



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

I'd like to start with telling you how excited I am to be elected to serve as President of ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region for 2007. 2007 brings with it the 73rd year of existence for ASPRS and as with a fine wine, the society—and the RMR region in particular—continues to get better as the years go on. I hope the coming year is no exception for our region as we strive for another selection as region of the year. I'm quite confident that this will be another great year for the RMR as we look forward to further growth of our membership outreach and development efforts. We'll also be pushing for increased input from our member companies in the region, in an attempt to provide even more value to our membership.

This being my fourth year on the RMR Board of Director's, I think that it is vital for us to remain focused on the membership outreach efforts accomplished by our previous Board of Directors. That being the case, we will continue to develop new student chapters, and re-engage our existing student chapters throughout the region in order to develop refreshed interest in ASPRS amongst our regional institutions. The RMR will also continue our "Best of the West" series this year in which we invite regional member companies to present their latest technologies or solutions to the regional membership as part of our monthly meeting program. The Rocky Mountain Region has a

large number of the corporate Sustaining Members of ASPRS, and we hope to take advantage of their expertise and presence within the Region. As well, we hope that the Sustaining Members will take the opportunity to have a presence at the monthly meetings of the Rocky Mountain Region and that they will contact the Region officers to see what they can do to help or be more active within the Region

As a professional association, we get out of it what we put into it, and many of you regional members give generously of your time and talents. I want to take this opportunity to thank the board members who served the last year of a term in 2006: **Jaymes Pardue** (Past President), **Mark Hess** (Treasurer), **Jennifer Whitacre** (Regional Director – Newsletter/Communications), **Richard Cooke** (Regional Director At-Large), **David Opitz** (Regional Director General), **Roland Mangold** (Regional Director – GIS in the Rockies Conference). All of your contributions over the past several years are much appreciated and we wish you the best of luck in

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your future endeavors. We also have some new people to welcome to the 2007 Board of Directors, including **Matthew Bobo** (Secretary), **Brian Soliday** (Regional Director - General), **Shaun Callaghan** (Treasurer), **Matt Wood** (Regional Director – GIS in the Rockies), **Rick Lawrence** (Regional Director (At-Large)), and **Molly Thomas** (Regional Director – Newsletter/Communications). With that being said I encourage all of you to discuss the benefits of ASPRS with your colleagues who aren't members, and for those who are members please encourage them to become more involved in the region since there are various ways to participate.

The Remote Sensing community, including members in our region, has experienced a series of world events in the past few years that have brought to light how important our choice of profession and the technologies that drive our industry can be to our overall society. These disastrous events, whether natural or man-made, have created situations where we've had to provide products and services to help with rescue and recovery efforts, supported responses from our armed forces, and improved ways to monitor our overall security. We've also seen how remote sensing has been used to improve various aspects of our lives, including navigation, real estate and travel. It has become very apparent that the need for well-trained remote sensing professionals will not only be a necessary component of our country's strategy in the future, but an area of increasing career opportunities, whether those opportunities exist in private sector, government, or academia. As professionals we must take steps to understand changes to our industry and work together to continually promote the value of remote sensing to address emergency situations or improve the way we do things today.

In closing, I encourage all current and past members to engage the current board of directors with ideas for improving our regional membership outreach and your professional development via our regional activities. Any and all positive contributions to ASPRS are greatly welcomed, from volunteering at regional events, to attending and participating in monthly board meetings. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year and please feel free to contact me at any time.

Terry Ryan

President, ASPRS-RMR 2007

tryan@lizardtech.com

National Director's Report

ASPRS EXCOM (the Executive Committee, a subset of the Board of Directors) met February 24 in

Bethesda, Maryland, for our annual Winter Meeting. It was a typical all-day meeting, covering the annual budget, status of publications, investment performance, planning for upcoming meetings, ASPRS Foundation activities, and many, many more details. I have highlighted a few topics below for additional detail, and can provide more information to anyone, on request.

1: The ASPRS Foundation has adopted a new policy to allow Regions to invest funds in the ASPRS Foundation. This policy was developed after a suggestion by the Rocky Mountain Region last year. While there are limitations, it allows Regions to pool resources with the Foundation for (hopefully) greater investment returns, and helps us get to the point where we can fully endow our scholarship program. The Policy will be introduced at the Annual Meeting in Tampa this year, so no action will be taken by the RMR Board until after that time, when we can fully evaluate alternatives.

2: The Fall 2008 ASPRS/Pecora Conference will be in Denver, Nov. 16 – 20. **Tom Holm** of USGS-EDC is the Program Chair. ASPRS will need to identify a region representative to participate in planning meetings and coordinate Region support.

