drop from the plane as it circled. He said that he did not see the plane after the bundles dropped and "believed he heard a crash." He immediately telephoned Hamilton officials, and they in turn relayed the message here. Hamilton authorities instructed Neilsen to hike to the scene so that he could be of help to the men.

He started from his lookout point and reached Cub Point and administered first aid.

At 11:40 o'clock Earl Vance flew to Moose Creek, an emergency landing station, and picked up Parachute Instructor Frank Derry (MSO-40) and two jumpers, Chet Derry and Richard Lynch (MSO-40). Vance had trouble getting his plane into the air because of the "hot, dead air conditions" and had to circle constantly for elevation before he could turn his plane in the direction of Cub Point.

It was shortly after 2 o'clock when the men spotted the wreckage. As they circled they could see a man waving to them from the ground and a radio was dropped to him. The plane continued circling above. There was no word from the ground via the radio. The plane then started to climb.

Parachutist Chet Derry dropped from the plane and landed near the wreckage. He made contact with the circling plane almost immediately and reported that Maricich had been killed and that Clabaugh was suffering from broken ribs and internal injuries.

A first aid kit was dropped to him, and he administered treatment to the injured man. Then blankets, water and food were dropped. They fell in a densely wooded area but were found easily by Chet Derry and Neilsen, who were given instructions from the plane via radio.

The gas supply in Vance's plane was diminishing and a squall was reported over the Moose Creek area, so he headed his ship for Missoula.

Hamilton dispatched Ranger Bert Waldron and Alvin Renstraw, dude rancher, to the scene of the accident with pack mules with which to carry the body of Maricich and to get Clabaugh. The men were to have been put on stretchers and carried between the mules, but because Clabaugh was in a serious condition, the plan was abandoned and it was decided that more men would be sent to carry Clabaugh.

The men trekked 20 miles to Shearer's emergency landing field with Clabaugh. Arrangements were being made Monday night to take a doctor by plane to the landing field.

Robert George Maricich was born here February 22, 1914, and was educated here, graduating from Missoula County High School with the class of 1931. Since that time he has been intensely interested in aeronautics and has been manager for the Northwest Airlines. 📌



*Frank and Virgil Derry Display Jumpsuit Pants Unzipped with Helmet on Ground. (NSA Files)*



*Virgil Derry wearing back brace, boots with leggings, and a helmet. 1939 Experimental Program (NSA files)*

## The Death of Chet Derry

Chester "Chet" Derry (MSO-40) was among four people killed when two airplanes collided over the airport in Hamilton, Mont., April 20, 1947.

Derry was piloting a plane for Missoula-based Johnson Flying Service and preparing to land on a flight from Missoula. His craft met another almost head-on at about 1,000 feet altitude; the planes crashed about 600 yards apart and were demolished.

The other aircraft, a Piper

Cub training plane, was flown by Gordon Wetzsteon, a student pilot on his second solo flight. He was an appointee to the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

The passenger in Derry's plane was chiropractor E.L. Williams of Missoula.

Derry was 31 at the time of the crash. He was born in Wenatchee, Wash., April 16, 1916, and was an expert parachutist. He and his brother **Frank Derry** (NCSB-40) made experimental jumps for the Forest Service in Winthrop, Wash., in 1939, leading to the establishment of the smokejumping program.

Chet Derry spent 1940-42 training smokejumpers. He joined the Army Air Corps – the predecessor of the U.S. Air Force – in 1942 and was a pilot with the Air Transport Command in China and Burma.

He spent a year in Tulare, Calif., as an instructor at the Rankin Aeronautical Academy, a civilian flight school for the Army Air Corps. Upon his discharge from the military in 1946, Derry returned to Missoula and joined Johnson Flying Service as an instructor and pilot. Derry had more than 100 jumps and 3,000 hours of flying time to his credit 🇺🇸.



## Off The List

We want to know! If you learn of the death of a member of the smokejumper community, whether or not he or she is a member, your Association wants to know about it. Please phone, write or e-mail the editor (see contact information on page three of the magazine). We'll take it from there. Any gifts in honor of these jumpers will be added to **NSA Good Samaritan Fund** and recognized in this magazine. Mail your Good Samaritan Fund contribution to Charles Brown, NSA Treasurer, 2723 Wilderness Ct., Wichita, KS 67226-2526.

### **Kenneth R. Wicks** (Cave Junction '56)

Former Juneau, Alaska, resident Kenneth R. Wicks died October 28, 2009, at the Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He moved to Hoonah, Alaska, in 1972 where he taught until 1984. After retiring he owned and operated Beartrack Charters in Juneau. Kenneth later moved to Ocean View, Hawaii.

### **William E. "Bill" Selby** (North Cascades '61)

Bill died October 29, 2009, in Gresham, Oregon. He graduated from Utah State University with a degree in Range Management and began a 40-year career with the government. After working on the Okanogan National Forest, Malheur National Forest and Fremont National Forest, he retired in 1998 from the R-6 Regional Office in Portland, Oregon. Bill continued contracting with the Forest Service as a member of an Interagency Incident Management Team responding to fires.

### **Earl E. Cooley** (Missoula '40)

Earl, 98, died November 9, 2009, at his home in Missoula. He graduated from Corvallis (Montana) High School in 1930 and started Forestry School at the University of Montana in 1937, graduating in 1941. Earl was a member of the first smokejumper group trained in 1940. On July 12, 1940, he and **Rufus Robinson** made the first fire jumps in U.S. history on the Martin Creek Fire on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Earl started work as a District Ranger on the Nez Perce N.F. in 1950 and returned to Missoula as Smokejumper Base Superintendent in 1958. In 1971 he became a Regional Equipment Specialist, retiring in 1975 to pursue a career in Real Estate.

Earl was founder and past president of the National Smokejumper Association.

### **D. Ellis Roberts** (Missoula '43)

D. Ellis Roberts, 90, a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology whose work in material testing helped develop the windows used on the space shuttle, died of kidney failure October 19,

2009, at a nursing home in Newark, Del. He was a member of the CPS-103 jumpers and jumped all three years the program existed. Ellis graduated from Oregon State University in 1951 with a degree in physics. He joined the NIST in 1953 and retired in 1997.

### **Lewis T. Thoman** (Missoula '50)

Lewis, also known as "Bunk," died November 7, 2009. He was from Alabama and attended Auburn University and served in the U.S. Navy. Bunk lived in Missoula for many years and considered the Northwest as his home. He jumped four seasons at Missoula.

### **Tom Marshall** (Missoula '49)

Tom of Madison Heights, Va., died August 2, 2009, in Lynchburg, Va., due to complications from Alzheimer's disease and other health problems. He was 82. Tom earned a bachelor's degree in botany from Louisiana State University and served in the U.S. Navy. Tom became a smokejumper as a college student in 1949, working just his rookie season. After graduating from LSU, Tom became a forester, working for major paper-producing companies in Louisiana, Alabama and North Carolina, retiring in 1991.

### **Gerhart Blain** (Pilot)

Gerhart died January 14, 2009, at his home near Billings, Montana. He was one of the pioneer helicopter operators in the area and worked for the Johnson Flying Service in the early 50s.

