



THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~

Issue 1

Spring 2006

Issued Quarterly

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

GIS in the Rockies Call for Papers

GIS in the Rockies 2006 will be held at INVESCO Field at Mile High on 13–15 September. We invite you to submit an abstract for a technical session, seminar, workshop, vendor showcase, tour or poster at this year's conference. Share your experience and expertise while exploring the many ways GIS has emerged from behind the scene to extreme!

Application Tracks:

- Public Policy
- Imagery and Remote Sensing
- GIS for Surveyors – Spatially Enabling Your Business
- Spatially Enabling IT
- Vendor Showcase
- Maps in Apps
- Infrastructure & Utilities
- Advanced Data Acquisition & Mapping
- Homeland Security & Emergency Response
- Mapping Goes Mainstream
- Poster Presentation

All abstracts must be received by 31 March 2006. Sponsored by the regional societies and chapters of ASPRS | URISA | GITA | ACSM | PLSC | GIS Colorado.

For more information and to submit your abstract, please contact:

Tom Palizzi, Program Coordinator -
tom.palizzi@gisintherockies.org

Dan Smith, Marketing Coordinator -
daniel.a.smith@gisintherockies.org
or visit us online at www.gisintherockies.org

Start Planning Now for ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference

Start planning now for the ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference to be held in Reno, Nevada, 1–5 May, at the Reno Hilton Hotel. The conference, titled "Prospecting for Geospatial Information Integration," will focus on new capabilities and technologies. The conference organizers will present an exciting program of interest to professionals in all aspects of remote sensing, geographic information systems, land and natural resources management, environmental management, photogrammetry,

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LIDAR and IFSAR, mapping, charting, and geodesy. You will learn about the latest instruments, analysis techniques and sources for "geospatial" data, and how their use and applications can integrate geospatial information. Interact with industry colleagues, see products from over 100 vendors and get hands-on knowledge of new hardware and software applications.

Register by 31 March and save on conference registration:

<https://www.asprs.org/renoreg/index.html>.

Accommodations:

ASPRS has negotiated a special rate of \$105 single/double room at the Reno Hilton Hotel. This rate is available until the room block is full, so make your reservations today. There are also a limited number of government-rate rooms available.

For complete conference details and registration go to <http://www.asprs.org/reno2006>.

Incoming President's Message

First, I am truly honored to serve as the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) President in 2006 supported by a committed ASPRS RMR Board. 2006 promises to be an exciting and challenging year for photogrammetry and remote sensing professionals in the Rocky Mountain Region. Whether you are employed in the government, the private sector, or academia, or if you are an emerging student professional, we are all in the business of understanding changes to the landscape.

We face significant professional responsibilities in our response to those changes around us. Catastrophic events over the last several years have forged some defining moments in the collective geospatial community. With these events comes an expectation of faster and more effective responses to protect lives and property. Some changes are being driven by improvements in the way we manage projects in terms of project design, the sensors we employ, the interpretations we apply and the conclusions presented. Other changes emerge as process improvements to our workflows, tools and methodologies. We can expect to continue to see increased resolution in sensors, increased temporal and spatial availability, improved access to multi-source data, improved time to delivery, increased end-user skills, and new and more affordable tools. Our customers and citizens expect smooth, seamless distribution of our products and results. Ultimately, the drama of events over time and the space we live in demands a sharpened

response. The impact of change on our landscape and world is evident. As professional collaborators for managing change we should recognize that our contributions do indeed influence daily operations and decisions. Our endeavors do touch the general public as old barriers of geospatial technology are removed.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. We need to respect the legacy of past methodologies and techniques; however our pursuit to produce better, more timely, cost sensitive and meaningful results should be persistent and steadfast. As professionals who are expected to lead the way, we need to distinguish fads and daily curiosities of the most recent consumer product from legitimate core improvements to our practice. We see and hear a lot about the latest products, features and functions, but we still need to apply some of our energies to problem solving and associated decision making. We are expected to apply best judgment every day. Early adopters abound in the geospatial community and fortunately our advances and process improvements can be measured in months rather than years.

We encourage you to engage, accept the challenge, collaborate, communicate your results and be more than just intellectually curious. Be a positive contributor to our professional community.

