Geographic Information Systems Week in Colorado


2nd Annual GIS in the Rockies Job Fair at INVESCO Field at Mile High

The Job Fair is a two-day event:
Wednesday, 21 September
8:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M.–5:00 P.M.
Thursday, 22 September
8:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. and 1:30 P.M.–5:00 P.M.

JOB SEEKERS:
Bring plenty of your updated résumés to the Job Fair! There is no additional fee for conference attendees to attend the Job Fair. The names and website links of the companies that will be participating in the Job Fair will be posted at: http://www.gisintherockies.org/program/JobFair.htm.

Note: If you would like to attend the Job Fair and you are not a conference attendee, purchase an Expo/Job Fair-only pass online or by downloading a registration form (mail or fax the completed form). Or purchase a day pass at the registration desk for $25 that allows access to the exhibits area and the Job Fair-area only (no lunch will be provided).

If you have any questions concerning the Job Fair please contact:
Pamela Coonrod - Job Fair Coordinator
Tel: 303-428-3526 ext. 280
Fax: 303-428-9348
E mail: JobFair@GISintheRockies.org

GIS in the Rockies Workshops Provide In-Depth Learning

The Planning Committee for the 18th Annual GIS in the Rockies announces workshops covering a wide range of topics, such as addresses, datums, lidar,
open source, risk management, and specific software. Doug Ort, Program Chair, said, “By supplementing the regular 30-minute presentations with 90-minute, half-day and full-day workshops, we cover a range of topics at levels from introductory to advanced.” Karen Brandt, Chair, added, “The technologies related to mapping the Earth have been developing at an amazing pace. We are very pleased to offer our community of professionals so many opportunities to stay current in this dynamic field.”

Two pre-conference events—a user-group meeting and a workshop—are scheduled for Tuesday, 20 September. The Colorado GPS Users Group will meet from 1:00–3:00 P.M. The workshop, certified by URISA, is scheduled for 8:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M. The topic is “Addresses and IS/GIS Implementation: Key to GIS Success.” The instructor is Martha Lombard, Director of Consulting Services, Spatial Focus, Inc. Visit www.GISintheRockies.org for more information on both pre-conference events.

On Wednesday, 21 September, six workshops will be available to attendees:

- Geodetic Datums: Demystifying the Spatial Reference Frame, a 90-minute workshop presented by David Doyle, National Geodetic Survey.
- Concepts in Risk Management for Surveyors and Engineers, a half-day workshop presented by Joseph H. Jones, Jr., Esq., Vice President, Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc.
- How to Leverage Oracle’s Spatial Technologies, a 90-minute workshop presented by Daniel Geringer, Oracle.
- Linking Local Road Centerlines to CDOT’s Statewide Attribute Database, a 90-minute workshop presented by Paul Tessar, CDOT GIS Section.
- Data Processing and Mapping with Python: Open Source and Open Standards, a 90-minute workshop presented by Sean Gillies, Zcologia.
- Building Geospatial Information Solutions around Open Standards and the Services Oriented Architecture, a 90-minute workshop presented by Geoff Anderson, Cloudshadow Group.

On Thursday, 22 September, a half-day workshop, Enterprise Addressing Systems, will be presented by William S. Holland, CEO of GeoAnalytics, Inc.

About the Conference
The Conference will be 21–23 September 2005 at INVECO Field at Mile High in Denver, Colorado. Wednesday and Thursday will include technical sessions and the exhibition. The Wednesday luncheon speaker will be futurist Thomas Frey, founder of the DaVinci Institute. The evening social will feature Lannie Garrett presenting her hilarious Patsy DeCline show. The Thursday luncheon speaker, Jon Stigant from Devon Energy Corporation will discuss lessons learned in the field. Friday’s program includes a geocaching event in addition to the technical tours to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Schriever Air Force Base, and the US Geological Survey. The poster session includes prizes for top student entries. Online registration continues through Thursday, 15 September 2005.

