

**Heli-Ski US Association Meeting Minutes**  
**May 16- 18, 2007**  
**Jackson Hole, Wyoming**

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

Meeting was called to order

Roll call

- Motion made by Paul that new members be present unless objected by a member
- Motion seconded by Joe no objections
- Motioned Approved

Epic Worldwide – Craig Pattee

Craig presented EPIC Worldwide and merger of CPG and SVHS

**Operator Summaries:**

RMH

Season Began: January 15      Season Ended: April 4

Skier Days: 965 skier days

Helicopter Total Time: 154 hours

Helicopter Mfr/Model: A-Star B3

Helicopter Provider: Classic

Helicopter Notes: Classic pulled aircraft and had another pilot had problems & had customers walk out

Injuries/Accidents: None

Permit Status/Issues:

Notes:

- Colin Zacharias – Top guy comes in to poke holes in his program
- Guide meetings done on projector AM & PM

Chugach Powder Guides

Season Began:                      Feb. 22                      Season Ended: April 28

Skier Days:                              1454 total. (1050 Girdwood/ 454 Tordrillos)

Helicopter Total Time:              335 hours

Helicopter Mfr/Model:              Three \_\_\_\_\_

Helicopter Provider:                Evergreen

Helicopter Notes:                    Evergreen a nightmare

Injuries/Accidents:

Permit Status:

- New 10 year permit
- 8 weeks in Tordrillos – almost sold out, figuring out logistics

Notes:

- Additional 1300 skier days in Cat

Alaska Rendezvous Lodge (Theo Meiners)

Season Began: Feb 27      Season Ended: May 10  
Skier Days:  
Helicopter Total Time: 201 Revenue/216 Total  
Helicopter Mfr/Model:  
Helicopter Provider: Costal  
Helicopter Notes:  
Injuries/Accidents: 3 Knees, 1 Guide  
Notes: 16 Down Days  
34 Staff – 15 Guides  
Permit Status/Issues:

High Mountain Heli-skiing

Season Began: Heli on site Dec. 18, Customers Dec. 22      Season Ended:  
Skier Days: 700  
Helicopter Total Time: 145  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: Bell 407  
Helicopter Provider: Helicopter Express  
Helicopter Notes: Pilot 37  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes: Turned away 1560 due to weather and overbooking  
Permit Status/Issues: Allowed 1200 skier days – need to fly 2 helicopters  
Back to 64 Skiers

Telluride Heli Tracks

Season Began: Jan 10      Season Ended: April 11  
Skier Days: 515  
Helicopter Total Time: 114  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: Bell 407  
Helicopter Provider: Air Resources  
Helicopter Notes: No longer partners with AR. Pilot, Chris Templeton  
Dropped to 1 guide: 3 customer ratio due to hot & high  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes: 39 Flyable days – weather and avalanche conditions  
Wrapped up control work for County & State  
Permit Status/Issues: 10 year USFS Permit  
5 year...(?)

North Cascade Heli-skiing

Season Began: Dec. 27      Season Ended: March 15  
Skier Days: 830  
Helicopter Total Time: 150  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: A-Star B-2  
Helicopter Provider:

Helicopter Notes: Pilot: Shamus  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes: Good season  
Permit Status/Issues:

### Wasatch Powder Guides

Season Began: Dec. 15      Season Ended: April 29  
Skier Days: 1200  
Helicopter Total Time: 240  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Helicopter Provider:  
Helicopter Notes:  
Injuries/Accidents: Snowboarder hit tree – saved due to on-board equip.  
Notes: 54 down days due to weather  
Finished season in Greenland with 26 people  
Noise Conflict  
Issue with explosive control work - conflict  
Permit Status/Issues: Hired Mike Nolmquist  
Hired Neal Artz to work on NEPA issues  
Case went to trial

### H20

Season Began: Feb 12 - 17 (guide school)      Season Ended:  
Skier Days: 1100 Skier Days  
Helicopter Total Time: 320 Hours  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: Up to 3 heli's B-2s (?)  
Helicopter Provider: Evergreen  
Helicopter Notes: Evergreen was difficult to work with  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes:  
Permit Status/Issues: Poised for 10 year permit

### Points North Heli-skiing

Season Began: Feb. 22      Season Ended: April 26  
Skier Days: 1000 (5000 Runs)  
Helicopter Total Time: 160  
Helicopter Mfr/Model: 3 – A-Stars, 1 B2, 2BA  
Helicopter Provider: Costal – very satisfied, 10 years  
Helicopter Notes: 4:1 Guide: Customer Ratio  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes: Great year in spite of weather issues  
63 flyable days – conflicts with weather  
27 Employees, 15 Guides, 4 Chefs  
60% booked  
Sells heli time vs. vertical  
Permit Status/Issues:

### Sun Valley Heli-Skiing

Season Began: January 11      Season Ended: April 12  
Skier Days: 60 Tours – 308 Guests  
Helicopter Total Time: 128  
Helicopter Mfr/Model:  
Helicopter Provider: World Wind Helicopters  
Helicopter Notes: Initially Silver State Helicopters – unable to perform  
Lost 40 – 60 Guests due to non-performance  
Injuries/Accidents:  
Notes: Flew 4 lodge trips  
Permit Status/Issues:

### Saturday, May 17, 2008

In attendance: Theo Meiners (ARL), Dave Rintala (ABA), Kevin & Jessica Quinn, Rusty Dassing, Joel Serra, Paul Butler, Jon Shick, Joe Royer, Craig Pattee, Chris Owens, Sigi Vogl, Neal Artz, Aaron Rodriguez, Dean Cummings

