

Minutes Heli Ski US Association Meeting 2010 Sun Valley

Friday, May 21, 2010

7:00 pm – Ketchum Grill

Meeting was called to order by Joe Royer.

In attendance:

Joe Royer, president HSUS, Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing
Mark Baumgardner, vice-president HSUS, Sun Valley Helicopter Ski Guides
Jon Schick, treasurer HSUS, High Mountain Heli
Kevin Quinn, secretary HSUS, Points North Heli Adventures
Paul Butler, North Cascades Heli
Rusty Dassing, Powderbird
Scott Desserault, Sun Valley Heli Ski
Erik Leidecker, Sun Valley Heli Ski
Mike Overcast, Chugach Powder Guides
Jessica Quinn, Points North Heli Adventures
Craig Pattee
Scott Raynor, prospective operator member, Valdez Heli Ski
Aaron Rodriguez, Telluride Heli Trax
Mary Schneider, administrative assistant, HSUS
Joel Serra
Darwon Stoneman

Joel Serra read the Anti Trust Violations statement.

Issues introduced:

- Executive director position eliminated.
- Need to discuss internal conflict and how it will be handled in the future.
- Clearly define membership standards.
- HSUS auditing vs. WOGA standards. Audits.
- Making the HSUS mission and benefits of membership the focus of the group.

RESOLVED: Amend bylaws to change name of "affiliate" member to "associate" member.

Joel Serra proposes amending bylaws to clarify new name. Group votes and motion passed.

Scott Raynor introduced as prospective operator member. Scott is free to attend all meetings but may be asked to leave at certain points.

Aaron Rodriguez thanks group for support during accident.

Agenda Item: Operator Season Reviews

The representative of each operator member summarized their season. Copies of these summaries were distributed to each attendee.

The basics of the reports were as follows:

Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing

Presented by: Joe Royer

Season dates: 1/23-3/25/2010

Skier days: 793

Helicopter total time: 133.5 hours

Helicopter model: AStar B3

Helicopter provider: Classic Aviation

Permit status/issues: year 5 of 10 year permit

Notes: Good snow. Short season. Down 10% this year.

Telluride Heli-Trax, Inc.

Presented by: Aaron Rodriguez
Season dates: 12/31/2009-3/29/2010
Skier days: 493 (45 operational days)
Helicopter total time: 122.1 (11.1 hours control)
Helicopter model: Bell 407
Helicopter provider: Air Resources
Permit status/issues: year 3 of 10 year permit
Injuries/accidents: avalanche 1/8/2010; fatality 1/16/2010
Notes:

- Aaron will be quitting heli skiing and Joe Schults will take over next year.
- Busiest season ever; up 45% in skier numbers; normal amount of avalanche control work.
- Discussion of fatality; great support from HSUS
- Sold part of permit to Silverton Mountain.
- Now permanently headquartered in Peaks Hotel.

Sun Valley Helicopter Ski Guides

Presented by: Mark Baumgardner & Scott Desserault
Season dates: 1/16-3/21/2010 (scheduled dates 1/7-3/31/2010)
Skier days: 210 (includes day skiers, one-lift, HASTA, marketing/comp)
Helicopter total time: 75.1 hours
Helicopter model: AStar B2
Helicopter provider: WorldWind
Helicopter notes: Great contract with no hourly guarantee; "pilots matter" to safety and bottom line
Permit status/issues: Forest Service is updating travel plan around the Smoky Mountain Lodge which may allow public access to our remote terrain.
Injuries/accidents: Quite a few knee injuries; one tibial plateau fracture; fat skis may have contributed to problem; "when in doubt, transport".
Notes:

- Started late & ended early due to lack of interest.
- Bad snowpack, inbounds fatality & snowmobile fatality affected interest; lagging Sun Valley economy impacted skier days.
- Private heli-skiing request was denied but appeal is expected.
- Greatly increased cooperation with new Sun Valley Company management.
- Vast majority of skier days in remote terrain.

Wasatch Powderbird Guides, Inc.

