

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

Focal point Focal point



MARCH 2009

MARCH 2009

National Surveyors Week

March 15 through 21, 2009

Our friends at ASCM have used their lobby efforts, the House and Senate have passed resolutions acknowledging National Surveyors Week. They have sent a letter to President Obama asking for a

proclamation.

Thinking you might want to do something as recognition, check out this website:

[http://
www.nspsmo.org/
news_events/
nat_sur_week.shtml](http://www.nspsmo.org/news_events/nat_sur_week.shtml)

Check out the article

inside about members of our chapter supporting Engineers Week in connection with our local ASCE chapter.

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Old Spaghetti Factory
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(916) 443-2862

March Meeting

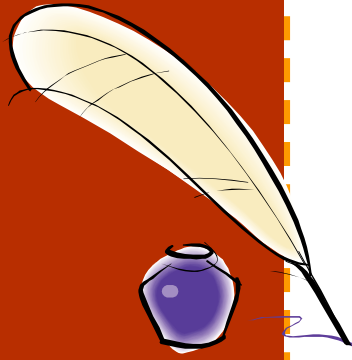
Mount Diablo Historical Society

Thursday, March 5th

Drinks at 5:00

Dinner at 6:00

See details on the website!



Have you signed on the line?

Have you taken the opportunity to sign up and become a member of our Chapter? Just in case you thought we would not miss you, we actually do.

Don't stop there!
Join the state CLSA also!

Our representation at

the CLSA board depends on how many corporate members of the State Association also belong to our Chapter.

The more representatives we have at the Board the better opportunities we have to get those

things that are important to us put forward with the best voice.

If you wish to renew your membership for 2009, sign on the line of the form on page 13 of this document or visit the Chapter website to use PayPal.

Pictures from CLSA Board



Marc, Bill, Matt and Rob



Pat Tami & Matt Vernon

Local Boy Does Well!!!

It is our very own Jeremy Scott Dean! At our last meeting Mr. LSIT 7682 received the Dave Goodman Scholarship by presentation from Steve Martin. We could not be more proud of our favorite webgeek! But we could not help by wonder what he has been doing with his spare time besides editing the webpage from his i-phone.

He is signed up for NCSJAC apprenticeship program and on the list.



Jeremy, Dave, and Steve As part of his

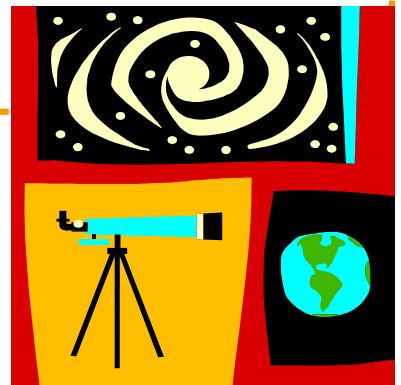
He works part-time with our president Clayton. He runs the gun, AutoCAD, and does research.

Sacramento City College education that he earned the scholarship for, he has taken *Elementary and Advanced Surveying, Boundary Control and Legal Principles*. He is Currently taking

Photogrammetry and Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location. All of this in pursuit of the SCC AS degree. (PS. He might have taken a programming class or two.)

The rest of his world includes his wife, Ursula, 6 year old boy Marcello (like Mastriani), and 2 year old girl Giulietta (like Massina).

Thanks for all that you do for the Chapter and we could not think of better use of the Dave Goodman scholarship.



Trig ★ Star

The opportunity to share your professions with the next generation of surveyors is here.

TrigStar is a once-a-year chance to gain access to high school students with an aptitude for our work

and we get to reward them for their accurate and fast calculations.

If you are thinking you don't have anything to say, you are mistaken. In these economic times, parents and students are

looking for a career with a reasonable chance

of providing the opportunity for a good future.

If interested in participating in classroom presentations, proctoring the exam, or other activities, contact trigstar@sac-surveyors.org.

