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THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~

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Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, serving Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico

President's Message

GIS in the Rockies

It was great to see so many Rocky Mountain Region members at the 2002 **GIS in the Rockies** Conference this year. The conference was another great success this year. I would like to recognize and thank **Jim Jensen** and **Jaymes Pardue** for their hard work and dedication. **Jim** and **Jaymes** are our Rocky Mountain Board members responsible for ASPRS's portion of GIS in the Rockies. Successful conferences do not happen by themselves, they happen because the people behind the scenes work hard. Great job **Jim** and **Jaymes**, and thanks again!

Pecora 15

Pecora 15 came to the Rocky Mountain Region in November. Pecora 15/Land Satellite Information IV combined with ISPRS Commission I, along with the Remote Sensing for Transportation Conference and the symposium on Future Intelligent Earth Observing Satellites. This fusion of technical information on the Front Range of Colorado made this a special remote sensing meeting.

This conference is named in part for **William T. Pecora**, who was the former Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, and Department of the Interior Under Secretary. **Dr. Pecora** was a pioneer in the establishment of a civil program for the remote sensing of the Earth from space.

His motivating force and vision helped establish what we now know as the Landsat program. The **William T. Pecora Award**, established in 1974, is presented annually by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to recognize outstanding remote sensing contributions by individuals or groups in the name of Earth science.

Pecora was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado. (This is the same venue as the 2004 ASPRS Spring Conference.) This was an outstanding conference with many valuable technical sessions and workshops. The technical sessions included information on disasters and hazards, environment, law and policy, transportation as well as many other important topics. The workshops included digital aerial imaging, LIDAR integration, image acquisition technologies, ASPRS certification, orthophotos, hyper spectral processing and image classification.

Inside This Issue

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 3 | Scholarship Announcement |
| 3 | Rio Grande Chapter News |
| 4 | Welcome New Members |
| 5 | 2002 Officers - Updated |
| 6 | GIS in the Rockies 2002 |
-

Rocky Mountain Region Bylaws

Recently we sent an email to our entire Rocky Mountain Region membership, asking you to vote on some needed changes and updates to our bylaws. I realize this is a subject that most of us could really care less about, or would simply rather not even think about. The primary reason for making changes had to do with our tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. So ironically, the IRS would seem to care more about our bylaws than our own members. Such is the nature of the IRS, ASPRS, and life itself.

Due to recent changes in Internal Revenue Service regulations regarding the tax-exempt status for non-profit organizations, such as ASPRS, we have been asked by ASPRS national headquarters to amend our RMR bylaws. This amendment is required for the Rocky Mountain Region to be included under the umbrella of ASPRS's tax-exempt status.

I would like to thank everyone who responded via the email vote, it was unanimous in favor of updating the bylaws. Our bylaws as they currently are written, require a two-thirds majority to make changes. Unfortunately, while the response was unanimous in favor of the changes, we fell far short of the two-thirds majority required. This requirement has placed our region between the proverbial rock and a hard place. On the one hand, the response we had clearly indicated our membership supported the change. On the other hand, we realize that generating a vote of two-thirds of our membership is not realistic.

In light of all these circumstances, the Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors has voted unanimously to accept the changes in the bylaws. This will insure our tax-exempt status and allow us to better use our financial resources towards scholarships, sponsoring GIS in the Rockies, and supporting regional and student chapters.

This was a bold measure taken by our board of directors, however we honestly believe we acted in the best interest of our Society. I realize that everyone may not feel the same and we respect that. So I am asking everyone in the Rocky Mountain Region to once again review the bylaw changes, and if you absolutely cannot live with the changes, please contact a board member and we will re-address the issue before this term is out. If you agree with the changes I would like to thank you for your support and understanding.

As a footnote to the bylaw issue, if you have recently moved, or changed email addresses, please be sure to update your contact information. You may do so at www.asprs.org.

Licensing

One of the hot topics facing our industry today is the issue of licensing. To date there has not been much activity with this issue in the Rocky Mountain Region. However, in other regions, especially in the east, licensure is at the very forefront. Licensure tends to be a state-by-state issue. At stake are the tasks professionals in photogrammetry, remote sensing, GIS, and other geomatics fields will be allowed to perform. Who will set the standards, and who will administer the licensing?

