



## 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**

As the old proverb says, "May we live in interesting times." And "the times they are a-changin'." How change manifests itself is open for debate, perhaps best left for further discussion at a Rocky Rogues get-together. Our industry will be affected by global, national and local economies, changing leadership, policies, funding sources and flows, as well as advancing technology. How organizations react to these new initiatives will determine their place within the geospatial industry, and have a profound effect on the overall state of the industry.

This was expressed during "Career Night" at Metro State College, sponsored by ASPRS-RMR and RM-URISA, which hosted a panel of speakers representing different sectors of our industry including local, regional, state and federal government organizations, commercial firms and academia. The panelists were asked to provide their perspectives on the present and future the geospatial industry, followed by their views on where career opportunities can be found.

The general consensus was that our industry has taken an economic hit along with nearly all others, but not as badly as most others. There has been a slowdown of business, much of it due to budget shortfalls of our customers, especially local and state government sectors. However, the geospatial industry remains strong and viable, and all agreed that we would rather

be in the geospatial industry in these times than just about any other. The economic stimulus monies allocated for "shovel-ready" infrastructure and public works will be helpful, if not in the near-term (i.e., 2009), then definitely in the future as the backlog of construction is completed. Literally billions of dollars have been allocated to projects needing geospatial products and services, and the need for maps and geospatial information will continue to grow with population and competing demands for resources. In the meantime, we need to get over this downturn.

With a plethora of technical advances reaching maturity (LiDAR, digital aerial and satellite imaging, GPS and other real-time geo-positioning systems, powerful and user-friendly software application packages, computing and networking, establishment of formal and de facto standards, storage, image and data compression and transmission, and more), we have crossed the threshold where we are enabled by advanced technology, rather than encumbered by its limitations.

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However, the opportunity for our industry is not about the data or the technology per se, but rather how it is deployed to facilitate Decision Support and Management Systems. A common thread among the panel members was that our industry needs to move from the focus on technology and data to enabling decisions. This is facilitated by locating and obtaining the right data, at the right time, and applying it in a way to make well-informed decisions. Such decisions support energy and environmental programs, emergency management, public safety, and many more worthy and funded projects and applications (thus creating potential employment in many industry sectors!). Dependable and actionable information will enable beneficial efficiencies across the playing field of the geospatial industry, and beyond.

The discovery and exposure of imagery and geospatial data by Google, Microsoft, Zillow, MapQuest and many other “e-business” organizations, coupled with business, social, and consumer-oriented data/information, have provided a glimpse of the paradigm shift to come. The consumer-oriented businesses have identified the right actionable data and information needed to drive customers to their websites. The possibilities continue from there, and the influences of new and unknown markets and applications will affect how the geospatial industry evolves. Which begs the question, are we the windshield or the bug? Cause or effect? How do we drive positive development and growth of the industry?

One way is to attend and contribute ideas in meetings, conferences and networking events sponsored by ASPRS-RMR and other geospatial professional organizations in the area. Your ASPRS-RMR Board of Directors identified two main goals for the region. First, identify and create value for members by providing opportunities for participation in industry and society networking events. An example of this is the recent Career Night. The second goal is to foster cooperation, collaboration and education with other organizations in the Region, especially in support of the first goal. We are working to have collaborative meetings and networking events with several other professional geospatial organizations. Please check back with the “Rocky Mountain Compiler” newsletter and watch for ASPRS-RMR email announcements for event details.

In conclusion, we are fortunate that the Rocky Mountain Region is a capital of the geospatial industry, with a broad and diverse cross-section of people and market segments represented. This

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unique proximity creates synergy and spawns further advancements in a positive feedback loop. We can and will lead the way in some fashion, that’s for sure. And this “Brave New GeoSpatial World” is a good place to be!

Cheers!

**Jeff Liedtke**  
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## National Director’s Report

First, on behalf of ASPRS-RMR, I would like to thank **Allen Cook** for his many years of service to the organization. He will be missed. We wish the best to Allen on his new endeavor in metro Washington DC.

As this is my first communication as National Director, I thought it appropriate to share with our membership a summary of the ASPRS Board Meeting held during the Annual Conference at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel on March 13, 2009. Several topics of interest were covered, including the transition of leadership to **Brad Doorn** as ASPRS President. Brad is an able leader with many years of service in the federal sector and he possesses an appreciation of private sector business interests. His appointment should strike a solid balance for ASPRS.

Now a few highlights from the Board meeting:

ASPRS has experienced some financial impacts from the current state of the economy. We are doing better than other organizations but we did see a significant drop in the value of our reserves as a Society.

The ASPRS fiscal year 2009 operating budget was presented at approximately \$2.5 million.

National membership continues to grow incrementally. There are currently around 5500 members in good standing.

