GET OUT YOUR 1995 CALENDAR NOW! Then mark down these dates: July 7 & 8. The place is Missoula, and the occasion is the next National Smokejumper Reunion!

If you've been hangin' in with your old Smokejumper pals, you've either attended or heard of our last two national gatherings: 1984 in Missoula and 1989 in Boise.

While partaking in the fun and fellowship, a few folks suggested that we formalize our relationship by lashing together an association to keep us in touch and promote various causes in which we have a common interest.

A few of us followed up, and this newsletter will fill you in on what we've done so far.

Some of the fuzzier-headed pals said they had a tough time remembering to mark off odd, then even years for our gatherings. So, in deference to them, our national meetings--beginning with our next one--will be years that end with "5" or "0". Hope that'll help fellas!

Our intent is that, henceforth, national reunions will rotate among all of the bases, and we hope current and former jumpers will use the 'tween years to sponsor individual base or state reunions.

If you are a member of the association, you'll receive at least two newsletters each year. We hope you'll send us information of interest or value to fellow members to liven up this rag. We'll even report your best "silk stories" if they're reasonably believable.

We've had a terrific response to our call for membership in the National Smokejumper Association. Since we put the word out early this year, we've received applications from more than 465 Jumpers and other folks that we were associated with, such as pilots for example.

Most replies to date have been from those who worked in the outfit's early years--as far back as 1940.

It's gratifying that so many are eager to get information about their old buddies. Serving as "Smokejumper Central," a directory service is one of the principal aims of association of course, but we have several other reasons for being: To help maintain esprit de corps, preserve our history, and ensure that we have an effective, trained fire fighting organization in place, able to respond to wildfires on any jurisdiction, federal, state, or private.

In line with these objectives, one of our association's first projects will be to support the new USDA Forest Service Museum that's being planned for Missoula. We intend to build a Smokejumper wing for the museum and provide financial and physical support to the overall operation of the museum.

The goals above are not all-inclusive. After all, it's your organization, and your Board of Directors and your Executive Committee are here to serve you. Here are some other suggestions we've kicked around--and we'd welcome your thoughts about them, plus any other ideas you may have: Awards for current "Jumpers of the Year" from each base, and discounts for group travel.

As president of your association, I look forward to making it an organization you'll be proud of. Drop a line or give me a call if you have suggestions, historical information, questions, etc.

Earl E. Cooley
President
HERE'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

We filed our Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit, public interest corporation on Sept. 24, 1992. Since then, we've had to revise those articles and bylaws in order to make them more compatible with the purposes of the association. We've sent our bylaws to all Jumper units and Directors, so that they can review and revise them if needed, so as to ensure that they are satisfactory to everyone.

Our association's governing body is a Board of Directors comprising representatives of all Smokejumper units in the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service. The number of Directors per base is determined by its size.

Board members have jurisdiction over an Executive Committee, that's made up of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Its headquarters are in Missoula.

Executive Committee members will be responsible for memberships, newsletters, and the collecting and cataloging of historical photos, stories, and artifacts. Also, support projects that have been approved by the Board of Directors, and general administrative tasks, such as the planning for reunions.

With the approval of all Base managers, we've selected the following temporary Directors who will hold office until an election during the 1995 reunion. (See attached listing of Board of Directors, Base managers, and Executive Committee.)

OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We have a listing of almost 5,000 men and women jumpers, but only about 1,190 addresses. This January we bulk-mailed flyers to those 1,190, but don't know how many reached their destinations because, under bulk-mailing rules, rejects aren't returned. We also sent flyers to 400 others whose addresses didn't qualify for bulk-mailing privileges. Of those, 135 were returned as unclaimed.

Through those mailings and your networking, we've signed up 466 folks, but we're confident that, as others learn of our association, they'll join.

Please forward this newsletter and membership application at the back to other Jumpers with whom you're in contact. Or, if you wish us to contact them, send us their addresses. (The Executive Committee has made calls from Washington, D.C. to Tucson, to Alaska, and other points, trying to gather addresses.)