### **Jerry Sullivan** (North Cascades '49)

Jerry died December 6, 2009. He served in the Army Airborne from 1950 to 1953 and was in the Korean War. Jerry then went to work for the USFS on the Okanogan N.F., retiring in 1982. Jerry's father was involved in the 1939 experimental program making parachute harnesses and improving the jump suits.

### **Edmund Ladendorff** (Missoula '46)

Ed, 84, of San Antonio, Texas, died December 1, 2009. During WWII Ed flew 29 missions in B-17s

over Europe. After the war he received his business degree from the University of Oregon and later his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Ed retired in 1990 from Thomas J. Lipton where he was vice president in charge of the Beverage Division. He jumped at Missoula 1946-49 and was a member of the NSA.

#### **Donald O. Whitmarsh** (Missoula '42)

Don died December 2, 2009, in Edmonds, Washington. He rookied in 1942 and was drafted into the Army during WWII in October of that year. Don was stationed in the Aleutians until his discharge at the end of the war at which time he returned to smokejumping for the 1946-48 seasons. He was injured while working as a faller in Montana and moved to Washington where he worked on his parent's farm and various family businesses.

#### **Richard "Dick" Gassner** (Redmond '68)

Dick died December 11, 2009, in Bend, Oregon. He began his work with the USFS as a member of the Redmond Hotshots in 1961 and jumped at RAC 1968-70. Dick retired in 1994 as the Fire Management Officer for the Six Rivers National Forest.

#### **George H. Dwight** (Missoula '50)

George, 81, died February 27, 2009, in New York. He graduated from Harvard and then Columbia Law School in 1952, where he was the articles editor of the Law Review. As a young lawyer, George was Special Assistant Corporation Counsel under Mayor Robert Wagner. On the boards of the United Neighborhood Houses of New York, he most recently crusaded to prevent the Washburn Wire Factory site from becoming a mall and to create Vision Harlem, a plan to highlight Harlem's landmarks, re-link its neighborhoods and connect the entire community to the rest of the City. He was a partner at the firm of Richards & O'neil and, most recently, of counsel at McLaughlin & Stern. George jumped at Missoula in 1950 and '51.

#### **Shane A. Ewing** (Missoula '04)

Shane died December 22, 2009, in Missoula. He attended high school in St. Labre and Colstrip (Montana) where he was all-state for three years in basketball. Shane continued his education at St. Mary's (ND), Miles Community College (MT) and received his AA degree from Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Montana in 1998. He started work with the forest service out of high school at Lame Deer and went on to spend five seasons with the Santa Fe

Hotshots. Shane rookied at Missoula in 2004 and had been jumping there since then.

#### **Doy A. Herred** (Missoula '46)

Doy died August 27, 2009, in Blaine, Washington. He was retired from the U.S. Border Patrol and jumped at Missoula during the 1946 and '47 seasons.

#### **David B. Griggs** (Missoula '67)

David, who lived in Reno, Nevada, died December 25, 2009, from a head injury due to a fall. He was an outstanding athlete at Davis (CA) High School where he participated in track, wrestling and football. David graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in forestry. He then served three years in the Peace Corps before returning to Idaho to work on his master's degree. He started his career with the BLM in 1976 in Idaho, became an Area Manager out of Winnemucca, Nevada, and moved to Reno in the 80s where he worked for the BLM until his retirement in 2009. David jumped at Missoula during the 1967 and 1973 seasons.

#### **Timothy D. Taylor** (Missoula '60)

Tim, of Eustis, Florida, died October 3, 2009, of cancer. He served in the U.S. Army and attended UTEP and graduated from the University of Washington. Tim worked as a military contractor for the Dept. of Defense in the U.S., Japan and Germany before retiring in 2004. He jumped at Missoula in 1960-61.

#### **James "Jay" Bertino** (Missoula '58)

Jay died January 9, 2010, in Billings, Montana. He came to Montana after high school and a year at Oklahoma State University to work in forestry. Jay graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in forestry and started ranching. He jumped at Missoula during the 1958 season and was an NSA member.

#### **Charles B. "Chuck" Sigler** (Missoula '53)

Chuck, 78, died January 11, 2010, at his home in Columbia Falls, Montana, from Sarcoma Cancer. He graduated from Oklahoma A & M with a degree in forestry and jumped at Missoula during the 1953 season before entering the U.S. Army and becoming a helicopter pilot. Upon his discharge in 1957 he received an appointment as forester in the St. Joe National Forest in Idaho. Chuck later flew as a commercial helicopter pilot before starting his career with the National Park Service. He was Chief Ranger at Glacier National Park when he retired in 1995. 🙏

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# Shane Ewing

by Kurt Rohrbach (Missoula '03)

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Shane (MSO-04) was recently struck and killed by a car in Missoula, Montana. This unfortunate accident has dealt the smokejumper world a tremendous blow as he was a fine jumper and a great human being. As his friend and fellow jumper, I remember Shane always with a big smile on his face and a joke up his sleeve. He was tough as nails, always grabbing the chainsaw first and going full tilt. I became accustomed to seeing him up ahead of me on tough hikes. Iron lungs and strong legs were one of his many fine qualities.

Shane was an Eastern Montana boy, growing up in Lame Deer. Every summer he would fight and claw his way through the list to get to Miles City (MSO sub-base) in Eastern

Montana. Once in Miles, Shane would stay there till the end of the season. Shane was at his best in Eastern Montana, knowing the locals and the lay of the land. He was always looking for the next good hunting spot, and most recently had his sights set on "The Muddy Creek Monster," as he called it.

In memory of Shane, the Missoula Smokejumper Welfare Fund has set up a scholarship fund for the children of deceased smokejumpers. Shane had one daughter, Shaye Ewing. We would appreciate any donations that could be made. Please send the contributions to: Missoula Smokejumper Welfare Fund, 5765 West Broadway, Missoula MT 59808

Shane, we miss you bro. 🍷



Shane Ewing (Courtesy Kurt Rohrbach)

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# Pioneer Smokejumper Glenn Harrison "Smitty" Smith 1914-1988

by Ben Smith (Missoula '64)

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*In order to fill in our historical "blanks" about the four professional parachutists who came north from Los Angeles to Winthrop in 1939, I asked Ben "Snuffy" Smith (MSO-64) to give us some memories about his Dad. (Ed.)*

Dad was born in Weirton, West "by God" Virginia (as he would say). Early in his life, his father moved the family to Southern California, where his father worked in the oil fields.

Dad attended and graduated from Gardena High School in the Los Angeles area. He lost his left eye in a basketball accident while in high school. I never thought much about it as a kid, but later in life I admired him for

doing the dangerous things that he did, (barnstorming, smokejumping, CIA) without being overly protective of his only good eye.

Sometime after high school he learned to parachute and would perform at county fairs, etc. When I asked him about this time period, he told me he would do things like a wing walk, pretend like he fell off and then open his chute. These were the "barnstorming" days!

According to history, he worked for Frank Derry at the Derry Parachute Company in Inglewood, California, about ten miles from Gardena. In 1939 the Eagle Parachute Company obtained the contract to conduct parachute tests in Winthrop, Washington, to determine

the feasibility of the idea to drop firefighters by parachute. Dad told me once that he made the first timber jump during the tests and that there was a plaque on the tree where he landed. I would like to see that some day if it is still there.