Presented by: Rusty Dassing
Season dates: 12/15/2009-4/7/2010
Skier days: 1054
Helicopter total time: 218 hours
Helicopter model: AStar B3
Helicopter provider: Classic and Mountain Air
Helicopter notes: Mixed helicopters & pilots due to problems with operator.
Permit status/issues: First year of 10-year permit.
Injuries/accidents: 4 miscellaneous, none serious
Notes:

- Normal numbers but profits limited by higher expense.
- Poor snowpack and high number of avalanches in Wasatch although WPG remained safe.

North Cascade Heli

Presented by: Paul Butler
Season dates: 1/7-3/21/2010
Skier days: 750
Helicopter total time: 119 hours
Helicopter model: AStar B3
Helicopter provider: JR Heli
Permit status/issues: Halfway through 10 year permit.
Injuries/accidents: Cardiac arrest incident; several knee injuries.

Notes:

- Good season. Great heli operator. 70 operational days.
- Backcountry yurt program took off this year.
- Discussion of quick, efficient response to heart attack.

Chugach Powder Guides**Presented by:** Mike Overcast**Season dates:** 2/13-4/25/2010**Skier days:** (film days not included)

- Girdwood: 732
- Tordrillo: 333
- Snowcat: 1040

Helicopter total time: 289.2 hours (excluding film work)**Helicopter model:** 1 – Eurocopter AStar B2; 2 - Eurocopter AStar B3's; At one point, had 5 helicopters, including film work. Ran 2 helicopters in Girdwood and 1 in the Tordrillos.**Helicopter provider:** Evergreen**Helicopter notes:** Better mechanical performance than in past years, but still had issues.

- Lots of changes with Evergreen caused pilot challenges.
- Some problems with B3's at lodge since they need to dry out every night and this can't be done in the field. Suggests you drop belly pan each night if you've got this situation and clean them out.
- Problems that others have had with Evergreen has made them leery of flying heli-skiing.

Permit status/issues: Completed year 2 of 10-year permit; all smooth with Forest Service; some relaxation of GPS program.**Injuries/accidents:** Several knee injuries; broken pelvis.**Notes:**

- Approximately 100 hours of film work with 4 different film groups. Red Bull film project (3 weeks ending second week of May) had 2 helicopters – one for film crew and one for athletes.
- Good snowpack; not a lot of persistent weak layers.

High Mountain Heli**Presented by:** Jon Schick**Season dates:** 12/21/2009 (recon); 12/27/2009 (scenic flight); 12/29/2009-3/24/2010 (normal operations)**Skier days:** 450; 37 operational days**Helicopter total time:** 99.9 hours (of which 5.7 were recon)**Helicopter model:** Bell 407**Helicopter provider:** Helicopter Express**Permit status/issues:** Outlook grim. Phaseout is complete and only have 65 skier days within the WSA.

Supplement to EIS denied. Applied for new terrain and denied. Applied for temporary use permit and denied.

Seeking legislative fix. Will try to operate on a limited basis and shortened season. Base of operations will move to Idaho.

Injuries/accidents: 2 close calls with avalanches.**Notes:**

- Very unstable snowpack. No significant snow from Feb 13 to end of March. Skier released avalanches every day in February. Shut down operations twice due to conditions. End of March – 50% snowpack; end of April – 60%.
- Moving operation to Teton Springs in Idaho next season.

Points North Heli-Adventures Inc.**Presented by:** Kevin Quinn**Season dates:** 2/14-4/24/2010**Skier days:** 962 (not including guides); 1029 (including guides)**Helicopter total time:** 209 hours**Helicopter model:** 2 -AStar B2's**Helicopter provider:** North Star Helicopter (9th year with them)**Helicopter notes:** Downsized from 3 helicopters to 2; much more enjoyable and easy to handle.**Permit status/issues:** DNR permit is great; BLM terrain isn't needed; USFS – no comment.**Injuries/accidents:** 1 tib/fib; 1 cracked ribs; 1 ACL**Notes:**

- Good season; great snow and stability.
- Lots of fly days except for one huge 12-day storm cycle. Well over 7000 runs.
- One long term pilot and trained a couple more until second regular pilot could arrive.