Jeff Young
RMR President

National Director's Report

Spring is almost here! Since our last newsletter, there have been a number of things going on, both at the Regional and National levels.

The Rocky Mountain Region had our Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers at the Wellshire Inn on 28 January. The crew at the Inn put together an excellent dinner for us and we had a very pleasant evening. Look for a full report elsewhere in this newsletter, and plan to join us next year!

On 20 January, **Brian Soliday** gave a briefing on Remote Sensing to Fort Collins High School students. This briefing was part of the Brown Award, given by ASPRS to **Sen. Wayne Allard** for services to the geospatial profession, and in honor of his years at Fort Collins High.

ASPRS EXCOM (the Executive Committee of the ASPRS Board of Directors) met at ASPRS headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland, on 21 January. It was a good meeting, with a few items rising above

the “administrivia” that will be of interest to members.

The Annual Conference in Reno is looking very good, with projected attendance and number of exhibitors above projections. It should be an excellent conference, with a very strong technical program—plan to attend if you can, 1–5 May!

We are moving ahead with planning for a Student Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC will be a forum for students active in ASPRS and provide more direct student involvement in the Society. The first meeting will likely be at the Reno conference.

We have two new ASPRS publications now in print. Vols. 5 and 6 of the *Manual of Remote Sensing* are now complete and will be available in Reno. They are *Remote Sensing of Human Settlements* (Vol. 5), and *Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment* (Vol. 6). Both are excellent volumes. Vol. 1, *Platforms and Sensors*, is currently being updated and will be available in early 2007.

Landsat Continuity: as you are probably aware by now, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) has announced a clear directive for NASA to proceed in planning for a free-flying Landsat follow-on mission. ASPRS has had an active (and effective) role in influencing this change, and in ensuring the future of environmental, mid-resolution satellite imagery in the US. Stay tuned as we watch to see what kind of plan and schedule the folks at NASA develop. Thanks for reading!

Allen Cook

National Director, ASPRS-RMR

Fun and Lively Annual Dinner Meeting Enjoyed by Rocky Mountain Region

A large and lively crowd gathered for the Rocky Mountain Region’s Annual Dinner Meeting. This year’s dinner was held at the Wellshire Inn in Denver on Saturday, 28 January. The evening began with a cocktail social in the lounge, followed by a delightful buffet dinner in a private dining room, which allowed for wonderful group conversations. Highlights of the evening program included presentation of the scholarship awards to **Adina Racoviteanu** of University of Colorado at Boulder, and **Sudhir Raj Shrestha** of the University of Wyoming. Sudhir and fellow grad student **Abhishek Tilaye** drove all the way from Laramie to attend the dinner. Both Adina and Sudhir talked about the research they are doing using remotely sensed data and GIS.

Dr. Roger Hoffer, retired professor from CSU and former ASPRS National President, swore in the new officers for 2006. After the ceremony, a new twist was added to the program. Outgoing President **Jaymes Pardue** had prepared questions that were directed at each new officer in a game-show format. Some of these questions were zany, even bordering on the bizarre, prompting equally off-the-wall answers from the board members, to the delight of the audience.

Outgoing President **Jaymes Pardue** talked about the accomplishments of the year just completed, including the scholarship awards, a successful GIS in the Rockies conference, redesign of the RMR website, and other events of the year. Jaymes also presented special awards for service to the Region. These awards were presented to:

Roland Mangold for his work in organizing the GIS in the Rockies Conference.

Mark Hess for his work as RMR Treasurer.

Sheila Pelczarski for her work managing the Region website.

Jen Whitacre for her work on the RMR newsletter.

Brian Soliday for five years of service in the region.

Scott Bennett for his work on the GIS in the Rockies Board of Directors.

Incoming President **Jeff Young** then shared his vision and hopes for the year ahead. This was another successful annual dinner meeting where everyone enjoyed the great company, excellent food and service, pleasant surroundings, stimulating conversation, and many laughs.



A lively crowd enjoyed the evening's festivities.



Incoming RMR President Jeff Young shares his vision for the coming year.