Super Saturday and Sunday at School

On Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22, the following instructors met in Orange County:

Jerry Miller - Santa Rosa Jr. College, Greg Sebourn - Santiago Canyon College, Regina Blasberg - College of the Canyons, and Ed Zimmerman -

Sac City. (Missing John Yu, Evergreen Valley College.) The purpose of the meeting was to create an articulation template for high schools wanting to teach a surveying component and

having their students move into the Comm. College programs with advance placement and/or college credit. This is all done through the Statewide Career Pathways organization:

www.statewidepathways.org

As a result of our meeting (only lacking Dr. John Yu - Evergreen Valley College) we have decide to form an interest group of sorts to assist other surveying types to start, resurrect, or restructure a surveying program at local comm. colleges. We also thought this would be a great opportunity to work together to standardize the curriculum and programs, support each other in the endeavors, provide leadership to other community colleges following along, promote the community college system and programs.


We would like to be a fixture at the state conferences, with breakout sessions, student

sessions, Q/A, a more prominent participation in scholarship monies, and possibly on-line, web/pod cast courses.

Very exciting time. Lots of energy and ideas. Now it's off to work to bring these ideas and goals to fruition. You could check with the others if you'd like their feed back too!

Jerry Miller, P.L.S.
 Program Coordinator/
 Instructor
 Civil Engineering,
 Surveying & Geospatial
 Technology
 Applied Technology Dept.,
 Santa Rosa Junior College

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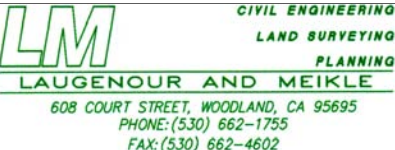


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DONATION REQUEST

Equipment Donation Request Letter

Cuyamaca College, El Cajon, CA

To Whom it may concern,

I am an instructor for the Land Surveying classes at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon CA. At this point in our class, I am finding that progress and project results would greatly be benefited by some survey equipment of this generation. We do have 3 newer instruments but like to expand our current collection to aide our students. We currently have 40 students and find the need for more equipment. We are looking for total stations, glass, tripods, Gps equipment, two way radios and data collectors.

I recognize that your company is dedicated to enhancing the quality and content of people's lives in your community. Your consideration of this request would exemplify this philosophy, and demonstrate too many potential customers that you are supportive of sharing the inherent dignity of your community.

I assure you that any donation will help enhance this profession and help our college obtain our objective in educating students to an acceptable level that is required of the profession.

Thank You for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John R. Butcher RLS, PLS
619-980-8406
Survey 218, 240 Instructor

Please address response to:

<http://www.gcccd.net/formsdepot/templates/DO1.F1.Request.for.Acceptance.of.Donation.form.dot>

Cuyamaca College campus:

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=115462941343600496477.000447db3518a949cbf3b&t=h&ll=32.744114,->

Class in session



Sacramento Chapter's condolences go to the family of long time Northern Counties Chapter member Thiel Lippincott, PLS 2780, who passed away February 10, 2009. Memorial services were held in Paradise on February 21, 2009, at the United Methodist Church. Thiel was born in Corning, Iowa on August 14, 1920. He was married to Jean Hartman on February 17, 1940. Jean preceded him in death on March 27, 1996, after 56 years of marriage. Thiel is survived by brothers Gerald of Spokane, WA and Glen Dean of Tulare, CA; his son, Gary Lippincott and wife Selma; his son, Terril Lippincott all of Paradise; his daughter Lynn Peters and husband Ray of Toledo, WA. Thiel is also survived by nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Thiel and Jean discovered Paradise in 1942 and finally settled there in 1945 when he went to work for a local civil engineer. Moving away in 1950, Thiel worked as a surveyor for several surveying firms around Bakersfield, CA. He also worked on the construction of the Rocky Reach Dam in WA. Always remembering Paradise, Thiel moved his family back to Paradise in June 1960 and founded Lippincott Surveying. Until his retirement in 1983, he also worked as a surveyor on several other notable projects such as the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, the Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation Project tunnels, and the Oroville Dam powerhouse.

Thiel's son Gary is also a longtime Northern Counties Chapter member, former CLSA President, and former Yuba County Surveyor. Gary's message to the Northern Counties Chapter follows:

February 23, 2009

Northern Counties Chapter – CLSA

Dear Fellow Members:

I want to thank you on behalf of myself, my sister Lynn and brother Terril, for the beautiful flower arrangement and card that you sent in memory of my dad, Thiel Lippincott, PLS 2780, who passed away on February 10, 2009. It meant a lot during a time of need for my family.