3: **Alan Voss** (TVA) made a proposal to EXCOM to produce a historical documentary on the Birth of Production Photogrammetry. It is an interesting idea that has a lot of merit, as many of the original pioneers of our discipline and technologies are disappearing. ASPRS is studying the proposal, and looking at different ways we might assist in this significant undertaking.

4: As usual, there were many, many items of discussion where ASPRS has taken a leadership role in legislative issues or provided a consistent, considered voice of reason, such as the future of the LandSat Program, floodplain mapping, and professional licensure issues in several states. ASPRS has not taken a formal position on the MAPPS/Brooks Act lawsuit to date, but the opposing positions are well understood. ASPRS believes the two sides are very polarized at this point, and central issues of the case have become blurred in the rhetoric. I think the ASPRS position will be articulated as one of reason, after the legal aspects are clear. Another interesting topic is the emerging Geospatial Line of Business being promoted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The implications of the GAO initiative are not yet clear, but ASPRS is watching carefully, through member contacts in several agencies.

5: Maintaining and increasing membership will be a priority issue again this year, with a special workshop for Region officers at the Annual Conference in Tampa.

Tampa will be an excellent Conference, with a lot happening. Be there if you can!

Allen Cook

National Director, Rocky Mountain Region

2007 GIS in the Rockies Call for Papers—Celebrating 20 Years

The 2007 GIS in the Rockies Conference is now accepting abstracts for the upcoming 20th anniversary conference. The conference will take place at INVESCO Field at Mile High (downtown Denver) September 14th – 17th, 2007. The 2007 conference promises to be a special celebration of 20 years of geospatial accomplishments for the attendees and vendors. Abstract submissions should be limited to 255 words and will be evaluated based around the following criteria:

A) Basic Theme - Is the presentation about a project, a system application activity, a methodology or the evaluation of a technology? Does it address the technical, policy or organizational aspect of the subject?

B) Value of the subject - Originality and scope. The presentation must be of interest to a significant number of expected conference attendees.

The easiest way to submit your abstract is via the conference website: www.GISintheRockies.org. Please click on the abstract link for more information and to submit your abstract.

Note: Please email program@GISintheRockies.org with any questions or concerns.

Start Planning Now for ASPRS 2007 Annual Conference!!

Start planning now for the ASPRS 2007 Annual Conference to be held in Tampa, Florida, May 7-11, at the Marriott Waterside Hotel. Following the theme of "Identifying Geospatial Solutions," this conference will have an outstanding set of technical presentations on all aspects of imaging and geospatial information. It will feature sessions on how to collect geospatial data, how to process and analyze data, and how to derive information from data that is useful in making local, national and

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global decisions for resource management, business or other purposes.

Register by April 7th to qualify for advance rates and save: www.asprs.org/tampa2007/registration.shtml

Accommodations:

The venue is a 3-star waterfront hotel in the heart of Downtown Tampa's Channelside District. There are rooms available at the special rate of \$159 per night, as well as a limited number of rooms available at government rates.

Fun and Lively RMR Annual Dinner Meeting!

The Rocky Mountain Region held its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Wellshire Inn in Denver on Saturday, January 20. The evening began with an informal social hour, during which ideas were solicited for improving the Region in all aspects. Each person was asked to write down an idea on a sticky note, then all ideas were placed into categories on a table top for all to see and ponder. Participants were also asked to write the name of the state in which they were born on their nametags. This made for some interesting discussion, as many states across the US were represented. Later in the evening, outgoing President **Jeff Young** was able to remember the birth state of every person in attendance, long after the tags had been removed!

An impressive Italian Renaissance buffet dinner was enjoyed by all. As the meeting got underway, **Terry Ryan**, Vice President and Scholarship Committee chair, presented the two scholarship winners in attendance.

David Cook, University of Wyoming, summarized his research using remote sensing to study environmental impacts of a pipeline in Wyoming, analyzing both the growth of rural population, concentration of farm animals, and possible links to higher amounts of estrogen in the water system caused by these triggers.

Shannon Spencer, Colorado State University, gave a summary of his work studying soil carbon estimates throughout various agricultural and grazing lands within the US. Remote sensing was incorporated into a model to predict the net primary production of these lands.

Outgoing President **Jeff Young** introduced the new Board members for 2007 and they were inducted by **Tina Cary**, past National ASPRS President and ASPRS Fellow. Jeff then summarized the major activities and accomplishments of the past year. He

recognized members who had made significant contributions to the Region during 2006, including Newsletter Editor **Jennifer Whitacre**, Treasurer **Mark Hess**, and former President **Brian Soliday**.

Incoming President **Terry Ryan** then talked about his plans and hopes for 2007, especially in the area of encouraging new membership and continuing the establishment of new Student Chapters.



Incoming Region President Terry Ryan shares his vision for 2007.

Once again the annual dinner meeting proved to be a very enjoyable evening. Plan on joining us next year!



