

A PUBLICATION OF
THE SACRAMENTO
AREA CHAPTER
OF THE
CALIFORNIA LAND
SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

Focal point



JULY 2008

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Join Us in the 21st Century

Two of our enterprising Chapter members have taken our new website to a new level of modernization. If you have taken the time to log into the website recently, you would have discovered a bright, shiny new change.

Last week, Nick Labedzki, our treasurer and Jeremy Dean, our webmaster, added the ability to use PayPal to pay for purchases made on the website.

PayPal is the safer, easier way to pay and get paid online. The service



allows anyone to pay in any way they prefer, including through credit cards, bank accounts, buyer credit or account balances, without sharing financial information.

Through the efforts of these members, we can buy tickets for the upcoming meeting at the River Cats Game on July 18th, perhaps pay for Chapter dinner meeting in advance, or Chapter dues.

We look forward to exploring the many new avenues that this opportunity opens for our chapter

Thanks much for your efforts guys!

July is River Cats Month!



July 18th 2008

Join us for a

Fun Night

with the River Cats!

Buy your Tickets online @ sac-surveyors.org

Upcoming Meetings



CLSA Board of Directors

meetings are scheduled for

July 26, Nov 8, 2008 and Feb 7, 2009

at 9:30 A.M.,

at the Hilton Oakland Airport

located at

1 Hegenberger Road, Oakland 94621

Trigstar 2008 Report by Don Ivy

Thanks to Rudy Lopez and Russ Smith for their involvement over the years. These two schools have combined for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place State winners since our CLSA Chapter began participation in Trigstar.

Elk Grove High School
Sponsor – Radman Aerial Surveys
CLSA Rep. Rudy C. Lopes P.E., P.L.S.
Kaitlyn Anderson 1st Place Winner \$75 and Plaque
Aaron Elmore 2nd Place Winner \$25 and Plaque

Laguna Creek High School
Sponsor – HJW Geospatial Inc.
CLSA Rep. Russ Smith
Amer Hajeer 1st Place Winner \$75 and Plaque
Wesley Field 2nd Place Winner \$25 and Plaque



Catch a
falling
star!

*Our thanks to Carol Radman of Radman Aerial Surveys,
and Susan Jackson of HJW Geospatial Inc. for continued support.*

We are a part of History!

On October 14, 1977, a group of surveyors met during the annual ACSM / ASP (American Congress on Surveying and Mapping) California Conference: Their interest - the preservation of the history of the science of surveying. Their purpose - to form a society that would realize that goal. Thus, the Surveyors Historical Society (SHS) was formed.

The [Surveyors Historical Society](#) is dedicated to the public purposes of preserving historical surveying instruments, artifacts, records and memorabilia. SHS is also dedicated to educating the general public about the history of surveying. The Society has developed programs to honor historical surveying points, and the surveyors who have made significant contributions to the profession through the implementation of a public marker program. SHS cooperates at all opportunities with persons and organizations that share the public benefit purpose of education concerning the history of all branches of the science of surveying.

Acceptance of SHS objectives has grown rapidly and membership has spread around the world. Exhibits have been set up on numerous occasions at state, regional and national meetings of surveyors and photogrammetrists



As a member of the Society you have access to the society-owned book collection together with access to other private collections, totaling several thousand entries, which provides the ability to identify and describe instruments for others. Recognizing the Society's capabilities in this area, Teledyne Gurley has designated Surveyors Historical Society as its official referral source for responding to inquiries about old Gurley instruments. The Society has access to most of

Gurley's published manuals for each decade from the 1850's to 1930's. In addition, with accessibility to other firms' catalogs, we are able to trace products by Keuffel & Esser to 1875; A. Lietz to 1888; Heller & Brightly to 1884; etc. Another source of information about the evolution of surveying technology is hundreds of copies of surveying patents, many of which include illustrations depicting their working mechanisms.

Future efforts will be directed toward displays of surveying history of the world, to develop local surveying history, to help establish regional museums, and to search out old surveying records and instruments for a computerized database catalog.