#### Financial Report - Rusty

- Started out with 2,000 in account
- \$4,000 in account
- Balance will be \$8,923, after two outstanding members pay (2,200) due from last year (Shick & H20)

#### Sponsorship – Craig Pattee

- Modest success, disappointed, continuing to try
- Schedule conference call

#### Governmental Affairs – Craig Pattee

- Last season each operator 8 seats for trade
- Permits
- General Permit Issues
- Expect more wildlife issues
- Most problematic permit issue is with HMMH
- HMMH has about 1 year of operation with phase down
  1. Trying to get judge ruling overruled
  2. Get F.S. to pay for new EIS
  3. Work with F.S. to open up new terrain
- All other 10 year permit renewals went well with little problems
- Generic Issues
  - Proliferation of wilderness designations
  - Areas of impact, Wasatch, North Cascades & Helitrax
  - Aviation Bill – feels that will get an exception

Additional conversation – Immigration issues

Consider visiting members of Congress with Craig in D.C.

- Dean requested for the record the information he gives is on trust and anything on the permit issues do not come back to hurt his permit

### **Insurance Discussion**

- For next year's meeting get a WOGA representative to the meeting
- Joel – may want to consider another source of insurance as a back-up
- Joel – good idea for association to share limits as to protect individual operator personal assets
- Joe – any kind of incident make sure total documentation

### **Neal Artz**

Presentation on 10 year Permitting Process in NEPA  
NEPA document has to be prepared by someone who knows and understands the industry

### **New Members**

Dean was under the impression that the vote to admit a new member has to be a unanimous.

### **Motion re Admission of New Members**

For the purpose of admission of PNH and ARL a simple majority vote today. Going forward a 2/3 vote will be required.

Motion by Rusty  
Second by Chris Owens  
7 for and 1 against – Dean Cummings

### **Interview of ARL - Theo Meiners**

- Theo stated that it was his company's intention to compete for and take away H2O's permit
- Theo stated that his guides carry guns and shoot any wolverines encountered
- Joe Royer's Presented his Operations Review:
  - Deficiencies in guide conduct/skills and communications between guides and clients.
  - Strong concerns with poor internal communication between guides and management. Concern that lack of communication could lead to an accident and/or an un-coordinated response to an accident.
- Theo was combative and unwilling to consider that any changes in the operation of his company might be appropriate.
- It was noted that Theo had been abusive during the Friday evening session. Others expressed concern that Meiners' disruptive and abusive communications style might limit the effectiveness of the organization in achieving its goals in promoting helicopter skiing.

### **Vote re Admission of Alaska Rendezvous Lodge**

Should ARL be permitted to join HSUS?

A vote by secret ballot was conducted:

- 2 – Yes
- 6 – No

#### Interview of PNH – Kevin & Jessica Quinn

- Joe Royer presented his operations review re PNH
  - Overall approval of the operation.
  - PNH needs to invest in a radio repeater to enhance communications capacity. This criticism accepted by Kevin Quinn.
- Dean Cummings objected to PNH's being made a member because the company continues to utilize and market skiing terrain that exclusively permitted to H2O by the USFS.
- Kevin Quinn indicated that his company would compete for and try to take away H2O's exclusive use permit with the USFS.
- Kevin and Jessica Quinn described benefits they believe that their company can bring to HSUS.

#### Vote re Admission of Points North Heliskiing

Should PNH be permitted to join HSUS?

A vote by secret ballot was conducted:

- 6 – Yes
- 2 – No

And, PNH was admitted to the Association.

#### **Sunday May 18, 2008**

In attendance: Happy, Kevin & Jessica Quinn, Rusty Dassing, Joel Serra, Jon Shick, Joe Royer, Chris Owens, Dean Cummings

#### Presentation on H2O Guide School – Dean Cummings

- Five years
- Get HSUS more involved
- Goal to develop a guide pool for mechanized heli guiding along European standards
- 2 levels
- Would like feedback from HSUS members
- Asked feedback for level II skills/requirements

Kevin – Should consider promoting H2O Guide School on website

Rusty – importance to not only to risk mitigation but also for potential litigation, documentation.

#### **Executive Director**

- Agreement to increase in compensation \$1,200 a month for 12 months
- OK'd to travel to Canada for HeliCat Canada, Whistler

## New Member Audits:

### Motion

- Make reasonable effort to collect moneys from Theo within 90 days for Audit
- Seconded by Joe

### Audit

- HSUS needs to pay auditor

Action Item: Send out Audit Forms to member for review and approval

Motion: The following motion was seconded and unanimously approved:

1. Auditor compensation 200 a day
2. HSUS will have deposit for expenses \$1,500 in hand.
3. HSOP's will be amended to require audits once every 3 years.

### Website - Kevin

B.J. Hansen web developer – Jackson Hole Met (Vertical Media)

### Bylaws - Joel

Adopt Bylaw Amendments:

Resolved: For all-purposes of notice and action of the Board of Directors without a meeting, transmission of notice and /or ballot by electronic means shall be deemed to meet the requests of these by laws.

Motion Adopted by Joe Royer

Seconded by Chris

**Motion passed**

Resolved: A two-thirds (2/3) vote in favor to admit new members.

Adopted by Joe,

Seconded by Chris

**Motion passed**

### Affiliate Members

- \$500 to join

### Election of Officers

Chris Owens - Motion to carry current slate of officers:

President – Joe Royer

Vice President – Jon Shick

Secretary Treasure - Rusty

Executive Director - Sigi

### Next Year Meeting Dates May 15-17 location TBD

Offers: Telluride, Tahoe, Sun Valley, Lamoille, North Cascades

Joel will draft several scripts to handle media addressing how we handle good stewardship/carbon footprint, accident

Meeting Adjourned