The sponsoring societies are the Colorado Section of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), the Rocky Mountain Region of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS), GIS Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA), the Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado (PLSC) and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA). Media sponsors include GISuser.com, MAPuser.com, and GeoPlace.com.

For more information, visit the web site at www.GISintheRockies.org or contact Karen Brandt, Chair, at Chair@GISintheRockies.org.

News from the RMR Board of Directors
Our current Vice President Bryan McFadden is moving out of the area. At the June Board meeting, Jeff Young was nominated to become the standing Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR). Shawn Slade, who ran for office this year, will be fulfilling the Regional Director (General) position that Jeff will be vacating. These positions were approved by a unanimous vote by the Board. Please welcome our new Vice President and Regional Director!

President’s Message
Welcome back from your summer activities. Did you do everything that you wanted to get done this summer? The year is nearly over for this Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) Board, and we look back at what has been accomplished and what is still left to do. As a Board we also take time to reflect on who will replace open positions on the Board for next year.

What do you get out of your ASPRS Membership? Is it more than your copy of PE&RS or reduced
registration fees for a conference? If not, then you are most likely a member who continues to pay your yearly membership fees, but does not spend time helping make the RMR of ASPRS more successful. There is a small cadre of members who continue to dedicate a small (some much larger) amount of time to serve the society in some capacity. As I have mentioned in previous messages, less than 10% of our region membership dedicates some amount of time to help support the Society’s mission. It doesn’t take a lot of time or effort to help us make a difference. It could be as simple as helping out at an ASPRS booth for a couple of hours at a local/national conference. It could be as exciting as sitting on the Board of Directors! I challenge the RMR membership to help the Board continue our efforts as we expand our reach and build the best region within the Society. For those of you interested in getting more involved in the RMR activities, we are starting to gather names of individuals interested in participating on next year’s Board of Directors. If you have any interest, please feel free to send me an email at jpardue@vargis.com. As always, feel free to contact any of the RMR Board with any input/ideas at www.asprs-rmr.org/officers.html.

As a Board we have three key objectives as we finish the year. The first of our objectives is to sustain the level of growth of our membership in the Rocky Mountain Region. The past three years have been very successful for the region with double-digit percentage growth. This has occurred because of our ongoing effort to bring valuable services to our membership. Increased academic and corporate membership will be a goal for the rest of the year.

The second objective is the support and success of the local GIS in the Rockies Conference in Denver Colorado, 21–23 September. The RMR is a proud sponsor of the GIS in the Rockies Conference. This very successful conference has a new look this year and is a must-attend event for ASPRS members in the region. The conference is in a new location—INVESCO Field at Mile High—and will be well worth the price of admission. The conference committee has organized a tremendous technical program and a full slate of exhibitors to help you address your geospatial data, hardware, and software issues.

The third of our objectives is the continued development of new student chapters. Mr. Jeff Young, RMR Vice President, is taking the lead on this as we try to broaden our reach to students throughout the region. With the beginning of the school year upon us, Jeff is actively supporting our existing student chapters and working towards getting new chapters off the ground. If you are a student, don’t forget to keep an eye out for the RMR Scholarship announcement (read more elsewhere in this issue). Last year the RMR awarded an RMR record $7,000 in scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students.

I hope that you will join me at the GIS in the Rockies Conference. I look forward to having the opportunity to meet you. If you see me (I'll have a name tag on) please stop and say hello. Have a great fall season!

Jaymes Pardue
President, Rocky Mountain Region, ASPRS

National Director's Report

Summer is starting to wind down and we are getting ready for a busy fall. To begin this busy season, Denver will be hosting the ESRI Homeland Security Summit 12–14 September and our GIS in the Rockies Conference 21–23 September. The ASPRS PECORA Conference will be 24–27 October in Sioux Falls. I’m sure there are several other professional activities in our area where you can also learn new things and see old friends!