Region members and their guests enjoy a great dinner and conversation.

2006-2007 Scholarship Award Winners

The outgoing ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors would like to congratulate the 2007 award winners of our annual scholarship program. This past year we had a large applicant pool for our regional scholarship awards and our selection

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committee was very impressed with all of the applications received. By selecting the following four winners we believe that the Rocky Mountain Region shows its ongoing commitment to academic excellence and we are glad to offer support to all students in our region.

The scholarship awards were distributed at the RMR Annual Dinner Meeting held on January 20, 2007. Recipients were as follows:

David Cook - University of Wyoming

I am currently using remote sensing to study the environmental impacts of a rural water pipeline in Sheridan, Wyoming, analyzing the growth of rural populations attributed to the pipeline's construction, and the resulting attenuation of farmland due to the establishment of rural neighborhoods, linking the concentration of farmland and subsequently farm animals to water quality and pollutant levels.

Margaret Gronemeyer - New Mexico State University

The purpose of my thesis is to determine if and how the movements of the African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) in northern Botswana are affected by vegetation cover. In eCognition, v.4, I classified Aster imagery using a TTA (Testing and training area) mask and 3 classes of cover (woodland, grass- floodplain, grass-dry). Now, in GIS, I am overlaying the wild dog points and other features on the classification for analyses. I expect to find that the dogs "prefer" more cover, except when hunting, but I cannot as of yet support that hypothesis 100%.

Shannon Spencer - Colorado State University

I am conducting a regional & national scale soil carbon uncertainty analysis by comparing ecosystem simulation model results to field-measured soil carbon. A statistical estimator will be developed using modeled soil carbon, land use and management information, and remotely sensed data. This estimator is expected to improve local, regional and national scale estimates of soil carbon over the current estimates, which have large uncertainty.

Jennifer Watts - Montana State University

I am using RS and object-oriented applications to assist with a study of the Golden Triangle region of Montana to determine its potential to sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, using imagery and software for meeting the accuracy requirements needed to determine tillage type and its effect on the sequestration of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region scholarships are offered to both undergraduate and graduate students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region of

ASPRS (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico) who exhibit academic excellence in photogrammetry, remote sensing, and GIS. Our scholarships are offered in the fall of each year by the RMR to support academic research, as well as to aid in travel costs to encourage students to participate in ASPRS conferences throughout the year.

If you are a student who missed out on the application deadline this past year, give yourself a reminder to keep an eye out for the new scholarship application being posted in the Fall or contact Victoria Provenza for additional information. We look forward to hearing from you about your projects. Thanks again to all students who've applied to our scholarship program in the past!

Terry Ryan

ASPRS-RMR President

Note: The Scholarship Committee Chair for 2007 is **Victoria Provenza**: victoria@prospatial.com.



From left, scholarship winner Shannon Spencer, incoming President Terry Ryan, scholarship winner David Cook, outgoing President Jeff Young, and former National President and ASPRS Fellow Tina Cary share a laugh.

Scholarship Winner's Corner

Each quarter this year we will be spotlighting one of our scholarship winners here to follow what they are doing with their scholarship monies. This quarter we received a report from **David Cook** at the University of Wyoming. Read on to find out what David is up to:

As a graduate student majoring in Geography/Water Resources at the University of Wyoming, I am working with a research team that is studying the impacts of the Wyoming Water Development Commission's rural water systems in Sheridan,

Wyoming. My personal contribution to the project not only involves a photogrammetric study, characterizing land-use changes over the past 10 years in the Sheridan Area Water Supply's (SAWS) service area, but also field-based research in a river that flows through the study area.

The burgeoning number of rural residential neighborhoods, engendered by the recent availability of municipal water, has resulted in an attenuation of land available for agriculture. It is my conjecture that the waste generated by agricultural operations becomes concentrated. This negatively impacts the water quality of the adjacent Big Goose Creek. My intent is to assimilate the land-use change study with the spatial analysis of synthetic and natural estrogens (endocrine-disrupting chemicals), showing a link between land-use change and water quality.

*This generous scholarship will be used for travel to and from the study area and in part for the costly quantification of estrogen chemicals from river water samples. I'd like to personally thank the Rocky Mountain Region of the ASPRS for their support. Lastly, I'd like to highlight the encouragement bestowed upon me by my graduate advisor, **Mike Daniels**, for the undertaking of this project.*

Welcome New Members!

Matthew Bethel
Troy Gerhardt
Larry Schaner
Matthew Wright

Krista Deal
Tim Kammerer
Matt Vossman

New Student Members

Jana Pedersen

Melissa Thompson

Congratulations Member Champions

Linda E. Meyer

Ramesh Sivanpillai

Become An ASPRS Member Champion

ASPRS is recruiting new members and YOU benefit from each new member YOU champion. Not only can you contribute to the growth of ASPRS, but you can earn discounts on dues and merchandise in the ASPRS Store.

