



Pioneers of Stealth



Minutes of Pioneers of Stealth Business Meeting, 17 Oct 09

7 Nov 09

1. The meeting was called to order by President Rob Bongiovi at 8:32 am MDT. See attached for list of attendees.
2. President Rob stated the purpose of this meeting was to focus on membership, to begin the process for establishing the next reunion, and to obtain a sense from the group on resurrecting the Pioneer of Stealth award program.
 - a. The Charter for the group was codified at the August 2006 meeting. Rob addressed the various options that were examined: a social gathering, a social and education venue, and a social, educational, and charitable venue. A survey was sent to the membership and from the eleven responses, the social gathering venue was selected. Membership dues, \$25 per year, were also put into place at that time. The dues are used to permit the host to prepay many of the expenses from Pioneers of Stealth funds that were traditionally born by the host. The second purpose of the dues was a means to identify the membership out of a list of roughly 500 names maintained by Ralph Grimm.
 - b. Officers will be elected at the 2011 meeting. Rick Abell said he wishes to be replaced as Treasurer now. After the meeting Irv Waaland said he is willing to fill that position through the rest of Rick's term.
3. Vice President's report. Pete Knauth briefed both his duties and also the financial health of the Pioneers of Stealth. The current estimated cash on hand is \$5,338.67 pending final billing from this meeting. As of 2 Oct the Pioneers of Stealth has 92 members on the roster.
 - a. Pete asked the group if the Pioneers of Stealth should consider becoming a 501C(3) Sub Chapter S. He thought that would provide a measure of liability protection. He mentioned that would also require quarterly statements with the IRS. Dave Lynch thought that an organization that has any money should become a 501C(3) and that it is not hard to do. Jim Hogarty said being incorporated would change the risks for the next host. John Cashen state writing a check to an individual was not a good idea. Pete said Rick was forced to go that route due to changes in the banking industry since 911.
 - b. Steve Smith asked if there was some way to readdress the cut off date of 1993. He said the Pioneers of Stealth will disappear is due time if the cut off date is not changed. He reported there are people still pioneering technologies. In an ensuing discussion about how people can reveal they

are working on classified programs, the need for change to stay viable, and the purpose of the Pioneers of Stealth. Dick Scofield said this idea has surfaced at the last three meetings but nothing has come of it because nothing has been written down that people can review and discuss. Steve Smith agreed to develop a written proposal to be presented to the group.

4. Secretary's report. Denny Jarvi reported on his duties as the group's scribe and keeper of the meeting records. He also said he will take custody of any materials, photos, records, etc from the Pioneer of Stealth meetings that people want to have preserved. Rob pointed out this duty does not include program materials. Denny reported he has contacts with the National Museum of the Air Force as a possible location to place materials into permanent archive. He said the down side of the AF Museum is once the material is placed in their hands, access to it is lost unless you are a researcher or writing a book. He said another possible location is the Aviation Hall of Fame. Dick Scofield said he has a contact at the Aviation Hall of Fame. Tim Sweeny said that any material that is released to the museum would be scanned and placed in Pioneers of Stealth records so they would not be lost to the group.
5. Membership-Communications Chair's Report. Ralph Grimm reported a call went out for volunteers to be ambassadors for the Pioneers of Stealth. People who responded include Paul Martin, Patrick Saatzer, Robert Gilmore, Jim Uphold, Ron Bell, Tom Jackson, Skip Hickey, Lynn Brucker, Ray Koester, and George Grant. Ralph pointed out Lynn Brucker maintains the web site. There is a public side and a new password protected side. The password was sent to the membership via e-mail. Jim Uphold and several others reported getting calls from people not associated with the Pioneers of Stealth trying to find other members of the group and asked that privacy be protected. Ralph reported the \$25 annual dues and the \$45 for 2011 and 2011 dues if paid together in advance, please make the checks out to Eric E Abell due to the bank's requirements.
6. Social Team Report. Tim Sweeney reported the duties of the committee include oversight and support for the reunions. This committee has three members on staggered three-year terms. The people are himself, Jim Kinnu, with help from Skip Hickey, John Griffin, Ralph Grimm, and Lynn Brucker. They assisted in the 2007 reunion by conducting potential attendees at the last minute and this meeting by making the name tags. He reported he has materials to make name tags for at least two more reunions. Dave Lynch reported making use of the contact list to call people to come. He reported he was personally at risk for \$10,000 when he made the arrangements for the reunion. Jerry Vandebosh used the approach of setting a cut off date for attending the reunion two months before the event and used Pioneers of Stealth monies to cover the upfront costs. Pete Knauth made phone calls, Jerry reported he sent a lot of e-mails to specific people, Ralph sent three mass e-mails using both the old and new rosters. Dave Lynch thought nothing works like a personal phone call.
 - a. Tim reported there was no response for the reunion 2011 to the e-mails on where to hold the next reunion. Irv Waaland said it's difficult to get ideas and suggested a list be developed and sent out. Rob Bongiovi said that

was done last time with the candidates being Virginia, Maine, and Las Vegas. The group voted and made Las Vegas their choice.

b. Rob said the default position is Dayton.