On August 10, 1940, **Francis Lufkin** (NCSB-40) and dad made the first fire jump in Region 6.

Dad, as did most of the original smokejumpers, left in 1942 to serve in the war effort. Dad once told me that he wanted to be a submariner but couldn't because of the loss of one eye. I believe he served as a civilian instructor for parachute rigging during the war. I know he spent time in Chandler, Arizona, and San Diego, California. I was born in San Diego in 1944.

As far as I can tell, it was back to the smokejumpers in 1944. Some of my early memories include airplanes, lofts, the sounds of the inertial starter for the Trimotor being cranked, and poker night at the house with all his great smokejumper buddies. I was allowed to listen in to the "silk stories" as long as I was quiet and delivered beer as needed! I can remember many special days at the loft at Hale Field. I have been told that I was allowed to run up and down the packing tables, but no one else was allowed to even sit on the tables.

Sometime in the 50s, the CIA recruited dad, and we spent many years living in such exciting places as Japan, Okinawa, Washington D.C., Texas and Arizona. (*According to other Agency Smokejumpers Smitty worked in the Agency loft in Okinawa and was loft foreman at Marana, Arizona*). Ed.

One of the things that most fascinated me about dad was his skill with a sewing machine and his ability to design and create anything out of fabric. He was a wizard. I still have many of the things he made for me: including a knife sheath, a backpack, and a wooden fabric-covered file case. They all work as well as they did 30 years ago. I am sure he had much to do with the early design and manufacture of the jump suit and all the gear the early jumpers used.

Dad died of natural causes in Tucson, Arizona, March 28, 1988. 🕊

*Ben "Snuffy" Smith jumped at Missoula 1964-66 and graduated from Montana State University in 1966, where he was in ROTC. He then went to pilot school at Reese Air Force Base, Texas. He flew F-100s in his first tour of Vietnam in 1968-69 and F-4s in his second tour in 1970-71. Ben retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1987 and then spent 19 years as a financial consultant for Merrill Lynch. He now spends summers in Philipsburg, Montana, and winters in Camden, South Carolina. He is an NSA life member.*

*Smitty's second son, Michael Ray Smith, was born in Missoula in 1948. He rookied at Missoula in 1969 and jumped that season before heading to California, where he did stints on helitack, law enforcement and was an aviation advisor for a fire team. He also became a pilot and was killed June 21, 1995, when the USFS lead plane that he was piloting collided with a DC-4 retardant plane approaching the airport at Ramona, California.*



1940 Region-6 Smokejumper Crew. L-R: Francis Lufkin, George Honey, Glenn Smith, Virgil Derry. (NSA Files)



*Glenn Smith (L)*



*Glenn Smith*



### **Pioneer Smokejumper Glenn Smith**

*Photo's Courtesy: A Pictorial History of Smokejumping  
Phil Stanley, David Goodwin & Glenn Smith*



*Glenn Smith (C)*



*Glenn Smith (R)*



*Tri-motor Loaded for Fire Jump 1945*



*Glenn Smith (L)*

*Layout Design: Johnny Kirkley (CJ-64)*



# Touching All Bases



## Alaska Base Report

by Mike McMillan (FBX-96)

A wildfire season was celebrated during the Alaska Smokejumpers 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009. We also hosted a three-day open house party in June for hundreds of jumpers, their families and friends.

2.95 million acres burned across the state last year, and the fire season had three endings before it was over. One hundred twenty boosting smokejumpers flooded the Alaska Base from June into August, stuffing AFS' mega-barracks to capacity. For extra accommodations, we set up a paracargo canopy in our units plot – ideal shelter from the rain brought by eager boosters.

In April, refresher training and classes kept the crew employed. In May we trained twelve New-Man Ram-Air smokejumpers from the USFS. Also in May, the city of Homer invited 20 or so Alaska Jumpers to an urban interface wildfire that burned a few structures. The rest were saved through heroic effort.

June brought light fire activity, rain, and a great party. It was inspiring to see so many retired jumpers make the trip - we had fun and it looked like they did too.

By July 4<sup>th</sup> it was "Showtime." We celebrated America's 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday under soaring temperatures, plunging humidity and, best of all, lightning. Soon there were fires of all shapes and sizes gnawing at Alaska's Interior and fringes. Sub-bases were set up in Bettles, Fort Yukon, Galena, Kenai, McGrath and Palmer.

The Rock Slough Fire along the Porcupine River provided just about any assignment a jumper could want, from Zodiac boat operator to bear guard. Team-managed incidents were common when defending life and property from unruly wildfires. The largest of all was the Railbelt Complex, which burned 636,000 acres around sleepy Nenana. Evergreen's 747 'Super-tanker' dropped 20,000 gallons at the Railbelt, the ship's first operational drop in the U.S. Order one today.



Our season by numbers: We jumped 122 different fires in Alaska (four in the lower 48). We sent 791 smokejumpers out the door on fire jumps in Alaska (six in the lower 48). The next best jump seasons (stat-wise) were enjoyed in 2004 and 2005 with 730 and 729 total jumpers out the door, respectively. The Alaska Crew spent 2,951 days on fire assignments in 2009, an average of 39 days for each of Alaska's 76 jumpers.

It was a record-setting summer for our paracargo section.

508,785 lbs. were kicked from our CASA 212s and speedy Doorknob. It was the most PC dropped in the CASA era, and the most tonnage dropped since 1988. Project fires in the Yukon

and Tanana Zones accounted for most of PC's bulk missions.

Our Zodiac Boat Program gained steam in 2009 with several operational uses and improvements.

We won't be training rookie candidates in 2010, our third season without new jumpers. So we're more experienced than ever.

In wedding news, **Ben Dobrovolny** (FBX-04) married Summer last fall, really.

As of January, we will be missing just one jumper in 2010. Not returning is **Travis Hart** (FBX-06), now a Boise Smokejumper. Travis is also the proud new father of son Jaxon, a lively one.

For a photographic look at another great wildfire season in Alaska, visit [www.spotfireimages.com](http://www.spotfireimages.com).

## Boise Base Report

by Quincy Chung (NIFC-03)

Hello, from the Boise Smokejumpers to all past and present jumpers. We had three planes staffing the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain states, and we're still supporting our sister base to the north in 2009. Boise jumpers were in Alaska, starting the last week in May, and jumped fires until the last jumpers came home in late August.

We also had some new personnel changes in Boise. **Hector Madrid** (MYC-89) has returned to take over

as the new Boise Base Manager, while **Eric Reynolds** (NIFC-90) has gone in search of the perfect catch on some pristine river in the country. **Mike Haydon** (RAC-97) has become the new training manager at the base, and **Derrick Hartman** (RDD-98) has taken over as the new assistant training manager, while **Jared Hohn** (NIFC-01) and **Paul Lenmark** (FBX-96) have become the two newest spotters at the base. **Steve Stroud** (NIFC-03) recently accepted the rigging supervisor position and will be the successor to **Mike Burin** (MYC-88), who retired in September.