ASPRS Brown Award
This fall we will be presenting the ASPRS George E. Brown Congressional Honor Award for 2005 to our own US Senator Wayne Allard. This award is being given to Sen. Allard for the many services he has provided to our industry. As part of that award, we will be giving a presentation at Fort Collins High School. The date is still uncertain.

Dues Increase
Although I hate to say it, we may be looking at an increase in dues for 2006. ASPRS has held the rate steady for several years, but increasing operating costs mean that we will have to discuss the dues increase at the next Board meeting (at PECORA). Details are undetermined, but I expect that an announcement will come out after the PECORA meeting, giving members time to renew their memberships for 2006 at the current rate.

Hurricane Katrina
A large portion of the lower Mississippi drainage is trying to recover from Hurricane Katrina. ASPRS members are there doing their jobs in many ways to quantify the damage and help the recovery. For example, ASPRS Board member Paul Brooks has been deployed to the area as part of a Medical Strike Team. I know there are many others helping as they can. Please keep all those affected in your prayers.

Allen Cook
National Director, Rocky Mountain Region, ASPRS
Nominations for Board Elections

The RMR of ASPRS needs your active and engaged participation! Being a Board Member is just one of many ways to support the continued expansion of the geospatial community in the Rockies. We are all living through some very challenging professional times in the geospatial community—worldwide, in the US, and in our region. Photogrammetry and remote sensing technologies are experiencing unprecedented public visibility, and at the same time technological innovation. Board membership allows individuals to lead the convergence of these compelling technologies, connect with our peers, communicate to our membership, and contribute to these kinds of collaborations.

Please consider running for the 2006 Board of Directors, and contact any of the Regional Officers listed on our Web page about your interest and questions. In the Winter Regional Newsletter, we will publish the nominated slate of officers to be presented to the membership for a vote...so take action today!

For more information please contact:
Jeff Young, Vice President, RMR – ASPRS
jyoung@sanz.com

2006 RMR Scholarship Announcement

The Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS scholarships will be awarded to selected student members in December 2005. The Board has allocated up to $6,000 to undergraduate and graduate students in the RMR of ASPRS (Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming). Students who demonstrate excellence in the fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), or related disciplines will be considered. Both undergraduate and graduate students of any third-level educational institution within the four-state region who are pursuing careers in these disciplines are eligible for the awards. The scholarships will support academic research in the geotechnologies, as well as offset travel costs for participation in ASPRS activities. The monetary awards can be used for expenses such as geo-data purchases, fieldwork, and ASPRS-sponsored convention travel. Scholarship criteria will be posted on our Web site www.asprs-rmr.org in early October with procedures and a schedule for submitting applications. The winners will be announced in December in the ASPRS-RMR Winter Newsletter. Awards will be presented at the Annual Dinner Meeting planned for January 2006.

We had a very successful Scholarship program last year where we awarded 8 scholarships with a total value of $7,000, so please take the initiative and apply!

For more information please contact:
Jeff Young, Vice President, RMR – ASPRS
jyoung@sanz.com

Student Chapter News

RMR Rio Grande Chapter

Student Scholarship Awarded

The Rio Grande chapter of the Rocky Mountain Region is proud to announce that its $750 student scholarship has been awarded to Judith van der Elst. The choice was difficult, as several applications were received from worthy graduate and undergraduate students.

Judith is working toward a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico. Her research focuses on finding novel applications for geospatial technologies to address human and natural interaction in cultural landscapes, specifically the changing environment inhabited by the Anasazi from A.D. 1200–1400. Judith will be presenting her research at the upcoming American Water Resources Association and ASPRS (Reno) Conferences.

Judith is also a co-founder of the Archaeological Geospatial Working Group at UNM. She has assisted in developing and teaching a class designed to promote the application of geospatial techniques, including remote sensing and GIS, to archaeological and anthropological research.