- Bad effect from guests emulating movies causing injuries; trying to address this with guests.
- Serious issue with Marker demo binding toe pieces.

Valdez Heli Ski Guides (Prospective Operator Member)

Presented by: Scott Raynor

Season dates: 2/28-4/24/2010

Skier days: 759 including clients and guides

Helicopter total time: 159 hours

Helicopter model: 2 -AStar B2's

Helicopter provider: North Star Helicopters

Helicopter notes: Good, enthusiastic mountain pilots.

Permit status/issues: BLM permit in good standing

Injuries/accidents: 1 broken arm (client involved in small avalanche); 1 broken hip (client skiing too fast for conditions)

Notes:

- Excellent season despite persistent instability throughout season. Flew 78% of season. Two very big storm cycles.
- Management program for Thompson Pass. New issues: state taking exclusive use of areas; process in place but needs constitutional change to implement for heli-skiing. Conflicts among users, including commercial use. Rogue guides.
- Have been able to avert problems with other heli operators in area by radio communications.

Discussions during presentations presented the following topics to be added for further discussion:

1. Media response training.
2. Managing social media. (Add to Sunday morning agenda).
3. Need clarification of definition of skier/days. (Add to Sunday morning agenda).

RESOLVED: Donation of \$1000 to the Davey Coombs fund.

Joe Royer recommended a donation to Davey Coombs fund of \$1000 as discussed at previous meetings. Vote was taken. Joe will write a letter to Emily. Mary Schneider will send a check along with the letter.

Discussion and approval of meeting agenda items:

- Approve last year's meeting minutes.
- In house audits.
- RMH guide presentation about morning forecast.
- Code of conduct.
- Airbags.
- ISSW meeting.
- Government affairs situations.
- Media response.
- Treasurer' report.
- Freedom of information act.
- Website.
- Closure (dues, rates, etc.)

Saturday, May 22, 2010

9:00 am – Columbine Room – Sun Valley

In attendance:

Joe Royer
Mark Baumgardner
Jon Schick
Kevin Quinn
Paul Butler
Rusty Dassing
Scott Desserault
Mike Overcast

Jessica Quinn
Craig Pattee
Scott Raynor
Aaron Rodriguez
Mary Schneider
Joel Serra
Darwon Stoneman

Agenda Item: 2009 Meeting Minutes

Joel Serra presented 2009 meeting minutes; suggested minor revisions in wording. Mark Baumgardner moved to approve. Joe Royer seconded.

RESOLVED: 2009 MINUTES approved.

Agenda Item: Website

Presentation by Kevin Quinn.

- Each operator has a page which they are responsible for updating which has direct link to each operator's website and email capability.
- Linking media page.
- Members' area is password protected. Members may post inter-association communications. Members should submit articles on the "members" page.
- All previous domains now forward to this site.
- Joe Royer suggested that it would be helpful to have someone assigned to write a post each month.
- Can be linked to social media, including blog posts.
- Kevin Quinn will create a facebook page for all members to access which can also be linked to individual operator's facebook pages.
- Access information:
 - The members only information is now only available for full members.
 - Other areas can be created for access by other types of members.
 - "Public" access is for everyone; "Registered" and "Special" access is the same.
- Video can be imbedded.
- There is a host service specific to the site.
- Jessica Quinn will email parameters for where to post.
- Need to lock down the front page.
- Discussion of etiquette and what to post.
- Discussion of costs:
 - BJ Hansen has not charged for his work but has filled heli-ski seats at Points North.
 - \$30 per hosting should be paid by HSUS.
 - Recommendation to give BJ Hansen \$1000 as a gift for work done on the site.
 - Recommendation to make a more formal agreement with BJ as the website progresses.

RESOLVED: Gift to BJ Hansen of \$1000.

Joe Royer recommended that a gift of \$1000 be given to BJ Hansen as a thank you for the work he has donated on the website. Members voted and approved. Joe will write a letter, Mary Schneider will write a check and mail it.