Recruit:

one new member, earn a 10% DISCOUNT off your ASPRS DUES and \$5 in ASPRS BUCK\$.

5 new members, earn a 50% DISCOUNT off your ASPRS DUES and \$25 in ASPRS BUCK\$.

10 or more new members in a calendar year and receive the Ford Bartlett Award, one year of complimentary membership, and \$50 in ASPRS BUCK\$.

All newly recruited members count toward the Region's tally for the Region of the Month Award given by ASPRS.

Those eligible to be invited to join ASPRS under the Member Champion Program are:

- Students and/or professionals who have never been ASPRS members.
- Former ASPRS members whose membership has been lapsed for at least three years.

Invitation to New Student Chapters

In a continuing effort to expand our outreach and meet the main objectives of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), the Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to invite educational institutions and their faculty advisors to consider creating and building ASPRS Student Chapters at their respective schools. This invitation is open to all institutions with new and/or existing Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing or GIS programs. This is an ideal opportunity for students who wish to be more active in their educational and professional lives to do so by participating in ASPRS.

By starting a student chapter with the RMR, students and educators alike will have access to technical presentations, job fairs, discounts on ASPRS publications, networking opportunities, and over \$20,000 in national and regional awards, scholarships, and fellowships.

If you'd like to inquire about existing student chapters within the RMR, or to obtain a Petition Form in order to begin the process of establishing a chapter at your institution please contact: **Victoria Provenza**, ASPRS-RMR Vice-President at 303-408-6022 or victoria@proSPATIAL.com.

State Liaisons

Geographically, the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS spans the Rocky Mountain West from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. In order to provide greater value for our Regional Membership, we are seeking members to act as liaisons within their state for local events. If you are interested in serving in this unique position, please contact **Victoria Provenza**, RMR Vice-President and

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Membership Coordinator, by phone at 303-408-6022 or by email at victoria@proSPATIAL.com.

2007 RMR Board of Directors Election Results

Please join us in welcoming the new members of the Rocky Mountain Region 2007 Board of Directors. The Board of Directors information is provided on the last page for your reference in an effort to encourage your communication and participation in regional events. We want to thank the membership for voting! We hope to hear from you!



Tina Cary (far right) inducts the new officers for 2007: from left, National Director Allen Cook, President Terry Ryan, Vice President Victoria Provenza, Regional Director Brian Soliday, Treasurer Shaun Callaghan, Past President Jeff Young.

Job Postings!!!

Greetings ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Members:

The opportunities for networking, conferences, employment, training, grants and contracts are really picking up! If you haven't checked out the [News & Events](#) or [Jobs](#) pages on the RMR web site lately, what are you waiting for? These listings are updated frequently, so keep an eye on them regularly!

*** **Reminder** ***

Register for 2007 Annual Meeting by 7 April to qualify for advance rate and save money.

ASPRS – Rocky Mountain Region: 2007 Officers

President	Terry Ryan LizardTech Centennial, CO	Work: (303) 903-3604 tryan@lizardtech.com
Vice-President	Victoria Provenza ProSpatial Centennial, CO	Work: (303) 770-8251 Victoria@ProSpatial.com
Secretary	Matt Bobo Bureau of Land Management Denver, CO	Work: (303) 236-0721 Matthew_Bobo@blm.gov
Treasurer	Shaun Callaghan Definiens, Inc. - Earth Business Unit Denver, CO	Work: (720) 932-8160 scallaghan@definiens.com
National Director	Allen Cook Northrop Grumman Lakewood, CO	Home: (303) 841-2994 frostbite@myawai.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Trent Casi Harris Corporation Golden, CO	Work: (303) 215-1700 tcasi@harris.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Matt Wood ITT Visual Information Solutions Boulder, CO.	Work: (303) 786-9900 mwood@ittvis.com
Regional Director (Communications/Newsletter)	Molly Thomas Spectrum Mapping Denver, CO	Work: 303-298-9847 mthomas@specmap.com
Regional Director (General)	Brian Soliday TerraGo Technologies Erie, CO	Work: (303) 250-5537 bsoliday@terraготech.com
Regional Director (At Large)	Rick Lawrence Montana State University Bozeman, MT	Work: (406) 994-5409 rickl@montana.edu
Past President & GIS in the Rockies Advisory Board	Jeff Young SANZ Geospatial Solutions Group Englewood, CO	Work: (303) 495-6334 jyoung@sanz.com
Communications Coordinator/Webmaster (not on the board)	Sheila Pelczarski Denver Water Denver, CO	Work: 303-628-6511 sgp@denverwater.org