Regular memberships are open to all current and former Smokejumpers. Associate memberships are available to those who've worked directly with Smokejumpers, such as pilots, retardant operators and hot shot crews, for example. Dues, payable on a calendar year basis to the National Smokejumper Association, are listed on the application form at the back of the newsletter.

If you would like to look over our current listing of almost 5,000 names (and update it, we hope) please send $10.00 to cover reproduction and postage to the National Smokejumper Association at 1622 South Ave W, Missoula, MT 59801, telephone: (406) 549-9933.

Two association members, former Missoula jumpers Fred Rohrbach and Lee Peppard, have pledged $5,000 each towards the production of a half-hour video on the outfit. As we envision it, the video would feature current and historical footage of the planes and equipment we've used--and are using--in our training and work. Total cost for the professionally produced product would be about $30,000, and it would be available for sale at discount to our members and for about $20 to the general public. We are in contact with several potential contributors, but here are some questions for you: Could you line up any other potential sponsors? Would you donate to defer production costs? Would you be interested in buying such a product?

We have much more to tell you about--such as the four Russian Smokejumpers who were at the Missoula base recently--but will have to wait until the next newsletter.

Anything else you'd like to know? Send your association dues and your questions, and we'll try to answer them.

KEEP 'ER INTO THE WIND
Please note: This listing includes those who sent in paid applications through July 1, 1993. Those who paid later, will be included in the next newsletter.