2006 Student Scholarship Awards

On behalf of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Board, we congratulate recipients of the 2006 ASPRS-RMR Scholarships. Scholarships are provided to support research activities at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. We as a Region are quite committed to academic excellence and we feel fortunate to support the 2006 recipients.

We distributed the scholarship monies at the Annual Dinner Meeting held on 28 January 2006. Recipients were as follows:

Adina Racoviteanu - University of Colorado at Boulder—Adina will conduct a glacier inventory for Cordillera Blanca, Peru, as a contribution to the GLIMS Geospatial Glacier Database.

Sudhir Raj Shrestha - University of Wyoming—Sudhir will continue his research in soil property estimation and associated predictive soil mapping employing remote sensing technology.

Kamal Paudel - Montana State University—Kamal will begin his research on Red Panda habitat and human impacts to wildlife in Nepal.

The academic scholarships were offered to both undergraduate and graduate students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS (MT, WY, CO, and NM) who exhibited academic excellence in photogrammetry, remote sensing and/or GIS. These scholarships are being offered each fall by the RMR of ASPRS to support academic research in the geotechnologies, as well as to aid in travel costs to encourage student participation in ASPRS activities.

If you are a student who missed out on the opportunity this past year, be prepared to look for the new scholarship applications being posted in the Fall term and/or contact **Terry Ryan** for additional information. Make sure your advisor/instructor and department are on the mailing list and check www.asprs-rmr.org regularly for more details. Please take the initiative and apply!

Jeff Young
ASPRS-RMR President

Note: This year the Scholarship Committee Chairperson is **Terry Ryan** tryan@lizardtech.com



Pictured above: Adina Racoviteanu and Sudhir Raj Shrestha receive scholarship awards from Jeff Young, RMR Scholarship Chair.

A Thank You from Bozeman

We thought this would be an excellent email to share with our readers. This year **Kamal Paudel** received an RMR scholarship to assist his studies in the field of GIS and Remote Sensing, but he was unable to attend the annual dinner. Below is his thank you to our region.

"Thank you so much for your support for my research work. I received the check today. I am very happy to be assisted for my GIS career. I appreciate your recommendations and guidelines for my career and graduate studies in the field of GIS and RS. The award has added me with new enthusiasm to polish my research interests in this field. I will definitely inform you about the progress on my project."

Kamal Paudel
Bozeman

News from the Snowy Range ASPRS-Rocky Mountain Region Student Chapter

The University of Wyoming (UWYO) initiated the ASPRS student chapter in 2004. Since then the chapter has received a lot of enthusiasm and support from the students and the faculty members. Many have helped set up group activities. One past activity was a trip to Budweiser in Fort Collins and a visit to the Denver Museum. The Snowy Range Chapter brings people working in the geospatial sector together by having social activities where we are able to share our experiences working with GIS and remote sensing.

The chapter has been organizing seminars and programs with the support of Wyoming Geographic Science Center (WYGISC) and the Spatial Analysis of Watershed & Landscape Systems (SAWLS) lab. With the help of **Jeff Young** and **Terry Ryan** of the Rocky Mountain Region ASPRS, we plan on contacting research institutions and private companies involved in geospatial applications to see if they will share their experiences and job possibilities with our chapter.

This year the Snowy Range Chapter has arranged a trip to an observatory, a treasure hunt, and a discussion on emerging technologies such as LIDAR, IFSAR, and AISA and their possible applications in natural resource management.

Participation in our chapter activities is growing day by day. We hope to reach many of the working students who use geospatial technologies. We want to thank the Rocky Mountain Region for giving us support and encouragement for our activities at UWYO.

Sudhir Raj Shrestha

President, ASPRS-RMR Student Chapter at University of Wyoming
Email: sudhir@uwyo.edu



Snowy Range Chapter trip to Anheuser Busch.

Welcome New Members

The list below contains the new members from December 2005 through February 2006. Welcome to ASPRS!