New Logo

The Rio Grande Chapter has adopted a new logo that will adorn a banner to be used at conferences and other events. The logo will feature a photograph of the beautiful Rio Grande River Valley and Sandia Mountains. Chapter Director Bart Matthews designed the logo, which will be unveiled at the upcoming New Mexico Geographic Information Council meeting on 29 September 2005.

NMSU / UNM Student Chapters

With students returning for Fall Semester, plans are moving along for the ASPRS student chapters at New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico. ASPRS Rio Grande Chapter Director Janet Greenlee is an advisor at NMSU, where the ASPRS student chapter is affiliated with the Geography Club. The NMSU Chapter will have their first semester meeting on 12 September 2005.
Chapter Director Heather Richards and President Theresa Watson are now spearheading development of the UNM student group. Current activities at UNM involve securing a faculty sponsor and developing a formal set of bylaws in preparation for receiving recognition and support from the University. Hopefully this process will be completed by mid-September.

Job Postings!!!
Be sure to check out the updated Job Listings page on our RMR web site. We also have a supplemental listing of companies with web site links. This is a helpful resource for those seeking a new job! We currently have 18 great jobs posted. There are many new opportunities out there!! Check out the Rocky Mountain Region Jobs Listings at www.asprs-rmr.org/jobs.html.

Don’t Miss GIS in the Rockies’ Wednesday Evening Social
GIS in the Rockies is proud to announce that the entertainment for the Wednesday evening social will be local favorite Lannie Garrett. She and her band will present her hilarious show "The DeCline and Fall of Country Western Civilization" beginning at 6:30 P.M.

5280 Magazine designated Lannie EDITOR’S CHOICE TOP VOCALIST/ ENTERTAINER—"...our reader's choice on numerous occasions--so it's high time we joined in the applause...a red-headed chameleon...always a knockout."

GIS Training Opportunity
GIS Technical Specialists Training (Mini Course) ICS, Emergency Incident and Wildland Fire GIS Workshop

One Day Workshop - Cost: Free
20 September 2005, 8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.
State of Colorado’s Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC)
9195 E. Mineral Avenue
Centennial, CO 80112

Why not start your "GIS in the Rockies" experience one day early? We have arranged, with the generous assistance of Mesa County's Rick Corsi and others, to offer a free, one-day course in GIS for wildfire support. This is a distillation of the BLM's GIS Tech class, although it should not be viewed as a substitute for the full class. It will give you an introduction to how GIS fits into the Incident Command System (ICS) and the types of map products, demands, and issues that can confront GIS professionals while assisting with wildfire response. It is a hands-on class, so you will need to bring a laptop loaded with ArcView or ArcMap; then you get to play with Rick's data. During the class you will be producing necessary maps in a short period of time, as if responding to a real incident. Maybe to add to the realism, we’ll turn the heat up in the building!!

Topics to be covered:
- ICS
- Planning Section
- Agency Coordination
- Data Integration
- Fire-Incident Evolution
- Preparing
- Software
- Data
- Mapping
- GPS
- More Training
- Hands-on Exercise

Please have a look at the course description at http://www.asprs-rmr.org/news-and-events/GISTMiniCourseDescription-aug%202005.doc.
If interested, fill out the registration form at the end of the description and fax or email it to Jon Gottsegen. Space will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The course will be located at the state's new Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) in Centennial, just west of I-25 between Dry Creek and County Line Roads on Tuesday, 20 September from 8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.

Welcome New Members!
Dr. Karl Kent Benedict
Mr. Jerry Corr
*Mr. Aymn M. Elhaddad
Dr. William Benton Hudspeth
Mr. Matshwene E. Moshia
Mr. Larry Ray Rector
Mr. Thom Curdts

* Student Member

GIS in the Rockies Technical Tours
As a continuation of last year's success, the conference will include technical tours to some of Denver's leading geospatial facilities. Space is limited, so please sign up for each tour when you register, or for more information contact Chris Longo at events@gisintherockies.org.