Additional membership benefits include:

- Receipt of *Backsights*, the official publication of the Society
- Contact with others who are interested in the history of surveying

(Continued on page 4)

History (continued)



- Participation in the affairs of the Society: serving on the Board, attending meetings, serving on committees and exhibiting artifacts at conferences, museums and public buildings
- Annual collectible

postcard

- Satisfaction in the knowledge that you are supporting the research, acquisition and display of surveying memorabilia and instruments which have played a vital role in the

history of surveying and mapping

Surveyors Historical Society is a non-profit, tax-exempt, public benefit corporation administered by a seven member Board of Directors. All directors serve without compensation and are elected to a three-year term by the general membership.

For further membership information, contact:

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On the web: www.surveyorhistoricalsociety.com



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NON-CHAPTER MEMBER COST \$10.00 PER PERSON

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PH. 530-877-3567 (After 2:00 p.m.)

PLS, more than a stamp

Editorial by Oscar Jarqin

To succeed as a team is to hold all of the members accountable for their expertise.

*Mitchell Caplan, CEO,
E*Trade Group Inc*

As a Professional Land Surveyor it is easy to identify what constitutes land surveying, but it takes experience, self reflection and sometimes the better part of a lifetime to figure out what it takes to be a professional. It is likely that during the course of a career you will have the opportunity to identify that for yourself. It will be both painful and rewarding and in the end it will be part of the legacy



of our profession which is rich with history and tradition.

My name is Oscar and I come from a long line of land surveyors. If you look up my last name on the roll, you got it, they are all related to me. I'm one of those surveyors that can't tell you when my first day on the job

was. I honestly don't remember; I just grew up surveying. I have pictures of myself as a kid playing with plumb-bobs and lenker rods. I probably went out on a survey crew before going on my first date. (This bit of insight has made things very clear for my wife of 24 years). Becoming licensed was never really in question, so I did back in 1994. Even when I eventually developed other interests, surveying was always going to be part of it.

Over the years I have served in the Marine Corps, learned to fly, and got a few certificates in software and database development. Actually, I got very good as a software developer and that coupled with my land surveying experience in 2002 led to a position as the GIS program manager for major department in state government.

All seemed well. I got to throw the weight of my license around at GIS conferences throughout the country and the operations of my unit were improving, largely

because of the land surveying experience that I brought to the table. (I actually knew the difference between accuracy and precision). Even other areas of GIS such as software development, project management, and enterprise architecture seem to be getting a lot of recognition from the IT, data management and business communities.

At this point I had a lot of experience in land surveying but I did not realize that I was about to be tested on what it takes to be a professional.

You see in 2002 when I took the job as a GIS manager I had accepted a civil service classification that did not require a license. No big deal, I was licensed, the pay was comparable, and although most of the work I was supervising was technically land surveying, I had plenty of time to recruit the right skills and

Continued from page 6

eventually deal with the civil service classification issue.

As it turns out my time ran out. The union for engineers and land surveyors negotiated substantial pay increases for the surveyors. I was very excited but it set the stage for my dispute with the civil service bureaucracy. There were many factors but in the end it came down to my authority as a licensed land surveyor. I developed arguments to reclassify my and other positions that were doing land surveying work but soon my requests were denied and I was told that I could no longer use my license to perform or supervise GIS work. I pointed to the land surveyor's act and requested legal opinion. Again, I was denied and personnel determined that GIS was more accurate than CADD but was not land surveying (I don't know what that means either). I found myself at odds with my supervisor, personnel, lawyers, GIS professionals and even other surveyors. I felt alone and pressured to accept the interpretation of others. The political pressure grew from what seemed all sides and I kept asking myself what was it that I believed to be the right thing to do for the people that I serve, my staff,



myself, and the industries that I represent? What was I willing to stand for?

The answer didn't come quickly or easily but eventually I stopped trying to manage the situation and became clear on what it meant to be a professional. I realized that my opinion as a professional was backed by the authority vested in me by my license, the hard work put into achieving the title of PLS, and the legacy of an honorable profession.

The turning point wasn't the epiphany but the decision to find support; to talk to others and share my experiences. I found support and it came from other surveyors and a community that I grown distant from. The rugged individualism of Land Surveyors tempered by wisdom that no man is an island.

I have heard it said before that many will try for a license and some will achieve it but fewer still will become professionals. I testify this to be true.