Currently states require that a land surveyor be registered before being allowed to perform legal surveys. This has long been an accepted and established practice in our country and is not in question. For photogrammetry things are not as clear. Some states require that photogrammetric surveys be done under the supervision, or be signed-off by, a registered land surveyor. Other states have no such requirement. In the case of LIDAR, some states also require that a registered land surveyor sign-off on data acquired from a LIDAR system. For remote sensing and GIS professionals there are typically no restrictions.

Yet there is a movement to require people involved in these activities to be licensed. This is especially true when these activities pertain to land base mapping.

Clearly, there is a lack of uniform standards for licensure in our industry, and this issue must be addressed with great care and wisdom. We must find the balance that ensures the integrity of our land based feature and elevation data, yet does not strangle our industry in a sea of red tape. For example, I do not believe we need to hold GIS/GPS users, who collect location data for features in the field with GPS receivers, to the same standards as someone doing a legal boundary survey. I also do not believe we should require people who perform tasks such as road centerline generation and attribution to be licensed. These examples may seem extreme, but there have been licensing proposals in states in other regions that would have made this a reality. Fortunately none of these proposals have come to fruition, thanks in part to the efforts of ASPRS.

If any of you are aware of new licensing proposals for Montana, Wyoming, Colorado or New Mexico, that will adversely affect our industry, **please** bring it to our attention. These are important issues that must be addressed with integrity and fairness. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Till next time,
John L. Parker, President ASPRS-RMR

ASPRS 2004 – Denver, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain Region has begun planning for the 2004 Annual Conference. This conference will be held in Denver in May, 2004, and represents a significant effort on the part of ASPRS and the Rocky Mountain Region. We have begun forming our conference planning committee, and are soliciting ideas for themes and technical tracks. **Dr. Roger Hoffer** has agreed to help with the Technical Program, and we have initiated a contest to develop a logo for the conference! If you have ideas or a little time to help in planning this important event, please contact the RMR National Director **Allen Cook**, allen.cook@trw.com or 720-963-6941. Please see the Region webpage for more information.

ASPRS-RMR Scholarships Being Awarded

The Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS is pleased to once again offer \$1500 in scholarship awards this calendar year. Quality applications were received (by the Dec. 3rd deadline) from numerous educational institutions across all 4 of our Rocky Mountain States and are currently being reviewed with awards planned to be announced by early January. Winners will be contacted individually and besides benefiting from a little extra cash, they will be invited to be guests of honor at our ASPRS Holiday event!

The academic scholarships were designed for students exhibiting academic excellence in photogrammetry, remote sensing and/or GIS. The scholarships are being offered to support academic research in the geo-technologies as well as to aid in travel costs in order to encourage student participation in ASPRS activities. The monetary awards can be used to offset any costs the students may have incurred while pursuing their college degrees, whether it be for data, fieldwork, or to help pay for travel to attend any ASPRS-sponsored convention (like Anchorage in 2003!). Towards this goal the ASPRS-RMR is awarding a scholarship to both an undergraduate as well as graduate student, worth \$750 each.

The scholarships were offered to both undergraduate and graduate students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS (MT, WY, CO, and NM), who are pursuing careers in the fields of **Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**, or related disciplines. Students at any third-level educational institution within the four-state region were also eligible for the scholarship awards.

If you are an Instructor in any Scientific Program that offers geo-technology courses within the

RMR and did not see the scholarship announcement this past fall, please contact me at your soonest convenience so that I can update mailing database to make sure you will be added to mailing list for next years announcement.

If you are a student who missed out on this opportunity, contact your advisor/instructor and insist they contact me to be added to next year's mailing.

Scott A. Bennett
Vice-President, ASPRS-RMR (Head of Scholarship Committee)
Tel: 303-215-1700
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Rio Grande Chapter News

NMGIC Fall 2002 Meeting

The ASPRS Rio Grande Chapter again participated with the New Mexico Geographic Information Council in their fall meeting "Vision of GIT Education in New Mexico". Held Friday, November 22, this meeting gathered two and four year educators from all over New Mexico to discuss and learn about the needs of employers, service providers and municipal administrators. ASPRS-RGC sponsored a presentation by **Dr. Michael DeMers**, NMSU Geography Department Head and Task Force member of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science.