Jumping to the near past and current situation, the summer of 2009 was the slowest jump season in the last decade. The Boise jump base had a total of 77 active jumpers with three planes in the fleet. The Boise Smokejumpers accounted for 460 individual jumps or pounders throughout the season, with Colorado being the most consistent place to be (not including the activity in Alaska). The New-Man Ram-Air program continued with the Region 1 Smokejumpers and plans to further develop and expand in the 2010 season.

The Boise base plans to have an 81-person head count which will include a 4-6 person 2010 rookie class. As for planes, we are currently filtering through contracts and will have three planes in the fleet with **John Stright** (MYC-83) as our permanent pilot.

We have had a few good smokejumpers move along into new positions this winter. Their work ethic and leadership will truly be missed, but some district, forest, or zone will benefit greatly from our loss. Until the next report, enjoy and we will update you later.

## Grangeville Base Report

by Nate Hesse (RDD-01)

**A** Happy New Year to all readers from the Grangeville Smokejumpers. This winter has little to report, though it has treated most folks kindly. Operations has sent the usual contingent of southeast burners this fall and winter, as well as **Jodie Baxter** (GAC-07), to the Schenk Job Corps crew in the southeast. Jodie accepted a squadleader job here this year and also purchased a house here in Grangeville.

Grangeville has a vacant squadleader and permanent GS-6 open, so get your apps beefed up. Burn modules will also be heading to Arizona this spring too. Looks like Grangeville will host rookie training for the region here this upcoming season. Grangeville had a successful experience for the new recruits and is looking forward to the upcoming training. Training is also taking care of the folks here this winter getting all the usual fire schooling done over at the Northern

Rockies training center.

The loft is busily running around building jump suits and articles for the neighboring districts. Other tentative plans for the upcoming season are re-treading our ATGS **Tom Bates** (GAC-95) and Coville N.F.'s **Will Markwardt** (GAC-07) again for another season.

Crumb snatcher update: **Isaac Karuzas** (RDD-01) and Erica had daughter Cora Lee Aluk Karuzas, born on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 lbs., 1 oz. Isaac is working on a patent to make a hunter-friendly snuggly and earplugs for babies. Nate Hesse and Elena welcomed Lucas Daniel on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8lbs., 1 oz. Other news reports are coming in of an awesome steelhead run combined with a little bit of chucker hunting, too. Winter stories of GAC jumpers off-season traveling, hunting, and skiing endeavors continue to trickle in with the surf being up, freezers getting full, and super light powder turns.

## McCall Base Report

by Chris Niccoli (MYC-98)

**M**cCall Smokejumpers, like the rest of the fire world, had a season that was well below the 10-year average with May, June and August well above normal precipitation (118%, 205% and 137% respectively).

The base saw 63 jumpers, nine of them being NEDS, complete training. 2009 MYC NEDS: **Lane Lamoreaux, Jared Hendee, Tim, Garity, Clay Yazzie, Phil Reid, Adam Humbach, Matt Ingram, Kellen Smick, Peter Dutchick.**

Alaska seemed to be where the majority of the McCall jumpers spent their time, but the first fire jump out of McCall was on July 18 out of Battle Mountain, Nevada, and the last on September 28 on the Caribou/Targhee demobing through West Yellowstone in the snow.

The McCall jumpers nationwide made a total of 256 jumps on 61 incidents, which represents an activity level of approximately 50% of the 10-year average for the McCall Base.

In-house the loft and assistant loft positions were filled by **Brett Bittenbender** (MYC-98) detailing in as the Foreman and **Todd Franzen** (MYC-98) as the assistant. **Jason Class** (MYC-04), **Matt Galyardt** (MYC-02) and **Todd Haynes** (MYC-02) became new spotters and **Ryan Myers** (MYC-02) detailed in as a spotter for 2009. The squadleader positions were filled by Ryan Myers, **Jon Patton** (MYC-05), **Jeremy Cowie** (MYC-06) and **Derek Hoban** (MYC-02). Picking up permanent Smokejumper positions were **Wes Gregory** (MYC-04), **Keith Suemnick** (MYC-07), **Kurtis Ryan**



L-R: USFS Employee Harry Tuttle, Harry's Wife, Dick Tuttle 1939 Experimental Jump. (Vern Gray Collection)

(MYC-08), **Marcus Swan** (MYC-08), **Bennett Childs** (MYC-07) and **JT Belton** (MYC-04).

Locally, we provided tours to over 3300 visitors and participated in smokejumper presentations to the local school district and to the McCall Outdoor School, providing a positive image of the Forest Service to more than 1000 students. Nationally **Robert Charley** (MYC-93) and **Clay Yazzie** (MYC-09) traveled to Washington D.C. to make a smokejumper presenta-

tion to the Raytheon American Indian Network's Native American Heritage month program.

Non-fire related projects kept the McCall jumpers on their toes. Jumpers contributed to numerous projects supporting regional and national goals. Projects included: trail maintenance, Rx fire, tree climbing for cone protection (White Bark Pine), cone harvesting, owl box installation, thinning and piling, road de-commissioning, hazard tree removal, Bighorn Sheep

radio collar retrieval, and USDA Asian Longhorn Beetle Eradication Program.

Most notably the McCall Smokejumpers participated in the Payette National Forest's assistance to the Valley County Sheriff's Department with a backcountry rescue jump involving a private aircraft crash at the Monumental Creek Airstrip. Patient assessment, care and transport were coordinated with state EMS and Life Flight. Two individuals injured in the aircraft survived life threatening injuries due to prompt first aid.

Additionally, McCall Smokejumpers were first to respond and assist the McCall EMS in the care and transport of four individuals injured by a lightning strike at the McCall Helibase.

The 2009 jump season in McCall started the same way it ended, having a couple happy-hour beers at Salmon River Brewery "SRB," McCall's newest and finest brew pub owned and operated by former jumper **Matt Ganz** (MYC-01). The pub features some fine food and beverages. **Wild Bill Yensen** (MYC-53) took the time to wood burn a fine pair of jumper wings into the rafters, and **Scott Anderson** (MYC-84) is showing off some of his classic artwork.

Finally, a big thanks to smokejumping's finest pilots for keeping us safe and our office staff for keeping us paid. Looking forward to 2010, McCall will see a few changes as Operations Foreman **Eric Brundige** (MYC-77) will be sweet 57 and get his walking papers in May 2010. Eric will end his 33-year jumping career with an impressive 587 jumps, unless he decides to gut one more PT test and pick up a few more. We'll see!

## Missoula Base Report

by **Court Wallace** (GAC-04)

Two thousand nine was a fairly slow season for Region 1 thanks to August rains. During August some parts of Region 1 received up to 2.5 to 4 inches of rain...and that was just during a 24-hour period. Overall 27 fires were jumped out of Missoula (up from 17 fires in 2008, but only 60% of the 10-year average) and Missoula jumpers jumped on 62 other fires nation wide. Despite the efforts of the "system" holding onto Region 1 jumpers to fight "potential fires," otherwise known as "fires we don't have," Missoula jumpers managed to salvage a slow season doing fuels treatments and project work, getting out on 11 separate boosts, and filling various single resource assignments.

