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Be Prepared!

We have now kicked off our Surveying Merit Badge Program for the Boy Scouts of America. To complete this kick off I am making my self-available to all of the chapters for presentation of the Surveying Merit Badge program. I would like to have each chapter provide to me the name or names of people in your chapter who will be the contact /chapter Surveying Merit Badge Contact.

I would like to congratulate the following chapters who currently have a contact person for the surveying Merit Badge:

CSU Fresno, Riverside – San Bernardino, Modesto, Marin,

Sonoma County

We need to get the rest of the chapters on board and notify me with



there chairperson so we can coordinate this badge throughout the state.

Our goal for this year is to have 50 scouts complete the surveying merit badge. We have already had 10 Scouts complete the badge

in Sonoma County, 5 from Sacramento, and we are on schedule to have another 10 complete this badge. Let's help CLSA complete this goal. I have included the surveying pamphlet from CLSA. As I said before if you need help putting on this badge or would like me to make a presentation to your chapter please contact me with you schedule and if I am available I will make you event.

Jim Dickey, PLS, CLSA Scouting Merit Badge Chairman
Cinquini & Passarino, Inc
1360 North Dutton Ave. Suite 150
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
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F:(707) 542-2106

Upcoming Sacramento Chapter Meeting

Thursday, April 3 – Spaghetti Factory 1910 J Street
Guest Speaker– Oscar Jarquin , Chief , Office of GIS, Caltrans
5:00 – 6:00 relaxation/attitude adjustment
6:00 – 7:00 business meeting and dinner
7:00 – 8:30 guest speaker

Your words could be here. Contribute to the Focal Point!

Welcome ...notes from the Editor

I would like to welcome you to our latest edition of our newsletter.

Isn't April just about the best time ever. There is hardly anything like being out in the field this time of year. Working here in the Central Valley is clearly the icing on the

cake. I remember fondly days of romping through flowering orchards of the many fruits and nuts that grow here. Of course, working where I do, some of those trees are gone and a little asphalt is in its place.

I wish to thank those who took the time to share their thoughts

with us this month. Our newsletter is a compilation of what our members wish to share.

If you have pictures, written material, or letters, we would like you to share them with us.



Editor email:

focalpointeditor@gmail.com

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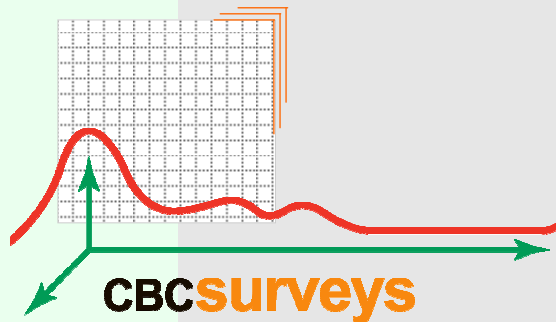
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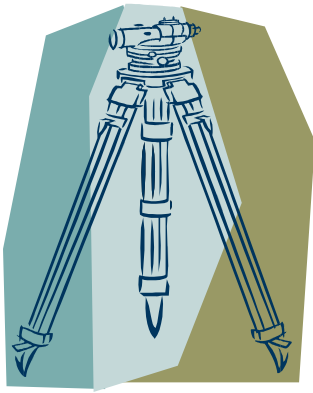
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Professional Practice Committee

OK, you just got your Land Surveyor's license... Congratulations! Now, after a much-deserved bout of celebrating and saying, "man, I'm glad that's over with" about twenty times, what's next? Let's say you're at dinner with your family and your Uncle Ted says "hey, can you come over to my place and find my corners?" Your Aunt Sally overhears this conversation, and Aunt Sally wants her corners found also. Wow, you're starting to see some money in this business.

Now what do you say? Let's take a moment and review

some important points before you respond to Uncle Ted and Aunt Sally. Whether or not you are going to charge Uncle Ted and Aunt Sally some money for say equipment rental, gas and some celebratory drink for afterward, there are some laws you need to be aware of.