Discussion of membership and dues protocol for non-operator members.

- Clearly define reasons for membership.
- Send invoices for annual dues. Annual dues are due on January 1. Members who have joined at a later date will not owe dues until the second January.
- Guides should select a representative that could come to the meetings at their own expense. This could also be done as a conference call.
- An automatic re-set for invoices could be set up in Quickbooks online.
- T-shirts or caps will be optional in renewals. Other items may be provided for this purpose.
- Need to partner with someone to offer a mechanized guide course and to make sort sort of special certification item (e.g., pin). AMGA has been contacted about putting on a course for them.
- Dean Cummings has a syllabus for this type of course. It needs to be sent back to him or purchased from him.

ACTION ITEM: Darwon Stoneman will contact Dean Cummings about purchasing or having access to his course syllabus.

ACTION ITEM: Mark Baumgardner will work with Erik Leidecker on setting up this mechanized guide course which will result in an "acknowledgement".

ACTION ITEM: The Quinns will see that the pins that have already been designed will be made to recognize Level I, II, and III qualification.

Discussion of need for a newsletter.

ACTION ITEM: Three newsletters will be produced annually at a cost not to exceed \$250 per issue.

- **Mary will compile newsletter, get approval of content, then send to BJ for publishing.**
- **Dates for newsletters will be July, October, February**
- **Items for first newsletter include:**
 - **Two audits conducted**
 - **Facebook**
 - **ISSW meeting**
- **Members will submit content to Mary.**

Discussion of member guidelines.

- Types of members and membership rules.
- Discussion of change from “two years” of operation to 60 days of continuous operation or number of skier days.

Agenda Item: Audits

Presentation by Joe Royer.

- It is recommended that audits now be performed by a third party rather than using in-house auditors to lend greater credibility.
- Review of audit form features:
 - TERRAIN:
 - Google Earth is a good resource where there is good map resolution. Flight information can be overlaid.
 - Full mapping is time-consuming.
 - MORNING FORECASTS:
 - RMH had audit conducted by Colin Zacharias who has good, broad experience.
 - A morning briefing protocol was established.
 - GUIDING PRACTICES:
 - Qualifications discussed. Should probably be changed to AMGA certification level I, II, III.
 - COMMUNICATIONS:
 - Dispatcher at truck crucial.
 - Sat phones in the field.
- The value of an audit if any legal issue arises.

Presentation by Fred Coriell, RMH guide, on morning forecasts as established by recommendation of Colin Zacharias.

Agenda Item: ISSW Meeting

Presentation by Jessica Quinn.

- HSUS will have a booth at the ISSW meeting in October.
- Discussion of needs for this presence.
 - Banner
 - TV or projector with DVD clip of all operations
 - Brochures.
 - Staffing.
 - Caps and t-shirts to sell.
 - Stickers.
 - Try to get a beer sponsor.
 - Credit card capability.
- Suggestion that HSUS also holds a meeting, including guide members.
- Pursue corporate sponsorship.
 - This has been pursued previously with poor results.
 - Industry group sponsors vs. individual company sponsors.
 - Reducing price for sponsorship may increase interest.
 - Need outreach to potential sponsors prior to ISSW.
 - Possibly set up educational entity which would provide a tax incentive for sponsors.

ACTION ITEM: Each member will submit a 4 minute video clip for use in the presentation, including a clip about why they chose to be a member of HSUS, which will be looped and edited by Joe Royer. These are due by July 15. Joe will set up a Mobile Me account to facilitate this.

ACTION ITEM: Jessica Quinn will set up a schedule for staffing for the ISSW booth.

ACTION ITEM: Craig Pattee will send the previous information about sponsorship for review.

ACTION ITEM: Jon Schick, Scott Desserault, Mary Schneider will get Quickbooks accounting set up.

Agenda Item: WOGA Audit

Presentation by Darwon Stoneman.

Discussion of his involvement in the audit of Alaskan Heli Ski operations for WOGA.