Later in the day, **Bruce Joffe** of URISA talked about the latest recommendations on the NCEES Model Law, its implementation and its impact on licensure requirements for GIS and Photogrammetry professionals across the country.

SouthWest Users Group (SWUG) Meeting

The ASPRS Rio Grande Chapter and Rocky Mountain Region recently teamed up to sponsor ESRI's SouthWest Users Group. Held in Taos, NM, this event drew over 300 people from all over the southwestern US. SWUG members come from a variety of Geographic Information Technology fields in both public and private industry.

Rio Grande Chapter Election: Nominations Due 16 January 2003

The Rio Grande Chapter is starting the process to elect a new Board of Directors for Spring 2003. Nominations for new board members can be sent directly to **Chandra Bales** (chandra@unm.edu) from now until January 16, 2003. Please send Chandra

the nominee's name and a short bio. All active members are eligible, including students. The slate will be sent out on January 31. There will be one week to vote with an announcement of the new board by late February. We also hope to have on-line voting available at that time.

Technical Tours

Our chapter sponsored a technical tour to the Albuquerque Airport. The tour, arranged by Blue Skies Consulting, LLC, was Friday, December 6 from 2-5 pm at the Seven Bar Aviation Terminal

located on the General Aviation side of the Albuquerque International Airport. The event provided a very interesting look at several types of aircraft and sensors used for aerial photography and remote sensing. Attendees had a chance to interact with the aircraft, sensors, and people who collect data for the public and private sectors throughout the western US. In addition to conventional aerial film cameras, some of the newest technology was on display including LiDAR, digital cameras, and multi- and hyper-spectral sensors.

We are also recruiting additional sponsors for technical tours and site visits throughout the state. Please contact any of the board members (see below) if you would be interested in hosting a tour.

Rio Grande Chapter Membership

The chapter is growing! We now have 62 active members and would like to welcome the newest members:

Active: Max Bleiweiss, Dawn Browning, Chris Godlewski, Stephen Silver, Dr. Hongjie Xie

Student: Jennifer Hobbs

Rio Grande Chapter Board of Directors

President	Layton A. Hobbs lhobbs@bhinc.com
Vice President	Janet C. Greenlee janetg@crl.nmsu.edu
Treasurer	Ralph James Campbell rcampbell@seo.state.nm.us
Secretary	Chandra L. Bales chandra@unm.edu
Director	Theresa R. Kuntz tkuntz@unm.edu
Director	William Clay Mathers clay.mathers@usace.army.mil
Director	Chadwick B. Poole cpoole@enerquest.com
Director	Michael R. Racine mike@blueskiesconsulting.com
Director	Steven Scharf sscharf@enerquest.com

Certification Program Expanded

To provide recognition of experienced photogrammetric and remote sensing technicians and a developmental track to becoming professionally certified, ASPRS is expanding the Certification Program to include Photogrammetric Technologist and Remote Sensing Technologist. The Professional Practice Division, through the Written Examination Program Committee, has developed the requirements, procedures, and examinations for this program.

The program requires a peer review of the applicant's experience, and following approval, a written (2-hour) examination is administered. The exam covers basic mathematics, science, and specialty-specific questions that apply to technical performance in each category. The examinations will be conducted twice yearly at the ASPRS Annual Spring and Fall meetings. Administration of the program is the responsibility of the Evaluation for Certification ASPRS Standing Committee.

For further information, contact **Sky Chamard**, skyc@efn.org or **Mike Renslow**, mike@sbgmaps.com.

Membership Reminder

Is your membership up for renewal ?

Renew on line – Just log on to the ASPRS website; select the e-serve button, then log on with your current ID and password. All transactions are encrypted to guarantee security of your credit card information. Save the cost of the stamp.

Welcome New Members!