Once again **Sarah Doehring** (MSO-91) led the charge to Silver City, with 19 other jumpers from Missoula, West Yellowstone, Grangeville, McCall,

Boise, and Fairbanks each getting a piece of the action. Thanks to the Diamond Fire, the Gila Smokejumpers were able to stay somewhat busy and out of trouble, completing a total of 235 shift days worked among all assigned personnel. In total they were able to jump five fires out of Silver (the Diamond Fire twice).

For the second year Missoula sent jumpers to Alaska to train on the BLM Ram-Air system. **Dan "Bad Monkey, Bad Monkey" Helterline** (GAC-89), **Tim Wallace** (MSO-06), **James "Spartacus" Gray** (MSO-00), **Knute "I love Jameson" Olsen** (MSO-00), **Audrey Banfill** (RAC-06), and **Jake Besmer** (MSO-03) successfully completed "New-Man Ram-Air" training and spent the beginning of the Alaska fire season in Alaska. They were sent to Missoula when the Alaska fire season looked like it was "over," spent a couple weeks in the Basin watching Boise BLMers rotate up to Alaska (who's season apparently wasn't over), then were sent back to Missoula, did some sitting around Missoula, and then were sent back to Alaska (for the end of the Alaska fire season...again). They all managed to get a lot of practice jumps and a handful of fire jumps, and at the end of the summer, it was ruled a success! The Forest Service Ram-Air parachute program is going to continue. Training of a 10-person "New-Man Ram-Air" class is scheduled to start in May in Missoula with BLM trainers, along with some FS Ram-Airs, administering the training. A big thanks goes out to the Boise and Alaska bros for their excellent training, their relentless and meticulous critiquing and "beat downs," and steadfast commitment which allows this to happen.

"Hey, Rookie!" This year Grangeville hosted the Region 1 rookie training which commenced in May. Missoula had two rookies, who both endured the wrath of the Grangeville trainers (and the Triangle) as well as Missoula's most feared rookie trainer, **Jessie Thomas/Besmer** (MSO-04). **Kristina Pattison** and **Brandon Sheehan** were good rookies... sometimes, and as you can imagine they were kept busy trying to please the other 71 Missoula jumpers. It looks like for now they both will be returning for more in 2010.

At one point during the summer after receiving our 2nd season-ending rain event, it seemed as if no one in the country would call for a boost. Then on August 14 the call came in, but it was not from anywhere in this country. For the first time since 2004, Region 1 jumpers found themselves north of the border boosting Ft. St. John, British Columbia. After going through the list to figure out who had passports and who didn't, who had a felony or a DUI or some sort of record and who didn't, who was on baby hold and who wasn't, the select number were chosen and spent two weeks heli-

tacking and pounding fires. **Enrique Olivares** (MSO-07), **Jen Martynuik** (MSO-99) and a couple West Yellowstone bros got the only fire jump, and for **Burke Jam** (WYS-04) it was his second jump out of the plane (his first was in 04), but he just hasn't landed on the ground, maybe next time, Burke. Hopefully there will be more of this international cooperation in the future.

Following **Andy Hayes'** (MSO-79) retirement there have been no retirees, however we did lose a couple of jumpers to other circumstances. **Jordan McKnight** (NCSB-04) accepted an AFMO job on the Clifton District, Apache-Sitgreaves NF. **Ryan "Gerber" Weldon** (WYS-05) managed to bribe and cheat his way through Law School and actually passed the Montana Bar Exam. Way to go, Gerber. I am sure you can provide legal advice to many of our jumpers. He will most likely not be returning, even though he will try to convince the federal court judge he is clerking for, that jumping is a necessity. It was looking as if there was going to be zero turn-over among the overhead ranks until... **Mike "Goke" Goicoechea** (MSO-99) landed a job as the Forest AFMO on the Flathead National Forest, another step towards becoming the next director of Fire and Aviation. Speaking of which, our most recent retiree, **George Weldon** (MSO-75), Region 1 Deputy Director of Fire, Aviation and Air, quietly left his office December 31 for the next chapter.

The 2009 season brought several special missions for Missoula Jumpers. On August 19<sup>th</sup> a call came in for a rescue jump in a remote part of the Idaho Panhandle. Additional EMTs were added to the load in preparation for the worst. With a planeload of jumpers, an airforce rescue helicopter with no radio communications, and **Steve Reed** (MSO-95), what could go wrong? It actually went about as smooth as you could imagine, and the victim made it out safe thanks to professional medical care provided by EMTs and good decision making by those on the ground.

Another special service provided by Missoula and other Region 1 jumpers was the "rapid deployment" Type 3 Incident Management Team. The team was activated twice with good feedback from the Region, except from the Type 2 team ICs and members who apparently were a little upset because they didn't get to go. The Type 3 teams were made up of Region 1 jumpers with assistance from local districts. They proved it is possible to manage a fire without having all the bells and whistles of the larger teams. The Region was very pleased and hopefully in 2010 there will be more action for our Type 3 teams.

In collaboration with the Lolo Hotshots, **Billy Phillips** (MSO-01) and his team of "Google Earthers" continue to impress forest leadership across the

country with their Google Earth skills. The Geospatial Equipment and Technologies Applications (GETA) group traveled all over the US, assisting with national wildland fire priorities, and increased their staffing as validation of concepts has resulted in higher demand for their services. Some of their current projects include: Simulation and Design Delivery, L-580 Leadership in Action Course Development, Development for PMS-490 Fatality Fire Case Study Series, National Common Operation Picture Development, Intelligence Unit Planning and Implementation, Integrating Networking and Mobile Technologies into Field Operations, and Prospect Fire Development for Flame Act Implementation.

A big congratulations "boo-ya" goes out to the half dozen Missoula jumpers who either added to their families this summer or became fathers for the first time. **Josh Clint** (MSO-04) and **Charles Savoia** (MSO-01) added to their families, and **Court Wallace**, **Seth Hansen** (MSO-00) and **Darby Thompson** (RDD-04) became new fathers and are learning the meaning of "no sleep." That brings the count up to nine new babies in the last 2 years... perhaps a daycare is not a bad idea. Either way the rookie class of 2030 is looking promising. Also after dating for nearly a decade, **Jessie Thomas** (MSO-04) and **Jake Besmer** (MSO-03) tied the knot in November.

Until next refresher, the plan is to stay busy working on fuels treatment and project work for Regions 8, 3, 5, and 1, building harnesses, packs, cargo cutes, jump suits, letdown towers, coffee carts, geospatial Google Earth stuff, and getting in shape for the next season, which we can only hope is as good if not better than the last.

Parting thoughts- Off the List in Missoula: **Shane Ewing** (MSO-04), deceased December 22, 2009; **Earl Cooley** (MSO-40), deceased November 9, 2009; **Rich Garcia** (MSO-91), deceased September 25, 2009; **Rich Strohmyer** (MSO-77), deceased July 23, 2009; **Tim Eldridge** (MSO-82), deceased June 27, 2009; **John "Bup" Murray** (MSO-00), deceased June 25, 2009. Our condolences to family, friends and bros of all other jumpers current and past whom we have lost in 2009.

## North Cascades Base Report

by **Nan Floyd** (RAC-00)

**I**t was 70 years ago this past fall that the Methow Valley witnessed the first intrepid, green-blooded

bodies being spit out over her autumn-colored hills in the experimental jumps that laid the foundation for smokejumping American style. The North Cascade Smokejumpers are still going strong.