- Resulted from WOGA need for more information about heli skiing risk management.
- Looked at ops plans, talked to people, etc., and was asked to rate everyone to a scale.
- Recommends taking particular care to prevent sensationalized social media.

Discussion of the direction audits are going with WOGA.

- Operators will need to comply or WOGA will likely start raising insurance rates for operators.
- WOGA doesn't want to do the high rate insuring. There is a risk of being underinsured. There is a possibility that plaintiffs could go after personal assets if underinsured.
- Most of ops plans look alike and are fine.
- An outside auditor that's good, who has good technical skills, would be a good value to hire as a consultant

Discussion of WOGA operation.

- WOGA is a holding company underwritten by two entities.
- WOGA feels that film operations should have their own, separate insurance.
- The insurer is not required to cover incidents that are not report in the year in which they occur. There is an option of a policy that can be overridden and will cover you if you don't turn it in immediately.
- Because most claims are filed right before the statute of limitations has occurred, it is critical to have complete, clean documentation easily accessible. WOGA has been largely successful in their fights, especially against frivolous and overstated charges.
- Would encourage everyone to shop the insurance around a little.

Joel Serra suggested that two problems often arise with regard to insurance:

1. Small companies that have inadequate record keeping.
2. Undercapitalization lawsuits stating that you haven't insured properly which puts you at risk for larger suits.

A personal liability umbrella policy along with heli-ski insurance is another line of defense for owners/operators.

Discussion of methods to get insurance rates down for members.

- Economically incentivize operators to become members by the standards HSUS sets being a prerequisite for better insurance rates.
- Audits:
 - Who will conduct audits? Joe Royer is comfortable with doing outside audits to non-members.
 - Possibly establish a rotation within the membership for audits.
 - Will WOGA approve a discounted rate if the auditor is internal?
 - Ramifications of using an internal auditor being followed by an accident.
- A benefit of continuing with WOGA is their stability vs. that of other insurers.
- Concerns expressed about accountability and under-reporting of accidents.

AGENDA ITEM: Governmental Affairs

Presentation by Craig Pattee.

Discussion of environmental issues.

Permit process:

- Not much pending renewal for permits. There's some talk about reversing the Bush 10-year permit tenure

High Mountain Heli permit situation:

- HMH set to phase out use of wilderness study area which is the prime terrain (only 65 days next year)
- Trying to issue new EIS but USFS refused it
- Trying to access new terrain but it's not viable for business both for safety and accessibility.
- Will attempt to put an exemption in the law for heli-skiing. Will need a legislative issue to attach this to. Should take about a year.
- In the interim, Jon is trying to piece something together with a hodgepodge of places and activities.
- Scott and Pattee have researched some other operators in Idaho that may be willing to work with HMH if the spot he has in mind won't work.

Government is getting less keen on heli-skiing. Where HSUS can be helpful is by trying to contact legislators.

- Wilderness designation issue:
 - 2 million acres of wilderness created last year. Mega wilderness bill now in the works.
 - Small pieces of legislation that would directly impact particular heli-ski operations.
 - North Cascades terrain could be transferred to the National Park.
 - Telluride's terrain would have wilderness designation
- Need to get involvement of other local stakeholders.
- WPG's experience indicates benefit of designation as a "heli ski management area." There is "spring language" in it that, if operators violate the terms, cause it to revert to full wilderness.
- The little bills are out of time, right now, with mid-term elections coming up.

AGENDA ITEM: Freedom of Information Act

Presentation by Joel Serra.

What is protected by the Freedom of Information Act?

- Trade secret, commercial, or financial information
- Privileged or confidential information

It is a criminal offense for a federal agency to release information to the public that has been given to them by private individuals or groups.

- When an agency receives a freedom of information act request, they need to contact the party whose property it is to get approval. If you can provide a case that it is a trade secret, they will most likely protect that information.
- The agencies tend to err on the side of NOT disclosing.

Distributed list of procedures and practices to manage disclosures.