Pedro Baez	Raymond Kokaly
Tchapo Bilante*	Mari Minari
Gregory Carpenter	Susan Parks
Cherie Darnel	Joe Pitman
Daniel Ervin	Peg Shippert, Ph.D.
Peg Gronemeyer*	Chris Toney
Kathleen Hawkos*	Mark Wagaman
Wendy Hodges*	Devin White
Amy Hoeptner	Frank Witmer
Xiaoying Jin, Ph.D.	Matthew Wood

* Denotes a student member

News from the Rio Grande Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Region

ASPRS Rio Grande Chapter Spring Meeting 2006

The Rio Grande Chapter's Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with the New Mexico Geographic Information Council. The theme of this year's NMGIC meeting is Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. Invited guests include ASPRS National President **Karen Schuckman** and ISPRS Secretary General **Orhan Altan** from Turkey.

Speakers will be covering a range of topics, including remote sensing applications in air quality and disaster management. Speakers will include past ASPRS President **Stan Morain** as well as student members from the newly formed UNM ASPRS Student Chapter.

eCognition Workshop

Director **Andrea Laliberte** will be conducting a workshop on applications of Definiens' eCognition imagery analysis software in association with the Spring Meeting. The workshop will consist of a presentation of object oriented image analysis with eCognition, application examples, and hands-on exercises using the software. The workshop will be held on 21 April at the Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) in Albuquerque. For more information, please contact Andrea at alaliber@nmsu.edu.

ASPRS President Karen Schuckman Visits Albuquerque

The Rio Grande Chapter was pleased to host ASPRS National President **Karen Schuckman** for dinner during her recent visit to New Mexico on ASPRS business. Attendees included **Stan Morain**

and his wife Marilyn, ASPRS member **Layton Hobbs**, Chapter President **Tree Watson** and husband Rick, and Chapter Directors **Amy Ballard** and **Brian Post**.

Metro State College Hosts Geospatial Enterprise Program

Students at Metro State College in Denver gathered to hear professionals from the geospatial industry talk about their work and their professional organizations on 22 February. **Mark Hess**, Rocky Mountain Region Treasurer, delivered a dynamic presentation of his work for Ocean Imaging, including projects in precision agriculture, kelp bed mapping, oil spill monitoring, and wetlands mapping, peppered with amusing stories and colorful slides. Mark also discussed the benefits of ASPRS student membership. **Sheila Pelczarski**, RMR Communications Coordinator, offered a few additional comments based on her experience working at Denver Water.

Also in attendance was **Pete Gomez**, an information manager with Xcel Energy, who talked about Xcel's use of Mobile GIS for their utility system management. Pete is a member of GITA and talked about the benefits of that organization. **Karen Brandt**, GIS Analyst with the City of Broomfield, presented examples of her work for the city as well as her research as a student at the Colorado School of Mines. Karen was there to represent URISA. All three organizations partner with ACSM, PLSC and GIS Colorado to organize the annual "GIS in the Rockies" conference. A lively Q&A session followed the presentations by Pete, Mark and Karen. It was obvious that Mark Hess had captured the imaginations of the students, as most of their questions were directed to him. ASPRS membership literature was set out for the students to take away, and many of them did. Kudos to Mark for an excellent presentation and for carrying the torch for ASPRS!

Event organizer **Dr. Stella Todd** wrote the following note the next day: "Thanks again for taking the time to come to Metro and talk to our students. I have already gotten some great feedback from my students about how much they learned from the event. There is no better way to determine a good career path for oneself than to meet people who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their profession."



Speakers **Karen Brandt**, **Pete Gomez** and **Mark Hess** answer questions from the student audience during the "Geospatial Enterprises" program.

Job Postings

Greetings ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Members: The job opportunities out there are really picking up! If you haven't checked out the Job Listings page on our RMR website lately, what are you waiting for? We currently have nine great jobs posted. Please review regularly as the postings are updated frequently!

Check out the Rocky Mountain Region Jobs Listings at www.asprs-rmr.org/jobs.html.

Attendance Up at the 2006 Annual ILMF Conference

This year attendance was up with over 300 people registered for the two-day International LIDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF) event. This year's ILMF was located in Denver, Colorado, and represented almost every major LIDAR operator in North America, as well as LIDAR system and component manufacturers, hardware and software companies, universities and end-users.

