

Tribute to NSA Board Member Fred Cooper



Fred was the 'poster boy,' for the 1964 RAC dedication and open house poster



Fred's early years – *"I know I'm cute,
but will they recognize my genius?"*





Fred and Cherie Cooper
Was it the Butch Wax
that attracted her in
the first place?



Handsome and rugged – born to be a smokejumper!



NSA President Mike Bina and Fred Cooper at the 85th Smokejumper Reunion in MSO June 2025.

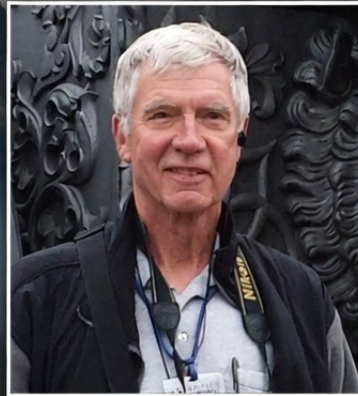


NSA Board of Directors member Fred Cooper with former board member John Berry at the 2014 RAC reunion.



Fred Cooper was a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service in Washington (NCSB) and Oregon from 1962 to 1967, making 73 parachute jumps, 42 on fires. After smokejumping, Fred began a career in the Forest Service in Human Resources. In 1986, he transferred to Washington, D.C., completing his career in HR policy for the Secretary of Agriculture in 1996. Fred had a private consulting practice for several years and is now a board member for the **National Smokejumper Association** and for the **National Museum of Forest Service History**, living in Missoula, Montana. Fred is an avid history buff. Five years ago, he started researching and documenting the history of one of the smokejumper bases in Oregon. While doing this, he discovered a thorough research of the relevant events leading up to the successful **Smokejumper Experiment** in 1939 had not been completed and documented. Nor had the trials and tribulations during the 58 jumps in the fall of 1939 in Winthrop, Washington, or the biographies of the 16 men who made the experiment successful.

**Fred Cooper and Mike McMillan published the
[Smokejumper Experiment](#) in 2022**



Thank You Fred Cooper **25 Years of Dedicated Service**

National Smokejumpers Association Board of Directors

Honoring a Legacy of Service and Courage