The pendulum continues to swing, however, and once again current fodder for discussion among the various power players is the fate of the base. Eliminate? Satellite? Status quo? Big Ernie cast his resolute vote in favor of NCSB, bestowing its smokejumpers with a munificent number of fires across the magnificent landscapes of Washington in 2009. The final score: 304 jumps on 64 fires.

Thanks to the numerous boosters representing every Forest Service and BLM base—who visited the lush lawns last summer of the place that time has forgotten. Appreciation is especially extended to the Redmond jumpers, in particular, for making endless trips across state lines even if all they got out of it was a burger at Jack's.

Captain Kevin McBride and co-pilot Jay Franklin once again adroitly maneuvered Jumper 09 in 09, delivering both parachute-clad firefighters and cargo safely. Congratulations also to Jay on achieving his captain's rating.

On July 23rd, 2009, **Dale Longanecker** (RAC-74) hit yet another milestone. Dale made his 350th operational fire jump to find himself digging line on a feisty fire burning through sagebrush and grass in the hills south of Twisp. The event was appropriately celebrated at the proper time. His tally continues to grow. In fact, Dale also walked away as Jump Hog award recipient, 11 fire jumps making the distinction.

Having returned safely from his deployment in the tireless deserts of Afghanistan where he tended those who did not duck in time, **Simon Friedman** (NCSB-00) happily traded in his camouflage-colored fatigues for the fabulous yellow fire shirt.

**Charlie McCarthy** (NCSB-02) and **Michael Noe** (NCSB-99) were each rewarded for their hard work, dedication and respective contributions to the base with temporary upgrades. Michael has since officially become the assistant loft foreman. **Chris Surgenor**, **Adam Pino**, **Fidel Verduzco**, and **Nick MacKenzie** (NCSB-09) proved themselves worthy, successfully surviving 2009 rookie training. They will have a large pool of new rookie candidates to indoctrinate into janitorial duties in the new decade. NCSB is expecting to hire upwards of eight or more enthusiastic newlings for 2010. **Ashley Reeves** (NCSB-07), **Guy McLean** (NCSB-07) and **Ryan McCliment** (NCSB-07) will all be on the payroll this coming season earning not only an hourly wage, but health and retirement benefits as well.

**Matt Desimone** (RAC-97) left the flock for a 4-month detail as acting AFMO with North Cascades National Park. Matt assisted the park with his eye-of-the-tiger leadership skills during a transitional period in their fire management and a taxing fire season. On a lovely September weekend, he returned back to the Methow Valley to wed **Heidi Bunkers** (RAC-04). The bride wore an elegant J. Crew pale-pink Sophia gown complimented by a pair of Whites. "I met the man in my boots; I figured I better marry him in them too," reasoned Heidi on her choice of footwear.

**Jamie Tackman** (NCSB-75) retraced footsteps from days of yore, trading in his winged Ferrari as Lead 69 for the sturdy station wagon of the air. He returned to NCSB to pilot the Sherpa on loan from Redmond for a late season bust that had high potential, but turned out to be puny. Tickled to be back in the fold of life at NCSB, Jamie could be spotted jogging around the runway and effortlessly pumping out more than the minimums. In between ruminating on how his PJ bag represents the apex of simplicity and supplying a hefty amount of pabulum for the lofties, an ever ebullient Jamie still somehow managed to progress on his own "BFD."

At our end-of-the-season party **Andrew Myhra** (NCSB-08) delighted the spectators by throwing his wallet down and challenging the would-be winner of

## You Need to Add This Book To Your Collection

The emphasis of this issue of *Smokejumper* is on the beginning of smokejumping. NSA Historian, **Larry Longley** (NCSB-72), has produced an excellent book, "Spittin' In The Wind." This 256-page book has a detailed accounting of the early years of smokejumping and the 1939 Experimental Program along with many excellent photos. For historical purposes every jumper should have this book in their collection for reference purposes. The cost is \$21.50 which includes shipping. Contact: Larry Longley, 16430 Marine Dr., Stanwood, WA 98292, 360-654-1720, ld-longley@gmail.com

Larry is finishing up the final parts of "Book Two" and will have it available soon.

the “4th Annual NCSB Trip Flip.” The bold move paid off, and as a bonus, the destination he pulled from the hat happened to be one he actually wouldn’t mind traveling to. We’ll be expecting his postcard from Valparaiso, Chile, this winter!

The philoprogenitive environment at NCSB continues to thrive. **J.T. Sawyer** (NCSB-07) and wife Lisa welcomed their first child, Luke, to the world in November. **Ryan Taie** (NCSB-00) announced the pregnancy of his longtime girlfriend, Beth, at an impromptu bachelor party put on for him in between fire calls a week before the matrimonial vows in July. Camden Taie greeted the world at the end of December.

After 11 years of landlocked summers, **Sara Mari-neau** (NCSB-99) is giving up NOMEX, the Quonset hut and a job she loves for some things she loves more: surfing and her husband. Sara tried to retire five years ago when she first married Daniel, but she was unable to tear herself away from the camaraderie and satisfaction of smokejumping. In the spirit of government acronyms, Daniel amusingly coined her retirement party the AFT or About F\*&@ing Time. Thank you, Daniel, for patiently waiting for Sara to get “it” out of her system. Thank you, Sara, for your years of service with a smile, friendship and inspiration to all around you.

On January 1st, 2010, with over 30 years of smokejumping and fire service experience, Base Manager **John Button** (NCSB-75) turned in his Yale key, retiring from the Forest Service. True to his humble nature, when quizzed about the final number of jumps he made in his career as a smokejumper, John replied: “I’m not quite sure. I think it was somewhere around six hundred.” We hope that in his retirement John will make up for the sacrifices he has made supporting NCSB over the years by enjoying exotic cocktails in warm places. We suspect, though, that in the future we might occasionally hear his voice over the radio as air attack on some gobbler. His skills, knowledge and calm disposition will always be a welcome contribution back on the line.

One last tidbit for the statistic lovers: 1902. That is the number of visitors who registered in the admin shack in 2009. In actuality, the number is probably much higher. A day of uninterrupted PT sessions and lunch were a rarity for the rookies who put out an excellent effort in handling the numerous people flocking to our base for a tour from all parts of the US and world. Penned under the comment column by one impressed tourist (who obviously doesn’t know anything about cold-trailing ) was the rhetorical question that speaks for itself: “Who knew smokejumping was cool!”

## Redding Base Report

by Dylan Reeves (RDD-2003)

**G**reetings, dirt bags, from the made-up news desk here in the R double-Dizzle. As it is mid winter, and literally nothing is going on, this report will likely be a mishmash of half truths, name calling, outright fiction, leg pulling, sarcastic semi-humor (often misconstrued as vitriolic fulmination), and a smattering of actual facts, which nobody really cares about. In short, you can expect more of the usual.

What was once just a dream is now a reality, as all of our non-seasonal jumpers are now living the dream on a year round basis. Gone are the dreary days of traveling the world, snowboarding, fishing, surfing, drinking and chasing women, all the while having our roommates sign our unemployment checks. Now the base is filled with dazed, disgruntled jumpers who wander around aimlessly, cursing the injustice of the world and envying the 14 million Americans who have no jobs at all.