- "Trade secret" is difficult to employ, but terminology can be toned down to "proprietary" or "confidential".
- Be proactive in letting them know that you want to be notified if there are requests for FOIA documents.
- While a response to a FOIA request only requires that they respond within 20 days, not that they provide the information within 20 days. They may respond that there is information available but it needs to be reviewed before disclosure.
- Most agencies are responsive if you do their work for them. Give them the redacted version that you have and allow them to release that. They will often just go with your version. It's rare that judges overturn decisions by FOIA agents.
- It is important to share the information.
- Good relationship with your contracting official is the most important first step.
- PROTECT YOUR DATA. IT IS PROTECTABLE!

Questions were asked about sharing avalanche and wildlife data with permit agencies.

- Wildlife data is probably not protectable.
- Ask USFS to indemnify for avalanche information. Most likely they will no longer require submission of the information. The risk is that this will result in reduced information for the public service aspect.
- Avalanche information should be submitted only as proprietary information

Be proactive on writing letters to the forest service about FOIA requests.

AGENDA ITEM: Air Bags

Presentation by Kevin Quinn.

Canisters are not allowed on US planes so operators should provide canisters for guests. FAA has a directive that you can't carry oxygen on aircraft.

Nitrogen system vs. oxygen system:

- Nitrogen inflates faster
- Keep some on hand of both types for the use of guests.
- Oxygen can be refilled locally. Nitrogen needs to be shipped to specific spots for refill.

In Europe, any guided avalanche hazard activity requires the use of air bags.

Issues:

- Partial deployment
- Triggers are tricky
- All of these problems are avoidable with accurate use and continual maintenance.
- Human error is unavoidable; need to remember to disarm; establish protocols.
- Reduces amount of fuel if all guests are carrying them.
- The ability to deploy an entire group's bag remotely could be problematic.
- After deployment, needs to be re-packed, new canister
- Need spare canisters with you and new triggers.
- After accidental deployment, field re-arming is only a temporary fix because it gets wet so needs to be re-packed when back in a dry area.
- There are lots of accidental deployments.
- The wave of the future is using them for clients, but you could make an argument that the danger of running into trees.

Saturday, May 22, 2010

9:00 am – Columbine Room – Sun Valley

In attendance:

Joe Royer
Mark Baumgardner
Jon Schick
Kevin Quinn
Paul Butler
Rusty Dassing

Mike Overcast
Jessica Quinn
Craig Pattee
Scott Raynor
Mary Schneider
Joel Serra

AGENDA ITEM: Code of Conduct

Presentation by Joel Serra.

Revised wording for the code of conduct was presented.

Code of conduct concerns expressed included:

- Members must agree to mediation.
- Failure to attend meetings results only in suspension, not mandatory termination of membership.
- Representation and protocol in the event of a conflict.
- Confidentiality and privacy. (Joel recommended adding "except where the circumstances demand otherwise, matters shall remain confidential among the body".)
- The appropriateness of gratuities being accepted by board of officers.
- "Policing" non-member groups for unethical or irresponsible behavior.
- Core values as they relate to members vs. non-members.
- Workers' comp and guest guides.
- Abiding by federal and state laws.

Action Item: Joel will prepare a draft policy about gratuities for board of officers and more generic policies about corporate citizenship to be distributed by email and to be put on the agenda for 2011 meeting.

Action Item: Craig Pattee will draft a general letter for the purpose of addressing irresponsible behavior that can be revised for specific situations.

RESOLVED: Revised Code of Conduct passed.

Joel distributed a copy of the ***policy on payment for helicopter services***. Concerns included:

- Working out payment with the provider when unable to fly.
- Confidentiality.
- Definition of "pay". (Joel suggests "resolving" debt rather than "retiring" debt).
- Time-frame for payment.
- Include wording about "principal owner" of new entity following bankruptcy.
- Payment of past dues to reinstate membership. (Joel: suspension is the only time that a member needs to pay past dues).