One: In the unincorporated area of Sacramento County, you will need a General Business License if you are working in Sacramento County. For information, you can go to the web site at www.finance.saccounty.net or phone 916/874-6644. This law is enforced, and operating a business in Sacramento County without a business license is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00 and six (6) months in jail. Most of time an issuance of a violation is made and the offender simply pays for a

new business license.

Two: Anywhere in the state of California, you will need a written contract. This is part of the Professional Land Surveyors Act (LSA) § 8759. There are exceptions, and they are stated in § 8759. We would encourage everyone to revisit this section of the LSA. Based on reading and hearing from compliance staff this is a fertile area for complaints to the Board about the performance of a land surveyor. It also makes good business sense.

The Professional Practice Committee as a general information tip for the Sacramento Chapter membership wrote this article.

"Anywhere in the state of California, you will need a written contract."

Who's there?

Paul Tonn
Stanley King
Neal S. Jones
Bill Telling
Jesse Rineer
Annette Lockhart



March attendance

Evan Page
Joe Tennyson
Tim Case
Rob McMillan
Clayton Guirard
Jon Scarpa

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.GEOWOODSTOCKIV.COM

Geocaching Update by Rob McMillan



Friday afternoon I received word from CLSA Central Office that the CLSA Executive Committee approved the increase in funding for CLSA participation in GeoWoodstock VI (GWVI) from the \$150 "Vendor" level to the \$250 "Pyrite" sponsor level. We will have to make arrangements for transporting the CLSA booth prior to the May 24, 2008 event.

GWVI is being co-hosted by two organizations. The River City Geocaching and Dining Society (RCGDS) and the Northstate Unusual Treasure Seekers (NUTS). RCGDS & NUTS were selected to host this international event, by a selection committee made up of representatives from each of the last GeoWoodstock events. One thing to keep in mind is that each GeoWoodstock is a free event, and pre-registration is required to be sure there is enough free food for everyone. Sponsorships, Vendor

Registrations, Premium Registrations, and other funding sources covers the expenses.

Annette Lockhart and I attended the St. Patrick's pot-luck, Saturday 3/15, in Chico. Members of both RCGDS and NUTS welcomed us to the event, and were very interested in discussing our professional interest in geocaching. One of the highlights was the awards ceremony, where members of NUTS were awarded a golden walnut for finding and logging 1,000 geocaches. Many of the members had long since passed that mark, with one couple having logged over 7,000 caches, throughout all 50 United States.

There was a 50-50 raffle at the event, and I won a "microcache", a small, machined aluminum capsule, with a log sheet inside. I also won

another raffle item, but told them to draw again, since I had already won.

As we left the meeting hall, one of the organizers of GWVI was stopped on the shoulder down the block. He waved us over and invited us to search for our first geocache with his handheld GPS. Annette found the cache, considered a microcache, within about 5 feet of where the GPS said it should be. Not bad for a hiking grade handheld. Just so you don't think this is ultra-simple, the cache was a pill bottle wrapped in camouflage tape and hidden in such a manner that it certainly did not jump out at us. No Schonstedt singing away, no pink flagging or orange paint on the surface, not even a logical location near the old fence corner.

Ready to try geocaching?

"Members of both RCGDS and NUTS welcomed us to the event"



Looking to help at the booth...

Contact your editor!

Open Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing to you because we share concern about insuring and improving the public's access to public record data, particularly geospatial data, that is created, maintained, stored, and used by our government agencies. A few weeks ago, on February 14, 2008, a severe threat to the California Public Records Act (which guarantees us - all of us - the right to access our government's data) was launched by California State Assembly Member Jose Solorio, with the introduction of AB 1978 to the state legislature.

This bill seeks to exempt 'assembled model data, metadata, and listings of metadata' from public records access by the public, by classifying these as 'software' which is exempt from public records disclosure. Software? The technical flaws of this bill are astounding, but the political intention is no less sinister.

Please join me in opposing this proposed legislation before it reaches legislative committee review (March 15) by sending a letter to Assembly Member Solorio, to your local Assembly Member and your local state Senator (if you live in California), to the press, and to any professional associations or public interest groups who share our concern.