We are heading into an El Niño winter in Northern California. Now, I’m no meteorologist, but I believe this is the exact opposite of a La Niña winter and has something to do with the water in one of the oceans being either warmer or colder than usual. This apparently will result in a rainier than normal winter here, which will most likely have an unpredictable effect on the upcoming fire season. As you can imagine, we are all preparing to prepare to expect the unexpected.

**Josh Mathiesen** (RDD-94), whose body was made to be covered by a wetsuit, recently returned from his honeymoon trip to Tahiti. A day of surfing provided Josh with a far off glimpse of a dolphin fin, or as he phrases it, “the gnarliest near-mauling by the biggest shark you’ve ever seen in your life.” Visibly shaken, Josh recounts his near miss with the “fin,” most likely a buoy, which he swears was coming straight for him with jaws wide open and eyes rolled back.

**Luis Gomez** (RDD-94) accepted a Cal Fire job as an inmate captain, and his position as GS-9 assistant training manager was filled by **Jerry “Beef” Spence** (RDD-94), who has returned to his old desk and begun flaunting his power and abusing his authority, hurling rotten vegetables at unknowing victims who dare to walk by the training office, all the while smoking cigars and drinking brandy, and claiming that he has to “man the radio” and is therefore unavailable for manual labor.

While manufacturing and production may be at a record low nationwide, the Redding baby factory continues to crank out product. Babies that we know



*Marine One on the ramp at West Yellowstone.*

about include Annabell Casey, born to Stacy and **John Casey** (RDD-99), and Carver Hokanson, born to Kamie and **Mitch Hokanson** (RDD-00). Shawna and **Doug Powell** (RDD-05) are expecting, as are Laura and Rick “Jimmy, Sal or Mikey” **Rataj** (RDD-00).

Preparations are underway for the National Smokejumper Reunion, celebrating 70 years of smokejumping, to take place in Redding this June. By preparations, of course, I mean that we have ripped up all the old linoleum in the loft and locker room, revealing a beautiful layer of cracked and dirty concrete. The reunion will take place at the Redding Convention Center, and attendance is expected to exceed that of the Consumer Electronics and Monster Truck Show and “An Evening With Sarah Palin” combined.

As another fire season draws near, we must each face our own weaknesses and prepare to be tested. I

was out on a five-mile run the other day, pushing what I thought was a good pace and struggling for breath, when alongside me appeared **Tim Quigley** (RDD-79), a half-smoked Winston dangling from his lower lip. “Keep up cream puff,” Quig growled, as he flicked his cigarette in my face and tripped me. As I picked myself up from the gravel and watched Quig disappear into the horizon, the words of **Josh “I Wet My Wetsuit” Mathiesen** rang in my ears: “You still have a million miles to go....” Of course then I pictured Josh swimming for his life to escape a floating piece of Styrofoam and all at once my fears evaporated...my resolve strengthened. I think it was Sgt. Lincoln Osirus who once said, “I don’t read the script...the script reads me.” So, young smokejumpers, tighten your leg straps, get in the door and get ready to choose your destiny. The world waits.

# Redmond Base Report

by Josh Voshall (RDD-03)

**G**reetings and salutations to all past and present smokejumpers! I hope everyone had a fun and festive holiday season as well as a safe and productive fire season.

This is my first time as base reporter for Redmond and as **Dan Hernandez** (RDD-85) would say, “keg fine.” Our previous reporter, **Jim Hansen** (RDD-87), has flown the coop to pursue a career as South Central Oregon’s Air Attack eye-in-the-sky! Congratulations to Jim on an impressive jump career and air attack position in Klamath Falls.

This past fire season at Redmond saw the addition of three new faces and one old face who jumped ship from other bases or other agencies to join the ranks among the best! Those joining and rejoining us are **Shane Orser** (RDD-08), **Matt Steen** (RDD-07), **Jeff Coburn** (NCSB-08), and **Mike Leslie** (RAC-97). Mike previously rookied in 1997, and then worked for the Nature Conservancy since last year. I guess he

missed us. The base also saw a familiar face roaming around in a pilot uniform. **Charlie Wetzel** (WYS-92) took a season off from jumping to fly us jumpers around in the mighty Sherpa. Charlie was a great asset to the program and also fun to have around, now if we can only keep him! Thanks, you guys, for joining the base and we hope you had a great year!

If you were lucky enough to be one of the 55 boosters that came through Redmond, you may have noticed something quite peculiar around the base and that is that we did not have a rookie class this year. Most of 2008’s rookie class decided it was in their best interest to return to the greatest base and job on Earth! All but two returned for refresher in May. Good job to the class of ’08 in keeping with the tradition of the rookie duties and such. Hopefully, we’ll have a new crop of eager and willing rookies to get those jobs done for you!

Congratulations go out to **Rob Rosetti** (RAC-01) and **Brandon Coville** (RAC-00) on getting their 200<sup>th</sup> jump pin. Another congratulation goes to **Tony “TL” Loughton** (RDD-83) for jumping number 499. One more to go, TL, and you can move your name on that jump board. Way to go guys!



*Air Force One at West Yellowstone*

Well, the fire season started pretty early for the base, or at least for three lucky jumpers, **Tony Johnson** (RAC-97), **Gary Atteberry** (RAC-97), and **Mitch Kearns** (GAC-89) who, yes, went to Australia for about 30 days to help out the Aussies. They went out with seven others from around the region to form a "Type-2 crew." We all know what that means, a lot of sunscreen.

**Geoff Schultz** (RDD-01), **Dave Keller** (RAC-04), and **Heidi Bunkers** (RAC-04) took off to Worcester, Massachusetts, to find the elusive Asian Longhorned Beetle, commonly referred to as the "ALB." I think we have a long way to go on this project as long as APHIS' budget can keep up!

We also kept pretty busy in the Southeast during the spring, assisting with prescribed burning. This was supremely orchestrated by **Mitch "Go Griz" Kearns** (GAC-89). This year looks to be productive as well, as we have numerous modules continuing to go down to Georgia and getting farmed out to whomever needs us.

We had two new Spotter Trainees this year, and I must say they did a great job in getting all of us wide-eyed jumpers out the door and into the spot. They were **Josh Cantrell** (MSO-97) and **Rob Rosetti** (RAC-00).

The Redmond Smokejumpers employed 50 jumpers this past year. I believe everyone had a chance to jump a fire or at least thought about jumping a fire. In all, **Bill Selby** (RAC-91) reported that from May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009, through September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, we jumped a total of 57 fires from Redmond. This is approximately 83% of our ten-year average. If you knew this, you were at the base manager's meeting! We also boosted 13 times as well. Our big winner was NCSB with a total of, hold on to your hats, seven times! That might be a record. We also boosted Redding three times, two boosts to Grangeville and one to Alaska. On the boost to Alaska, **Nate "The Ghost" Robinson** (RAC-08) seemed to elude the big demobs back to the lower 48 by staying up there for 45 days on miscellaneous single resource assignments. To those bases that had us there, thanks for the hospitality.