Amendment to Bylaws. During the discussions, board members noted confusion over 2008 bylaw amendments establishing four categories of Members. Notably, the distinctions between Associate Members (the general public) and Affiliate Members (allied businesses and prospective Operator Members) were being confused. WHEREUPON, on motion duly seconded and unanimously approved, it was

RESOLVED: Article III (MEMBERSHIP) of the Bylaws is hereby amended to provide five (5) classes of Members:

- 1. Operator Members (heli skiing operators)**
- 2. Guide Members (active guides)**
- 3. Supporting Members (members of the general public)**
- 4. Associate Members (allied businesses)**
- 5. Prospective Operator Members.**

A copy of the Amended Article III Bylaw is attached to these minutes and the Secretary was directed to make them a part of the permanent records of the Association.

Action Item: Send out an email with the newly defined member terminology.

Rusty Dassing moves to adopt payment policy with elimination of bullet 1 and changes to names of members. Craig Pattee seconds.

Unanimous vote adopted.

RESOLVED: Policy on payment for helicopter services adopted.

Discussion of website and facebook page.

Kevin has set up a facebook page for HSUS. All members are administrators.

Scott Raynor would like to move forward toward membership for Valdez Heli Ski and would like an audit next year. Invites questions & concerns.

RESOLVED: Scott Raynor will be invited to be an operator member and will get a letter to that effect.

- Will have to pay for his audit.
- Can be a member immediately after he passes audit.
- Vote will be expedited.

Review of process for acceptance of a new member.

- Fees: \$500 review fee; \$5000 initiation fee; one year membership for upcoming year.

Action Item: Craig Pattee will send an email with stated values of membership for comment.

Discussion of possibility for fuel shortage for recreational use and for buying in bulk as members.

Action Item: Rusty Dassing will investigate possibility of buying fuel, in bulk, as a group, with assured price and availability.

Discussion of in-house audits. Concerns include:

- Consistency.
- Need to define the procedure.
- Possibility of more than one auditor.
- Set a date for audit schedule to be established.
- Designate 2 auditors and 2 companies that will be audited in 2011.
- Payment: Auditor is paid \$200/day; HSUS covers expenses.

Action Item: Set up 2 audits to be conducted by Joe Royer and Mark Baumgarder – Valdez and CPG, incorporating the format that Colin Zacharias used for RMH. Dates must be set by ISSW.

Action Item: Joe Royer and Rusty Dassing will audit Telluride Helitrax. Dates must be set by ISSW.

Action Item: Set up a formal group to help resolve conflicts in the Valdez area.

Discussion of 2011 meeting plans.

- Telluride Helitrax would like to host at the Peaks Hotel.
- Ruby Mountain Heli would like to host.
- Dates: 5/20-23, 2011.
- Possibility of a short presentation about each individual operation.

AGENDA ITEM: Media Response

Possibilities include:

- A firm that would do this at less cost than a public relations firm.
- An internal team, partnering with WOGA.
- A professional at next year's meeting to present options.
- A support group in addition to the principals.

Concerns:

- The critical importance of thorough accident reports.
- Social media going viral.

Action Item: Add Media Response to next year's agenda.

Action Item: WPG will share it's response plan.

Action Item: Joe Royer will look for crisis management publications of programs.

AGENDA ITEM: Treasurer's Report

Elimination of Executive Director position has resulted in very few expenses.

RESOLVED:

- 1. Determination of 2011 dues: \$1500. Unanimous approval.**
- 2. HSUS will pay Joel Serra's expenses.**
- 3. Additional meeting expenses: \$100/person/night for attendees.**
- 4. Patrick Mullen, Craig Pattee, Darwon Stoneman daily expenses covered by HSUS.**
- 5. Mark Baumgardner will pay for Gini.**

Payments received from RMH, HMH, WPG.

Action Item: Points North and North Cascades will send checks to Mary in Montana.

Action Item: Mary will bill Scott Raynor, SVHS, CPG, Helitrax.

AGENDA ITEM: Election of Officers

Officers approved as follows:

**Joe Royer – president
Mark Baumgardner – vice president
Jon Schick – treasurer
Kevin Quinn - secretary**

1:00 pm - Meeting adjourned.