For your background information, I enclose an attached WORD document which contains the proposed changes to California's PRA, the explanatory statement issued from Assembly Member Solorio's office, the letter I am writing (you may use any parts in your own letter), and a short list of people to whom you should send copies of your letter. Please also send a copy to Tom Newton (California Newspaper Publishers Association), Peter Scheer (California First Amendment Coalition), and myself (Open Data Consortium), so we may coordinate the opposition to this bill.

Time is of the essence.
Thank you for your prompt response.
Send your letter to Assembly Member Solorio in hard copy. CCs may be sent via eMail or hard copy.

Sincerely,

Bruce Joffe
Founder, Open Data Consortium
GIS Consultants

For a copy of the word document, contact your friendly neighborhood editor at:
focalpointeditor@gmail.com



**“Please join
me in
opposing
this
proposed
legislation”**



New Reporting Requirements

NEW REPORTING OF LEGAL ACTIONS PROGRAM BECOMES OPERATIVE JANUARY 1, 2008

Effective January 1, 2008, the Board will be implementing a new program. Under this new program all professional engineers and land surveyors will be required to report criminal convictions; civil action judgments, settlements, and arbitration awards; and administrative actions to the Board within 90 days of their occurrence or from when the licensee has knowledge of the action.

In addition to this requirement for licensees, liability insurers, California courts, and all self-insured local and state governmental agencies are required to report criminal convictions, civil judgments, settlements, and awards.

As of January 1, 2008, the Board's Enforcement Unit will begin enforcing Articles 4.5 and 5.7 of the Professional Engineers Act and the Professional Land Surveyors Act (Business and Professions Code sections 6770 et al. and 8776 et al.). The Enforcement Unit will be responsible for implementing and enforcing this new program, which will include developing forms for completion by licensees, California court clerks, and liability insurers.

These new laws will require a licensee who is convicted of **all** felonies and any misdemeanors or infractions that are substantially related to the practice of professional engineering or land surveying to report these actions to the Board within 90 days of knowing of the conviction. California courts and liability insurers will have 30 days to report to the Board.

Civil judgments, settlements, and arbitration awards where actions involve an allegation of fraud, deceit, and/or misrepresentation, breach of contract, negligence, incompetence, or recklessness by a licensee in the practice of professional engineering and/or land surveying are required to be reported if the amount or value of the judgment, settlement, or award is \$50,000 or greater.

Once conviction, judgment, settlement, or award information is provided to the Board, the Enforcement Unit will review the information reported to determine if a formal investigation case should be opened to determine if any violations of the Professional Engineers or Land Surveyors Act have occurred.

The form for reporting such actions is now available on this website: [Reporting of Legal Actions Form](http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/forms/reporting_form.pdf). http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/forms/reporting_form.pdf

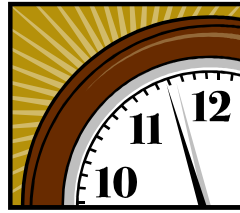
You may contact Jacqueline Jenkins, Enforcement Analyst, at (916) 263-2253 or Jackie_Jenkins@dca.ca.gov for more information.

Text of the law:

http://www.dca.ca.gov/pels/reporting_laws.pdf



Minutes



Minutes for March 7, 2008

Introductions

President Report

Bill Telling was able to purchase laptop for \$499+case+warranty(renewable annual) including Office with Publisher (\$59+ \$12) \$896 for everything. There was a suggestion for the purchase of a projector.

VP Report

He is looking for speakers for future meetings. Several suggestions for speakers were given.

Secretary

Minutes needed to add attendance and were accepted as amended.

Treasurer was not present.

Committee Report

Education- Rob McMillan

LS Review has had several great instructors and attendance has been steady. It was noted that Jeremy Evans traveled here from southern California.

Habitat for Humanity

No report

Membership- John Scarpa

How many have paid? John Scarpa wants to spend some of his "free time" going door to door to solicit attendance from local survey companies and emailing colleagues. He suggested that new topics of interest like boundary, legal, public lands, etc. will improve attendance.

Government Liaison

SB 1237 is CELSOC backed bill that affects the SMA. It affects boundary adjustment and tentative maps that have not expired by January 2009 to receive a 2 year extension.