Subjects such as Aerial LIDAR mapping, 3D Laser Scanning, LIDAR Bathymetry, LIDAR data processing, and sensor fusion were topics addressed during this meeting. In addition to technical presentations, the two-day event also featured workshops, exhibits, and breakout sessions, as well as several networking functions that have become a hallmark of this popular meeting.

This year's sponsors were Airborne1, Applanix Corporation, Dynamic Aviation, FLI-MAP, INPHO, Leica Geosystems, Merrick, NIIRS10, Optech, Riegl USA, and Spectrum Mapping.

It's Not Too Soon to Mark Your Calendars for the Fall 2006 MAPPS and ASPRS Specialty Conference

MAPPS and ASPRS are once again organizing a dynamic conference around the theme of "Measuring the Earth (Part II): Latest Developments with Digital Surface Modeling and Automated Feature Extraction." Following the successful joint 2001 Conference on "Digital Elevation Technologies and Applications" and the 2003 Conference on "Terrain Data: Application and Visualization — Making the Connection," this meeting will build on those experiences and focus on the evolving technology, applications, and standards that have been developed over the last two years, with emphasis on automated feature extraction.

This conference will once again offer a mix of general sessions, breakout technical sessions, and an applications showcase on project acquisition and applications, automated feature extraction,

visualization, simulation, research and development, hazards, and more.

This year the conference will be 6–10 November, hosted in San Antonio, Texas.

Please check out the ASPRS website for conference details: <http://www.asprs.org/fall2006/index.html>.

19th Annual GIS in the Rockies GIS: From Behind The Scene To Extreme!

13–15 September 2006

INVESCO Field @ Mile High

<http://www.invescofieldatmilehigh.com/>

2006 Regional Board of Directors Election Results

Please join us in welcoming the new members of the Rocky Mountain Region 2006 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors information is provided on the next page in an effort to encourage your communication and participation in regional events. We want to thank the membership for voting! We hope to hear more from you!



Dr. Roger Hoffer is swearing in the 2006 Board of Directors. From left to right: Dr. Roger Hoffer, Terry Ryan, Victoria Provenza, Mark Hess, Allen Cook, Trent Casi, Richard Cooke, Jeff Young. Not pictured: David Opitz, Roland Mangold, and Jennifer Whitacre.

ASPRS – Rocky Mountain Region: 2006 Officers

President	Jeff Young SANZ Geospatial Solutions Group Englewood, CO	Work: 303-495-6334 Fax: 303-814-0693 jyoung@sanz.com
Vice-President	Terry Ryan LizardTech Centennial, CO	Work: 303-903-3604 Fax: 303-703-3632 tryan@lizardtech.com
Secretary	Victoria Provenza Spatial Technologies and Analytics Centennial, CO	Work: 303-770-8251 Victoria@staaco.com
Treasurer	Mark Hess Ocean Imaging Inc. Littleton, CO	Work: 303-948-5272 Fax: 303-948-5272 mhess@oceani.com
National Director	Allen Cook Northrop Grumman Aurora, CO	Work: 720-744-7328 allen.cook@ngc.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Trent Casi VARGIS LLC Arvada, CO	Work: 303-425-7422 tcasi@vargis.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Roland Mangold Spectrum Mapping, LLC Denver, CO	Work: 303-298-9847 Fax: 303-292-9279 rmangold@specmap.com
Regional Director (Communications/Newsletter)	Jennifer Whitacre Spectrum Mapping, LLC Denver, CO	Work: 303-298-9847 Fax: 303-292-9279 jwhitacre@specmap.com
Regional Director (General)	David Opitz Visual Learning Systems, Inc. Missoula, MT	Work: 406-829-3593 opitz@vis-inc.com
Regional Director (At Large)	Richard W. Cooke Research Systems, Inc. Boulder, CO	Work: 303-413-3964 Fax: 303-786-9909 rwcooke@rsinc.com
Past President & GIS in the Rockies Advisory Board	Jaymes Pardue VARGIS, LLC Arvada, CO	Work: 303-384-1925 Fax: 303-384-1926 jgpardue@vargis.com
Communications Coordinator/Webmaster (not on the board)	Sheila Pelczarski Denver Water Denver, CO	Work: 303-628-6511 Fax: 303-628-6852 sgp@denverwater.org