The outcome of my situation is still undetermined, but this journey to be a Professional Land Surveyor seems more

meaningful. I seem to take notice those three letters after my name more often now and I thank those individuals that continue to support my journey.

*Oscar Jarquin, PLS
Chief of the Office of GIS,
Department of Transportation,
California*



No More Excuses

Men don't like to wear [sunscreen](#). They complain that it feels weird, or makes them smell like a girl or a pina colada. But with skin cancer reaching epidemic proportions in men, it's time to tackle those complaints head on:

Complaint: *"They smell flowery and feminine."*

Answer: Look for unscented formulations. They are just as effective without the scent.

Complaint: *"The oily base makes my skin feel greasy."*

Answer: Water or alcohol-based lotions, creams, gels and sprays actually outnumber oil-based products. Try different types and brands to find out what feels right for you.

Complaint: *"They make my hands slippery, which ruins my tennis game."*

Answer: Try a sport sunscreen. They're designed to absorb quickly, without leaving a greasy or sticky residue.

Complaint: *"When I sweat, the stuff runs into my eyes and stings."*

Answer: Use a stick sunscreen on your forehead and around your eyes. It's easy to apply and stays put even when you sweat or swim. Never put sunscreen directly on the eye area. Protect the skin around your eyes with sunglasses instead.



Sunburn

If despite your best efforts you come home with a burn, taking certain steps can lessen the impact. First, do what you can to relieve the discomfort. "Sunburn literally cooks the protein

in the skin," says Zoe Draelos, MD, clinical associate professor of dermatology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

If your skin begins to peel afterwards —a

natural part of the healing process—use a non-greasy moisturizer to soothe the area. Do not cover up the peeling section with a self-tanning lotion, says Dr. Draelos, "because it will stick to the peeling skin and make it look worse."

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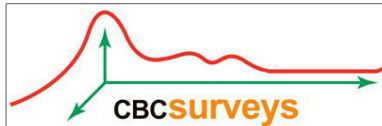
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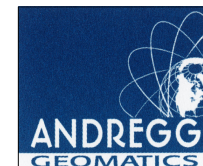


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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. 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.

sac-surveyors.org

Oregon and GPS by Rob McMillan

The Oregon GPS User Group meeting was held Friday, June 20th, 2008 in Bend OR. The meeting was well attended, professionally administered, and featured great topics of interest to Land Surveyors and GIS folks alike. The typical welcome, introductions, and usual group business, were followed by a series of informative presentations. Mike Lisowski, of USGS – Cascade Volcanoes Observatory gave a presentation on GPS monitoring of the 2004-2008 eruptions of Mt. St. Helens with additional information on the Three Sisters peaks. Dr. Douglas Johnson, OSU Department of Rangeland Ecology & Management followed with 2 amusing and interesting presentations. The first was on GPS tracking of animals (cattle, elk, and goats) and the second was on monitoring vegetation using GPS positioned photography. GIS Specialists Aaron Dick, USFS/BLM, and Allison Mead, BLM, shared information on the use

of GPS to locate and transfer fire information quickly, combined with GIS mapping in tactical incident fire support, and regional strategic decision making an insightful presentation on emergency response.

A tasty bar-b-q lunch of hamburgers or veggie burgers, various salads, chips, and soft drinks was provided for meeting attendees free of charge followed by additional presentations.

Laura Levy, a GPS/GIS Consultant formerly with Winnemucca BLM Office, gave an interesting presentation describing the use of GPS and GIS to monitor and regulate the annual Burning Man Event held in Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Burning Man is the largest permitted event on public lands in the US. For the week that the event is on, Burning Man City as it is called has a

greater population than all but 5 of Nevada's counties. Rudy Persaud, Federal Highway Administration, discussed the funding status of the National Differential GPS (NDGPS) system and LCDR Jacob Ramos, NDGPS Hardware Installation Manager, USCG, updated us on the operational and expansion status of the NDGPS. Ron Singh, ODOT Geometronics Manager/Chief of Surveys made the final presentation on the Oregon State Plane Coordinate System. The OR SPC uses two zones, except for the GIS community which has adopted a single zone system. The idea of changing to Low Distortion Projection (LDP) models was discussed, as an alternative to SPC, and an interim step towards geodetic XYZ coordinates. Currently, existing software limits our ability to use geodetic XYZ.

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