(Check out the bill at http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_1201-1250/sb_1237_bill_20080214_introduced.pdf)

El Dorado County to condition Boundary Line Adjustment to be treated like parcel maps by trying to pass a new ordinance. They reconsidered and are seeking input to develop a good ordinance.

ROS in Placer County are taking 8 months to review. There was discussion about the possibility of working to change that situation.

Nancy Isler needs surveyors to apply to assist in enforcement.

Professional Practices- Neal Jones

The group still needs to meet. There is a charter put out in 2003. Neal is putting together an announcement for being available. State level PPC can be used as a resource. They will be setting objectives and will examine using chapter members' expertise;

Old Business

GeoWoodstock

The event will be in Wheatland on May 24. Rob talked to Chrissy to discuss the level of sponsorship. He is still looking for more information. The chapter has already approved \$150, but State has paid it. There was discussion of the sponsorship levels that have been published. Rob suggested that the Chapter would take money previously approved to put toward sponsorship. He went to one of their meetings to talk to those participating. So far, there are 1200 signed up with at least 90 being teens. Organizers expect total participation should be about 2500 to 3000. We are going to have our booth located in main activities area. We discussed the possibility to check with other chapters to participate with us as part of the sponsorship. There is a time crunch to decide. Also, looking for volunteers to participate the day of the event. There was a motion to improve our sponsorship to \$500; the motion passed with one abstention. If interested in participating in this free event, contact geowoodstockIV.com

Minutes continued...

CLSA conference- Rob McMillan

He stated there were great presentations and discussions. He liked the venue. He said getting over the hill was not easy, but a nice drive. Paul Cuomo was member of the year. Thomas Jefferson was there with a talk about history. There was also a good Tuesday inspirational speaker that talked about not taking yourself seriously; Other speaker John Brisco, Steve Parrish, Bruce Joffe (GIS talk), and Andrea Tirapelle on Trig Star. CLSA would like to integrate outreach efforts as seamless. Paul Cuomo would be a good speaker for SMA. Discussion of PDH program.

Students

We were the shining star with students at the Conference.

LSIT Prep

Jerry Miller's class is being offered in Santa Rosa. Discussion as to what our class in August might include. PC press is willing to give us a discount on a set of books for the class, if we decide to go that direction.

New Business

Public Relations

Clayton volunteered. He will talk to Pat Tami to see if we can get a picture with Arnold for Land Surveyor's week.

Booth for career fair

CLSA is looking for LS to man the booth at Oak Ridge HS. Paul Carlson volunteered for April 24.


Salary survey

When is the information going to be released? Reminder to do salary survey.

Adjournment



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Upcoming Events

April 26th CLSA Board Meeting, Oakland

Contact Board Reps for Details

May 2008 CLSA/CSRC Workshops, So./No. CA

Real Time Networks

Events in Southern and Northern California

More information on CLSA website– Event calendar

MADSON'S COMPILATION OF RULES FOR LAND SURVEYORS*

RULE ONE

To avoid liability the surveyor should err on the side of safety. Always try to do a little more than an ordinary prudent surveyor would do under the circumstances.

* Carlisle Madson, S674, of Hopkins, Minnesota, has been a WSLS Member for several years. His above "Words of Wisdom" merit a prominent spot in every surveyor's office.

- Taken from Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors, August 1974, Newsletter 8.

The remaining list of rules will appearing one at a time in upcoming editions.



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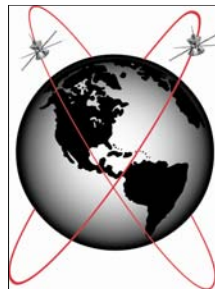
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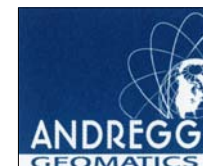
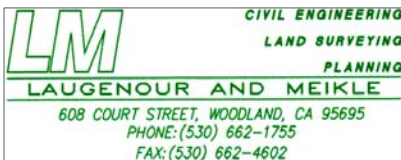
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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual writers and are not necessarily those of CLSA, the Chapter, or the editor. FOCAL POINT accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Letters may be edited and published in any format. All letters submitted become the property of the Focal Point. Due to space restrictions, FOCAL POINT reserves the right to hold letters for publication at a later date.

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