The Redmond Smokejumpers provided two detailers this year in various positions. Heidi Bunkers went to North Cascades National Park as a Fuels Specialist. Remember the Pyramid Fire, Heidi! And **Howard "Silver Fox" McGuire** (RAC-07) detailed as an AFMO on the Ochoco National Forest. Way to represent, you two!

Congratulations also go out to Heidi Bunkers and **Matt Desimone** (RAC-97) as well. After years of driving long hours and many miles, they tied the knot in

Winthrop! Congratulations from all of us at the base.

This year will see some changes around the base. You might notice them as you saunter in for an ice cream or two, or three. That's right, **Ryan "Kuato" McCliment** (NCSB-07). I saw you! **Michael Jackson** (RAC-86), operations foreman, will be retiring this year and will probably be a snorkeling instructor in the Caribbean or some tropical island! So whoever wants Mike's job, AVUE is standing by. On a side note, Mike is the only Redmond Smokejumper to fully retire because of the age requirements as an active smoke-jumper in the history of the base. We are also looking to have a rookie class of six this year. Whether or not we will actually have six at the end of rookie training is essentially up to those candidates. One thing that won't change at the base is the amount of wholesome goodness you'll find in our ice cream freezer, provided by the welfare fund and stocked by **Tony Sleznick** (RDD-92) and **Tye Taber** (WYS-06). Both Tony and Tye have also been instrumental in keeping our apparel line in the welfare fund up to date with the latest fashions with an array of shirts, hats, and my favorite, the stickers. Nice work, you two.

Well, my fellow jumpers, I must say I have enjoyed telling you of the Redmond base's accomplishments and updates, but, alas, it is time to fire up the ol' grill, grab a cold one, and kick back for awhile to watch some football. So until next time, good jumpin', live the dream, and see you on the big one!

## West Yellowstone Base Report

by **Ernie Walker** (RDD-2001)

**T**he snow has finally arrived in West bringing a white winter and only a few folks in the office. Most jumpers are off for the winter with a few rotating on the Region 8 burn modules.

**Cindy Champion** (MSO-99) has been using the snow and training in biathlon. Both **Hardy Bloemeke** (MSO-77) and **Jon Ueland** (MSO-80) are also hitting the ski trails hard.

Base Manager **Jim Kitchen** (FBX-87) has moved on to take the FMO job in Big Bend N.P. in Texas. We wish Jim the best in his new adventures. Jim tells us, (Silver City), to keep an ear out for a jump request to Big Bend! **Jon Ueland** (MSO-80) has detailed in as base manager until the position is filled. **Charlie Wetzel** (WYS-92) has moved on, also becoming a Forest Service Smokejumper Pilot in Redmond, Oregon. Way to go, Charlie! **Brian Wilson** (WYS-98)

has just moved to a newly-built house in the West Yellowstone area. Congrats Brian!

Congratulations to **Nick Stanzak** (WYS-05) and his new wife, Haylee. They were married this last fall in Twin Falls, Idaho. Nick has recently bought a house in the Bozeman area and has settled in with his bride. **Joe Rock** (WYS-95) and his wife, Chauntelle, have welcomed a new addition to the world, Kale Robert Rock on 12/27/09 at 8 lbs 10 oz 21.5 inches. Another future jumper! Talk about a Christmas present!

**Kyle Dornberger** (RDD-01) has designed and supervised a new Kiosk out front at the base. Check it out when you boost.

**Cole Parker** (WYS-92) worked with the Marines and the Secret Service to provide a safe visit by President Obama in August. The Department of Homeland Security parked their Black Hawk on the jumper ramp

with Marine One. The West Jumpers got to visit Air Force One and talk with the president's security force. The President and family went on to visit Yellowstone National Park.

**Burk Jam** (WYS-04), Jim Kitchen, **Robert Smith** (MSO-06) and Ernie Walker all traveled to British Columbia to jump and boost the Canadian Para Attack in August. Burke and Smith both jumped a fire in the North. There were big fire complexes near Whistler, and the jumpers combined with the Canadian jumpers to work on the fires. The Region One Smokejumpers look forward to having the Canadians come down to the states to help in the future. We look forward to the continuing relations between US/Canada.

West is hoping for at least three Rookie Detailers this year. West is also looking to the future with the training of four more New-Man Ram-Airs. 🧠

## NATIONAL SMOKEJUMPER ASSOCIATION

# SMOKEJUMPER REUNION

CELEBRATING

# 70 Years of Smokejumping 1940–2010



Friday, June 11–Sunday, June 13, 2010  
At the Redding Convention Center  
777 Auditorium Drive, Redding, Calif.



*Our milestone celebration is just weeks away. Make plans to join us for the barbecue, banquet, buffet, hosted beverages, special events, storytelling, and fun for all. A registration packet with details has been mailed to you.*

All current and former smokejumpers, pilots, associates, wildland firefighters, contractors, spouses and guests are invited! We look forward to seeing you.

*While visiting Redding be sure to stroll across the world-renown Sundial Bridge spanning the Sacramento River near downtown Turtle Bay Museum, tour the Redding Smokejumper Base, golf with us on Saturday, or join our fun run and walk Saturday at Lake Redding Park. Historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base is two hours away near Cave Junction, Oregon.*

# Good Samaritan Fund Contribution

The enclosed contribution is designated for the  
National Smokejumper Association's Good Samaritan Fund

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In Recognition of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your Good Samaritan Fund contribution to:

Charles Brown, NSA Treasurer

2723 Wilderness Ct.

Wichita, KS 67226-2526

**Good Samaritan Fund**  
**By Jim Cherry (MSO-57)**

REC'D Josephine Co.

MAR 8 2010

Most everyone knows the story of the Good Samaritan... the story told in Luke 10:30-37. It tells of a man who fell on hard times and was in need of help. In the story it was a case of the man being robbed and beaten and left for dead. Several passed by on the road where he was laying and offered no help. Finally, one did stop and offer the help needed.

Hard times can be the lot of any of us... often for no reason or fault of our own. Whenever and wherever it happens the victim needs someone who will stop and lend a hand... someone who will take the time and make the effort and show the compassion of a 'Good Samaritan'.

The NSA Board of Directors took action to be proactive in the Good Samaritan role and to extend that opportunity to our entire NSA membership. A 'Good Samaritan Fund' line item was added to the NSA budget. Granted, the \$2,000 annual amount is small when compared to the potential needs. However, it is a beginning and it can grow but that growth is dependent upon all of us.

Your participation in support of the 'Good Samaritan Fund' is encouraged through a gift given as a memorial and/or in honor of another person or event. For example, a gift might be given in lieu of flowers at a funeral, in recognition of an anniversary, in honor of a friend, in recognition of a retirement, etc. Your gifts are also encouraged as you become aware of one of our smokejumper families that stand in special need. Gifts given to the NSA's 'Good Samaritan Fund' are tax deductible.

Those who find themselves in special need may make a request for assistance through the NSA's 'Good Samaritan Fund' by contacting any of the NSA's officers. That information is available on the NSA's Web page at [www.smokejumpers.com/board\\_of\\_directors/index.php](http://www.smokejumpers.com/board_of_directors/index.php)

Annually everyone who has made a contribution to the NSA's 'Good Samaritan Fund' will be recognized in the Smokejumper Magazine.

\*\*\*You will find a contribution form on the back of this page\*\*\*