My dad was an active member in the Chapter from 1968 until his retirement in 1983.

Sincerely,
Gary T. Lippincott, PLS 3634



ELECTRICAL



STRUCTURAL



CIVIL



Here we are at Engineer's Week



**ENGINEERS
WEEK® 2009**
FEBRUARY 15-21

54 volunteers leading hands on activities and over 800 attendees. Engineers Day was a collaborative effort between several engineering and land surveyor organizations -

PECG, ASCE, SEAOC, Land Surveyors, IEEE, ASME, SWE, SHPE, CSUS, UCD, City of Sacramento, and the Folsom GATOROBYTES, who will represent California and the

US in the Lego League Robotics international championships <http://gatorobytes.googlepages.com> .

Thank you again!

GATORS



GROUP



GUMDROP STRUCTURE

Minutes of the February

CALIFORNIA
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CALL for APPLICATIONS

California Surveying & Drafting Supply (CSDS) is pleased to announce the availability of **1 million dollars** worth of used Trimble 4700 systems to be donated to qualifying California non-profit entities, colleges, universities, city, county and state agencies meeting pre-defined criteria.

These systems originally sold new for over \$50,000 and are in good working order.

This equipment is being offered to provide high-accuracy GPS capabilities to organizations that would not otherwise have the resources to purchase this technology.

To request an application, please email:

marketing@csdsinc.com

Applications must be received by April 30, 2009

Call to order by President Clayton and introductions around the room

Jeremy Dean received Dave Goodman scholarship presented by Steve Martin.

CLSA Central Office is looking for a list of County Surveyors and their professional licensure

Chuck K. has a new seminar "When is a fence is a fence?"

Bill Telling and Rob McMillan are putting together a list of seminars for the summer.

A request for assistance for Engineer's Day at the Mall-booth at Sunrise with PECG and other Engineering Associations.

VP Oscar said next month meeting will be the Old Spaghetti Factory.

Treasurer Nick will send a report to Annette. Nick purchased projector for use during the meetings and seminars.

Board Reps Bill and Rob are preparing for the meeting next Saturday.

Workshop- Bill Telling is putting together a list of seminars for presentation for 2009-2010.

Calibration baseline- Stan- approval of our site; looking for a donation of labor. We hope to use the south canal.

TrigStar-Rob- want to centralize and possibly use to promote as a way to also promote Sac City classes; talk to the parents about the profession and college selection. If interested, email trigstar@sac-surveyors.com.

Kennedy High School program is looking for the ability to put together a surveying class. They have a Trimble donated instrument. Rob will work with Community College Professors from around the state to develop curriculum.

Board Report-Pat Tami- Cindy Christensen resigned and a new executive officer will be sought.

Discussion about a BBQ for one of the chapter meetings.

Bruce G. from CSDS will donate covered the cost for the baseline.

SACRAMENTO-CLSA WORKSHOP COURSE SURVEY

We need your help!

In keeping with the Sacramento Chapter’s commitment to education in the field of land surveying and related fields, please take a few minutes to complete the following questionnaire.

Job Title: _____

LICENSES (Check all that apply) Licensed Land Surveyor LSIT R.C.E. Other _____

EMPLOYMENT: Private Agency Student Other

(OPTIONAL) Name: _____

(OPTIONAL) e-mail address: _____

To assist us in planning future workshops & seminars, please indicate subjects of interest to you. (Rate 1 through 5 as to importance; 5 being the most important.)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALTA Surveys | <input type="checkbox"/> AutoCad for Surveyors | <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Photogrammetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boundary Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Management | <input type="checkbox"/> California Coordinate Sys. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics | <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence & Procedures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geodetic Survey Principles | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS work/principles | <input type="checkbox"/> G.P.S. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Descriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Principles | <input type="checkbox"/> []Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Research | <input type="checkbox"/> LSIT Review | <input type="checkbox"/> []Preliminary/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LS Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Sectionalized Land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision Map Act | <input type="checkbox"/> Surveyor in Court | <input type="checkbox"/> Surveyors Liability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Boundaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Surveyors Act | <input type="checkbox"/> Elevation Certificates (FEMA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestrial Laser Scanning | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | |

Don’t let advancements in technology and changing laws take you by surprise!