Technical Tour 1: USGS
Time: Friday, 23 September, 9:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M.
Duration: 2.5 hours
Advance Notice: 5 Days
Security Requirements: Must present valid driver's license or other photo ID upon entering the Federal Center
Max. Participants: 25

USGS Description:
As the nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the US Geological Survey (USGS) collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The diversity of their scientific expertise enables them to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations and provide impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers.

Tour Overview:
Take a tour of the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center! Located in Building 810 at the Denver Federal Center in Denver, Colorado, the USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center is a facility where 350 professionals use geographic information systems, image processing packages, and other tools to create computerized databases, paper maps, and other representations of the Earth's terrain. They also conduct research in the biological sciences, geography, and Earth sciences, and coordinate mapping partnerships with a wide range of organizations.

These professionals also maintain a distribution facility of over 50 million maps, books, and other USGS publications, and serve customers by distributing maps, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, spatial data, and a wide variety of other information critically needed in making decisions about the Earth. These decisions range from planning for and mitigating natural disasters, to locating a business, to planning a roadway, to ensuring a safe water supply for our nation.

Technical Tour 2: Schriever Air Force Base - Colorado Springs
Time: Friday, 23 September, 9:00 A.M.
Duration: Approximately 2 hours
Cost: Free
Registration Deadline: Thursday, 8 September
Advance Notice: 14 days
Security Requirements: U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents only.
Max. Participants: 20
Transportation: Chartered Bus

Tour Overview:
This tour features the 2nd Space Operations Squadron at Schriever Air Force Base. The squadron performs the command and control mission for the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite constellation. GPS provides worldwide precision navigation service for US and allied military forces, as well as a host of civilian users. This user community is rapidly expanding and includes traditional land, sea, and space navigation, along with surveying, geodesy, and a variety of research and development activities. The constellation is comprised of a minimum of 24 on-orbit spacecraft and makes up over 40% of Air Force Space Command's active satellites.

The squadron also operates and maintains the Master Control Station (MCS) and a dedicated network of four ground antennae and six monitor stations located around the world. The monitor stations passively track the navigation signals on all the satellites.

Technical Tour 3: National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)
Time: Friday, 23 September, 10:00 A.M.
Duration: 2 hours
Cost: Free
Advance Notice: 5 Days
Security Requirements: Photo ID
Max. Participants: 25
Location: 1850 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO
Tour Overview:
University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), NCAR, and UCAR Office of Programs (UOP) are part of a collaborative community dedicated to understanding the atmosphere, the air around us, and the interconnected processes that make up the Earth system, from the ocean floor to the Sun's core. NCAR and UOP provide research, facilities, and services for the atmospheric and Earth sciences community. The nonprofit UCAR manages NCAR and UOP.

NCAR supports the community of atmospheric and geoscience researchers with many tools, such as aircraft and radar to observe the atmosphere, and technology and assistance to interpret and use these observations. This assistance includes supercomputer access, computer models, and user support.

Their research projects cover a vast array of topics and are collaborations between NCAR scientists and university researchers:
- Atmospheric chemistry—such as the chemical structure of healthy and polluted air
- Climate—including temperature, rainfall, winds, and extreme events over decades or centuries, from prehistoric times to the present and future
- Weather ingredients—such as cloud physics, storm structure, and other keys to improved weather forecasting
- Weather hazards to transportation—including detection and warning systems for turbulence and icing in the air and on the ground
- Interactions between the Sun and Earth—including solar weather
- Computer science innovation—for understanding and visualizing the Earth system
- The role of humanity in both creating change and responding to weather and climate

Technical Tour 4: USGS Geo Caching
Time: Friday, 23 September, 10:00 A.M.
Duration: 1–2 hours
Cost: Free
Advance Notice: 1 Day
Security Requirements: None
Max. Participants: 30

Tour Overview:
Geocaching (www.geocaching.com) is a very popular activity involving caching (hiding) something, recording the position with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers, telling others the position of the cache, and encouraging them to find it.