Active Members:

Michael Lefsky	James Lutes
David T. Moody	Gregory S. Thurston
Hongjie Xie	Cody A Benkleman
Mark Hess	Karisa Vlask

Student Members:

Jennifer Hobbs	Rutherford V Platt
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**Be on the lookout!
Your ballot for
election of the
2003 Board of Directors
will be coming soon**

ASPRS - Rocky Mountain Region: 2002 Officers

This contact information is provided to make it easy for you to get involved

President	John Parker Leica Geosystems GIS and Mapping Division 61 Inverness Drive East, Suite 200 Englewood CO 80112 john.parker@gis.leica-geosystems.com	Work: 303-799-9453 Fax: 303-799-4809
Vice President	Scott Bennett ImageLinks, Inc. 1746 Cole Blvd, Suite 225 Golden CO 80401 sbennett@imagelinks.com	Work: 303-215-1700 Fax: 303-278-0092
Secretary	Steven Schmitz TRW 200 Union Blvd., Suite 100 Lakewood CO 80226 steven.schmitz@auc.trw.com	Work: 720-963-6913 Fax: 720-963-6950
Treasurer	Leanne Hanson Central Regional Office-USGS-BRD P.O. Box 25046, MS-300 Bldg. 20, RM A-1419 Denver CO 80225 leanne_hanson@usgs.gov	Work: 303-236-2730 ext. 275 Fax: 303-236-2733
National Director	Allen Cook TRW 200 Union Blvd., Suite 100 Lakewood CO 80226 acook@auc.trw.com	Work: 720-963-6941 Fax: 720-963-6950
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Jim Jensen Leica Geosystems Inc. 61 Inverness Drive East, Suite 200 Englewood CO 80112 jim.jensen@gis.leica-geosystems.com	Work: 303-799-9453 Fax: 303-799-4809
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Jaymes Pardue EMERGE 19124 W. 60 th Lane. Golden CO 80403 jgpardue@emergeweb.com	Work: 303-384-1925 Fax: 303-384-1926 Cell: 303-475-4874
Regional Director (Communications)	Richard A. Vincent, CP EnerQuest Systems LLC 1995 Broadway, Suite 3200 Denver CO 80202 rvincent@enerquest.com	Work: 303-298-9847 Fax: 303-292-9279
Regional Director (General)	Brian Soliday RMSI 4450 Arapahoe Ave. Suite 100 Boulder CO 80303 brians@rmsi.com	Work: 303-415-2089 Fax: 303-447-9000
Regional Director (At-Large)	Kurt DeVenecia Leica Geosystems GIS & Mapping Division 61 Inverness Drive East Suite 200 Englewood CO 80112 kurt.devenecia@gis.leica-geosystems.com	Work: 303-799-9453 Fax: 303-799-4809
Past President	Jeff Liedtke DigitalGlobe 1900 Pike Road Longmont CO 80501 jliedtke@digitalglobe.com	Work: 303-682-5983 Fax: 303-682-3848 Cell: 303-517-5054
Communications Coordinator (not on Board of Directors)	Sheila Pelczarski Denver Water 1600 West 12th Avenue Denver CO 80254 sgp@denverwater.org	Work: 303-628-6511 Fax: 303-628-6852

GIS in the Rockies 2002

The 15th Annual GIS in the Rockies was convened 8-10 October in Denver. It was jointly sponsored by five professional societies: ACSM, **ASPRS**, GITA, PLSC and URISA. Tuesday, attendees chose from 18 workshops, the largest number of workshops ever offered at GIS in the Rockies. A thought-provoking luncheon address titled "Mapping the Future: George Washington's or George Orwell's?" was presented by **Dr. Tina Cary**. Wednesday opened with the keynote address by **Karen Siderelis**, the Geographic Information Officer of USGS. She described the mission and activities of the Geographic Information Office, and its relationships to the Office of Homeland Security and the Federal Geographic Data Committee. After her keynote, **Ms. Siderelis** performed the ceremonial ribbon-cutting to

open the Exhibition, which had 75 booths this year. After the coffee break, five concurrent technical sessions convened. Track themes included Introduction to GIS; Emerging Technologies; GIS for Homeland Defense; Industry Applications and Development; and Engineering and Infrastructure. The evening social in the vendor area closed out the day's activities, and included drawings for 16 door prizes. Thursday the Exhibition was open again, and five more concurrent technical sessions met. The themes included Remote Sensing Technology; Resource Management; GIS from Start to Finish; Public Policy and Administration; and GPS and Surveying. Attendance was 632, down a little from the record of 675 set last year. Given the state of the economy and what attendance has been at other shows this year, the GIS in the Rockies Board of Directors considered this a very good turnout.

ASPRS-RMR
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