Thank you for your time and input.

Please return to: Sacramento CLSA
P.O. Box 162786
Sacramento, CA 95816-2786

Or

Email to Workshop@sac-surveyor.org

CLSA CONFERENCE 2009

March 28 - April 1

**EARLY
REGISTRATION
IS EXTENDED
TO MARCH 9TH!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Featured Speakers Include:

- Mike Durkee, Esq.
- Gary Kent, PLS
- Dennis Moulard, PLS
- Steve Parrish, PLS
- "GIS Janet" & "Surveyor Randy"
from Professional Surveyor
Magazine (Janet Jackson, GISP
& Randy Rambeau, PLS)

Program to Include:

- Workshops
- Technical Sessions
- LSIT Review Course
- LS Review Course
- CST Exam
- Mock Trial

**Hilton San Diego Resort
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Hotel Information:
Hilton San Diego Resort
Reservations: (800) 445-8687
Cut-Off Date: February 25th
Room Rate: \$159
Group Code: CLSA



Registration Information Available in January.
Please visit www.californiasurveyors.org for updated information.

Signed on the line?

2008 SACRAMENTO CHAPTER CLSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Company: _____

Business Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

LS Number: _____ Fax #: _____

Personal E-Mail Address: _____ Work E-Mail Address: _____
(E-mail address required to receive Focal Point)

Preferred Mailing Address: Home Business

Preferred E-Mail Address: Home Business

- CORPORATE MEMBER** – Annual Dues: \$40.00
Any person with a valid California Land Surveyor or Photogrammetry License
- ASSOCIATE MEMBER** – Annual Dues: \$20.00
Any person who holds a valid certificate as a Land Surveyor-In-Training
- AFFILIATE MEMBER** – Annual Dues: \$20.00
Any person who, in their profession, relies upon the fundamentals of Land Surveying
- STUDENT MEMBER** – Annual Dues: \$5.00
A college or university student actively pursuing the study of Land Surveying

Employment Status: Private Public Student Retired Other

Are you a member of the Statewide CLSA? Yes No
If yes, what type? Corporate Associate Affiliate Student Sustaining Life

Please indicate the activity you would most like to participate in:
 Barbeque Picnic/Survey Olympics Sports Night Discussion Forum Seminar

Please indicate the type of program or topics you would like to see most at the meetings:
 CLSA Information Technical Business Legal Local Agencies Other

Please share your views on activities you would like to see this chapter be involved with (seminars/outreach, etc.), or things you would like to change (meeting time/place, etc.).

I am including a donation of \$ _____ for the Scholarship Fund. Make checks payable to SAC CLSA
Bring completed application to the next meeting, or mail to:

CLSA – SAC
P.O. Box 162786
Sacramento, CA 95816-2786

Buried in the Sand by: William J Wilson, PLS

Imagine if you would... it is morning, you are a survey monument in a vast desert, nothing but sand in all directions. You look to the south and all you can see is a straight line of footsteps coming towards you from the corner, which the crew that placed you had occupied previously. You now look north; the direction the crew had left just a short time before, additional tracks leading away, just as straight and true as the ones leading up to you. As you sit there, during the following years, you notice the blowing wind has obscured the footsteps but they are still noticeable in the sand.

After a while, another survey crew comes along from the east; they locate you all the while trampling and kicking the sand all around you, then move off again in the direction from which they came. The wind blows some more, the tracks of the survey crew that set you are further obscured, the closer ones are all but lost in the confusion of the second crew.

Decades pass, the wind continues to blow, you hear a noise, far off in the distance, but it seems to be getting closer. Soon

another survey crew comes over the ridge to the south on quad-runners somewhat following the tracks of your creators, zigzagging along throwing sand everywhere. They come to a stop near you throwing sand up against you, almost burying you; they locate you and move off to the west.

Scanning the horizon you see, a prominent set of tire tracks, coming towards you from the south, and leaving again to the west. A slightly obscured set of tracks to the east, and your creators tracks are almost buried in the sand to the north. Soon the wind has finished covering you and you are lost from sight, but you can hear commotion and goings on near you, they come and go for many years.