After a briefing on what GPS is and some reasons for using it, participants will try to find the geocaches. Please bring your own GPS unit if you have one, as loaners are limited. For more information about the GIS in the Rockies technical tours, please contact Chris Longo at events@gisintherockies.org.

ASPRS Membership Study Results
In 2004, a Membership Task Force headed by ASPRS Past President Don Lauer was formed to explore the causes for the decline in ASPRS membership. ASPRS retained the services of McKinley Marketing, Inc. to conduct the member research initiative. The objective was to uncover the unique value ASPRS provides to the field, to study potential improvements in delivery and communications of resources, and to build on past successes to develop a framework for future prosperity.

The initial research initiative included two focus groups conducted during the ASPRS 2005 Annual Conference in Baltimore. One group included diverse existing members, and the second group included members with lapsed memberships and non-member conference attendees. After the conference, electronic questionnaires were created and sent out to over 4,000 members and 1,000 lapsed members. Telephone interviews were also conducted to further capture member perceptions.

The results present a number of key opportunities for immediate and long-term improvement. McKinley has recommended that ASPRS concentrate on the following areas:
- Add value for underserved membership segments
- Actively pursue recruitment of young members
- Enhance and promote the ASPRS website
- Leverage the voice of the “engaged” member
- Continue conducting regular research
- Quantify and disseminate the value of ASPRS membership
- Become a “solution provider”
- Encourage membership “engagement”
- Set standards for member service
- Ensure consistent levels of service in each ASPRS region

The findings suggest that member satisfaction is high but a number of opportunities exist for immediate and long-term development. ASPRS staff welcomes your thoughts on these issues. Please contact asprs@asprs.org.

For more information about what ASPRS is doing to address the areas of improvement, please read the ASPRS Concludes Key Membership Study article on page 1013 in the September issue of PE&RS.
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GIS in the Rockies

INVESCO Field at Mile High, Denver, Colorado
September 21-23, 2005
"The Geospatial Revolution: A Whole New View"

Tuesday September 20th - Pre-Conference Workshop
URISA Certified Workshop Addresses and IS/GIS Implementation: Key to GIS Success

Wednesday September 21st - Conference & Exhibition
Luncheon speaker: Futurist Thomas Frey, Founder of the DaVinci Institute
Exhibit Hours: 8:00 am - 7:30 pm Job Fair: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Concurrent Technical Sessions 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Exhibitor Showcase • Surveying and GIS - Covering the Field • Emerging Standards
Spatially Enabling Infrastructure Management • Introduction to GIS & LIDAR • Professional Development Workshops
Geodetic Datums: Demystifying the Spatial Reference Frame
Concepts in Risk Management for Surveyors and Engineers
How To Leverage Oracle’s Spatial Technologies
Poster Session and Contest
"Nature's remote sensing experts" - Hawk Quest's Live Bird Display

Evening Social 5:00 - 7:30 pm
Join your colleagues in the exhibit area for food, networking, and product demonstrations.
At 6:30, relax and enjoy Lannie Garrett’s show “Patsy DeCline”

Thursday September 22nd - Conference and Exhibition
Luncheon speaker: Jon Stigant, Devon Energy Corporation
Exhibit Hours ↔ 8:00 am - 3:30 pm ↔ Job Fair
Concurrent Technical Sessions 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Homeland Security • GIS and Emergency Response Management • Imagery and Remote Sensing
Public Policy • Resource Conflict Management • Advanced Data Acquisition & Map Production
Workshop: Enterprise Addressing Systems
Poster Session
5K Fun Run/Walk - New this year!

Friday September 23rd - Tours and Events
USGS Rocky Mountain Mapping Center
Schriever Air Force Base
National Center for Atmospheric Research
Geocaching

Sponsors ACSM, ASPRS, GIS Colorado, GITA, PLSC, URISA
Wheelchair accessible
Register online or download the form (pdf format) from the web site

http://GISintheRockies.org