1/1/94 ADAMS K R 18055 HOULE CRK RD FRENCHTOWN MT 598349715 MSO 63
4/1/94 Aiken Maxwell 761 Edward Ave S Salem OR 97302 MSO 47
2/1/94 Anderson Glenn 2831 Bennett Ave Anchorage AK 995172430 MSO 62
1/1/93 Anderson Lawrence 308 7TH Ave NW Ronan MT 598642219 MSO 54
6/1/93 Anywaush Francis 718 14th St Bemidji MN 56601 MSO 46
1/1/93 Arnett Edward 2529 Perkins Rd Durham NC 277062518 MSO 45
4/1/93 Asher Mike 11006 NE 27TH Ave Vancouver WA 986864202 MSO
1/1/94 Atkins John 4265 Johnson Rd Bozeman MT 597159332 MSO 68
4/1/94 Austin John PO Box 305 Dillon CO 80435 MYC 57
1/1/93 Bagby Leslie 673 N Shasta St Willows CA 959882520 RDD 66
6/1/93 Baiamonte Phillip D 1815 Newton Pl NE Albuquerque NM 87106 MSO 50
1/1/94 Baker David 3220 W Shasta Roseburg OR 97470 MSO 69
1/1/94 Ball Herman PO Box 451 Lafayette CO 800260451 MSO 50
3/1/94 Barber James 9321 N Gazette Pl Tucson AZ 85741 MSO 59
3/1/94 Barnes Gregory 6543 Little Falls Drive San Jose CA 95120 MYC 68
1/1/94 Bass Jeffery E 7627 Highway 44 Star ID 836695069 MYC 77
2/1/94 Bates Richard Box 32 Hurley NM 880430032 83
1/1/94 Beartusk Keith 1032 Aronson Ave Billings MT 591015362 MSO 69
2/1/94 Beeler Hal 13308 Gina Dr Lockeford CA 95237 MYC 77
3/1/94 Belluschi Albert 4150 Edgewood Dr Missoula MT 59802 MSO 46
3/1/94 Bender Walter 805 N C St Tacoma WA 98403 MSO 47
1/1/94 Bennet David 1640 Butternut Ave Richland WA 99352744 MSO 61
3/1/94 Bennett Ronald 997 Stephenson Dr Montesano WA 985631314 MSO 65
1/1/94 Benton Jack 5912 Hammock Woods Dr Odeessa FL 33556 MSO 59
2/1/93 Bernhard Douglas 764 Arenosa Ln Ben Lomond CA 950055407 NCSB 58
1/1/94 Bernou Robert 615 Hunters Ln Durham NC 277139738 CJ 55
3/1/94 Bertram Marvin 4478 Road ME Moses Lake WA 98837 MYC 46
3/1/94 Bisson Don 316 NE D St Grants Pass OR 975262160 SSB 78
2/1/94 Blackburn Joe PO Box 203 Plummer ID 838510203 MSO 51
1/1/94 Blackwell John L 4708 SW Fairview Blvd Portland OR 97221 MYC 64
3/1/94 Blaine James W 1700 Lake Forest Dr Rathdrum ID 83858 MSO 63
2/1/03 Blakely Dave 501 Keith Avenue Missoula MT 59801 MSO 57
1/1/94 Blattner Jerry PO Box W MC Call ID 836382522 MYC 63
3/1/94 Bledsoe Jon HC66 Box 490 Kooskia ID 83539 MSO 57
1/1/94 Blinx Rud Leonard PO Box 44 Choteau MT 594200044 MSO 53
1/1/94 Boddicker Major PO Box 999 Laporte CO 80535 MSO 63
1/1/94 Bolen William 2815 Old Fort Rd #114 Missoula MT 598017407 MSO 40
3/1/94 Borine Roger 64770 Melinda G Bend OR 97701 MYC 71
1/1/94 Bowen Paul Box 68 Petersburg AK 99833 MSO 54
4/1/94 Boyer Robert 90 Casper Dr Cody WY 82415108 RDD 67
4/1/94 Brady Kingdon 612 Terry Ln West Lafayette IN 479062798 MSO 46
1/1/94 Brandt William 2040 NW Larch Corvallis MT 97330 MSO 47
2/1/94 Brauneis Karl 804 Weich Lander WY 82520 MSO 77
1/1/94 Brennan Don 2110 54th Avenue SW #26 Olympia WA 98512 NCSB 54
1/1/94 Brennan Robert HC101 Box 172 Nordman ID 83848 MSO 41
1/1/94 Briggs Thomas PO Box 491 Craig AK 99921 MSO 59
5/1/94 Brown Charles W 2723 N Wilderness CT Wichita KS 67226 MYC 56
1/1/94 Brown Lloyd PO Box 335 Councel ID 836120535 MSO 49
2/1/94 Brown Lyle 5100 Huckleberry Rd Missoula MT 59803 MSO 54
1/1/94 Bryant Robert 5051 116 TH Avenue SE Bellevue WA 98006 MSO 62
6/1/94 Bull William PO Box 7 CLE Elum WA 98922 MYC 64
2/1/94 Bunn Skip 3112 Canterbury Dr Plano TX 750753306 CJ 67
5/1/94 Burk Charles W PO Box 1141 Sequim WA 98382 MSO 47
1/1/94 Burress Wilbur E 1381 Pinon Ave Anderson CA 960074308 MSO 49
1/1/03 Burney Michael PO Box 7063 Boulder CO 803067063 MYC 67
4/1/94 Bush Vernon 183 S 200 E American Fork UT 840032413 MSO 63
5/1/93 Cables Merle 4629 Union St Eureka CA 95503 MYC 48
3/1/94 Cahill John "Jack" 1616 10TH Ave W Seattle WA 981192925 MSO 58
6/1/94 Caldwell Charlie 3640 Olive St Central Valley CA 96019 RDD 65
1/1/94 Carllesen Thomas 8885 Mourning Dove Dr Missoula MT 59802 MSO 70
1/1/93 Carpenter Peter 1 Larch Dr Atherton CA 940272125 RDD 59
1/1/93 Carter Paul 110 Marion St Dunsmuir CA 960252723 RDD 72
1/1/94 Carver John 40 Appleway Dr Kalispell MT 599013402 MSO 46
1/1/94 Case Benjamin 1127 Jackson St Missoula MT 598023839 MSO 44
2/1/94 Chambers Fred 4602 N 75TH Street Scottsdale AZ 852511577 MSO 51