Suddenly a loud screaming awakes you, then a shovel hits you, someone is digging you up. Soon you are standing tall and proud above the sand again, as you look around, you are dismayed at the sight. Where once you were the lone monument standing in this sea of sand, you find you have several

new neighbors, none of which stand with as much pride and self-assurance as yourself.

As your savior moves off, you notice this surveyor is not like the others you had seen early on, before you were lost to the eyes of all those that had visited your location after you were buried. This survey party is taking their time as they moved off to the north, checking every little divot in the sand. It is now that you realize your originators footsteps are all but gone. However, these new ones, these surveyors that resurrected you from your sandy tomb, are taking their time to find those tracks that could not be seen readily, furthermore they are taking the time to make sure they leave clear permanent tracks behind them.

A new scan of the horizon reveals a multitude of tracks crisscrossing the sand, some leading to your new neighbors, some leading to new monuments further away. On top of all this mess of jumbled tracks, you notice with pride that the new ones, the ones left by those that recovered you, that had found you, where others

Buried in the Sand...continued

had failed to even bother to look for you while setting these new, pathetic excuses of replacements for you. Those new tracks were hardening, and the wind just blew across them the sand never seeming to cover them at all. You now know you will never be lost, or obliterated again.

An Allegory: *the expression by means of symbolic fictional figures and actions of truths or generalizations about human existence; also: an instance (as in a story or painting) of such expression (Webster's online Dictionary).* Wherein the sand represents (some may think time, but no,) Records keeping (refer back to the Title). The wind is neglect, neglect on the part of Surveyors, Recorder's, Title Companies, and Landowners. Time, is represented by... well, time. So what is the monument we all pretended to be...? A corner (we are all surveyors so we all know the difference between a corner and a monument right?). The surveyors in the story, well they are surveyors, some better than others, some worse. The Quad-Runners are technology, those great new tools we have allowed to control how we survey. Finally, what do the footsteps represent...? Exactly what they sound like... footsteps of the original, and all the subsequent Surveyors, documents: notes, maps, deeds, etc., which make up the records

of each surveyor that visits a corner.

So how is it that we can demand future surveyors to "Follow in the footsteps of the original surveyors" when we the current surveyors don't take the time to perpetuate those footsteps? In addition, we do not take the time to even explain or show these junior surveyors what "Original Footsteps" look like, how they were made, how to find them, or let alone how to follow in them?

Technology is probably the biggest threat to the concept of following in original footsteps. Like the Quad-Runner in the story, often today we see our technological advancements as a way to get the job done faster. Plowing over the original footsteps, obscuring and burying them from future surveyors, and worse yet, when we take junior surveyors along for a ride on our technology, we deny them the chance to learn how to look for and identify original footsteps. I am not saying to dismiss technology altogether, just sometimes we need to slow down to get in those footsteps ourselves and show our protégés how our predecessors did their work, so they will know how to follow in the footsteps. I have heard since before I sat for the Surveyors Exam, the question of: "there probably won't be a question about _____, (fill in the blank: chaining, solar observations, etc...) on the exam so why do I need to learn about it?"

How many of us have taken astrological observations in order to obtain an original bearing base? Yet there are deeds and maps out there that reference such. How many have pulled a chain, or more importantly calculated the expansion or contraction of a steel chain (tape) based on the temperature, or used a log table? Now for those of us that have, how many have taken the time to teach or at least explain these procedures to an underling? We all need to remember EDM's, GPS, COGO software, and CADD, (to name a few) are all relatively new in the history of surveying (within the last forty years, and in a constant state of flux during that time). Now, how often do we pull out a deed or map from the 1940's or '50s (or older) to do a retracement survey of a property, and throw all our new technology at the problem, never getting in the "original footsteps" or even bothering to show or tell a subordinate how the original survey was done?

Following footsteps is a duty we are all obligated to. However, we must remember an equally important responsibility in surveying is leaving footsteps for our posterity to follow and teaching them how our predecessors' and our own footsteps were created, to facilitate the method, which future surveyors will need, to do their surveys.

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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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