7. Business. President Rob opened the discussion on new business, membership, where to hold the next meeting, and recognition.

a. Membership. Rob thought with 90 members or more, we have the minimum membership to continue having viable reunions. Rob reported the officers and senior members have met via teleconference calls periodically. Rob asked the group if a membership campaign should be developed. He said to this point, Ralph and his team have carried the load.

- i. Ralph suggested a strategic campaign for all to participate, each bringing in one person for the next campaign.
- ii. Bob Wulf suggested going out individually to bring in the people you know qualify.
- iii. Jim Hogerty said he has tried to bring in several people from the Red Team without success. Most folks are very busy and may respond to a call from a stranger more than from a friend.
- iv. Irv Waaland reported even if we bring in more people, we are all aging and the group will shrink regardless.
- v. Fred Green proposed selecting candidates from a list of people.
- vi. Pete Knauth said we need to be careful who we select. The aim of the group are those that are pioneers, not necessarily anyone who work on the project.
- vii. Bob Wulf suggested adding a sponsors name to a candidates recommendation.

b. Membership wrap-up. Rob said a concerted effort will be made on membership and the form will be addressed.

- i. Irv said he had a lot of junior people who were involved who are still working and we could pursue these people.
- ii. John Cashen said the meeting dates will have to be looked at for those who are still working since that will impact their ability to attend.

c. Next Reunion. Rob asked for volunteers to host the next meeting and where. This will be voted on by the group by ballot later.

- i. Irv Walland suggested a cruise in May or September and suggested a variety of choices including Mexico, the Caribbean, Alaska, and New England. Bob Wulf said he has set several of cruises up and they are a lot of fun.
- ii. Jack Twigg volunteered to host the reunion in Maine the week after Labor Day. He said the dress will be very informal. He hosted one earlier this year for 93 people with an average age of 77 and a centroid of people where people lived was Arizona. Arcadia Isle near Bangor, ME on the North East Harbor, about 10 miles North of Bar Harbor. He said the hotel gave his group a hospitality suite and permits cancellations only two weeks away from the meeting. Steve Smith proposed accepting Jack's proposal.

- iii. Fred Green proposed Albuquerque, NM during the International Balloon Festival the first full weekend in October. The hotels are booked out a year in advance.
 - iv. Pete Knauth reported Don Merckle has volunteered to host an event in a very rustic setting in Alabama.
 - v. Rob said the selection will be made via a ballot. He thought the expense of a cruise is problematic for some.
 - vi. Format of the Reunion. Rob said speakers were dropped from the reunion since the well was dry on potential speakers. Dave Lynch said the aim is to talk to people. Jerry Vandebosch said he heard the wives were very happy there were no speakers at this reunion.
- d. Recognition. Rob said awards have not been presented for this and the last reunion. He said he we do present awards again, the process needs a lot more discipline. He said Skip Hickey wrote a proposal in August 2008 with two awards, a Pioneer of Stealth and Champions of Stealth. A long discussion developed on: are we interested in awards, not recognizing people who did the hard work, should not present an award to everybody, the award needs to be presented for something special, will need new names for new awards to differentiate them from the earlier awards.
- i. Pete Knauth and Dick Scofield will put together a proposal.
8. Open from the Floor. Jim Uphold said reunions can be attended by non members. Pete Knauth agreed stating it will give people a chance to see if they would like to continue, hopefully they will join.
9. President Rob closed the meeting at 1005 just in time to board the bus to attend the superb Air Force Academy football game with Wyoming. (AFA won 10 to 0)

Respectfully submitted,

Denny Jarvi
Secretary
Pioneers of Stealth

1 Atch:
Attendees

Business Meeting Attendees

17 Oct 2009

Name

Steve Bepko
Rob Bongiovi
Alan Brown
John Cashen
George K Grant
Fred Green
Ralph Grimm
Greg Hill
Jim Hogarty
Denny Jarvi
Peter Knauth
Robert Loschke
David Luippold
David Lynch, Jr
Robert Murphy
Bob Patton
Bob Schimmel
Dick Scofield
Steve Smith
Tim Sweeney
Jack Twigg
Jim Uphold
Jerry Vandenbosch
Irv Waaland
Mark Wilson
Bob Wulf