Interesting 2009 initiatives:

- National Land Imagery Program Legislation (NLIP) - ASPRS submitted a strong message of support to Congressional Leadership in December
- *Guidelines for Photogrammetric Services* is a hot topic for discussion and it remains open for review in its current draft form

- Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) has attempted to raise the visibility of “geospatial” with Congress
- Imagery for the Nation – ASPRS supports the program
- ASPRS Foundation Sponsorship financial base continues to grow
- ISPRS Support
- Certification continues to be an active initiative nationwide

ASPRS publications in progress:

- Manual of GIS
- Manual of Remote Sensing/Sensors and Platforms - Volume1
- LiDAR Manual

Conferences on the horizon:

- ASPRS/MAPPS Fall 2009 Conference – San Antonio (November 16 - 19)
- 2010 Annual ASPRS Conference (April 26 - 30) – San Diego
- Fall 2010 Planning Status – Orlando (November 13 – 18)
- 2011 Annual ASPRS Conference (May 1 - 5) – Milwaukee
- Pecora 2011 – Denver (November 15 – 17)
- 2012 Annual ASPRS Conference (March 19 – 23) – Sacramento

ASPRS is an open, transparent society and I encourage all of you to probe any of the topics that I have listed with me one-on-one. In addition to serving as the National Director for the Rocky Mountain Region, I have requested to become a member of two national committees: Bylaws and Data Preservation and Archiving.

#### Jeff Young

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## ASPRS-RMR Annual Dinner Meeting Report

The Rocky Mountain Region’s Annual Dinner meeting proved once again to be an enjoyable evening. The event was held at the Wellshire Country Club in Denver on January 24th, 2009. Attending were most of the previous year’s board members, the incoming board, and other distinguished guests from the community at large, including a past national president of ASPRS, some of the Rocky Mountain Region’s past presidents, a representative of the Rio Grande Chapter in New Mexico, and several members of the industry. It was a smaller gathering than usual, but as always,

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was filled with interesting conversation, laughter, and camaraderie.

Outgoing Vice President **Trent Casi** acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening; **Victoria Provenza**, outgoing President, was not able to attend. Trent recapped the previous year and recognized several goals that were pursued in the region, including the scholarship awards and promoting additional membership outreach programs.

**Dr. Roger Hoffer**, a National Past President of ASPRS, presided over the induction of the new officers of the Rocky Mountain Region’s board able to attend. Roger reflected on the growth and development of ASPRS, from its humble beginnings to the strong and active organization it is today.

The Rocky Mountain Region’s scholarship award was presented to **Kristina Yamamoto** from the University of Denver for her exceptional work using remote sensing to support sea turtle research on Turkish beaches. Kristina entertained the gathering with a description of her research and tales of traveling and working in Turkey. Two of her professors from DU also attended and testified to the quality of Ms. Yamamoto’s work.

The Annual Dinner meeting was, as usual, a great way to kick off the New Year!



*At the Annual Dinner Meeting, Dr. Roger Hoffer, right, inducted Jeff Young, Clyde Hubbard, Linda Meyer, and Sharolyn Anderson (left to right) into their respective positions on the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directions. Outgoing Vice President Trent Casi (at podium) presided over the meeting.*

## ASPRS Annual Conference Report

The ASPRS 2009 Annual Conference, “Reflection of the Past, Vision for the Future” was held in Baltimore, Maryland March 9 – 13 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. The conference commemorated the 75th anniversary of ASPRS and had 1520 registered attendees, which was an increase over last year.

Appropriately for a 75th anniversary celebration, opportunities were provided to look back over the years. In one project, five documentary vignettes were developed and made available for viewing in the exhibit area throughout the conference:

- Aerial Survey Pioneers
- Geospatial Intelligence in WWII
- The Role of Women in the History of Photogrammetry
- Photogrammetry in Space Exploration
- Evolution of Analog to Digital Mapping

If you were unable to see the films during the conference, <http://www.asprs.org/films/films.html> provides links for viewing the vignettes, and identifies the sponsors. They are also available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/ASPRS>, on the ASPRS channel on YouTube. Additional vignettes will be developed as resources permit and donations are welcome!

In another project, Pennsylvania State Public Broadcasting has developed a concept for a 60- or 90-minute documentary called "The Geospatial Revolution". The ASPRS Foundation donated initial seed money to fund concept development and preparation of a trailer, which was shown at the conference and is currently available for viewing at <http://geospatialrevolution.psu.edu/>.

A third retrospective was created by Kim Tilley, Associate Executive Director of ASPRS. Kim posted an ASPRS timeline and displayed items of significance from the Society's history. A picture of the dining room table around which the founders met to develop the charter (the table is still with the Society and functions as a conference table) was available for viewing, as well as a picture of the house where the first ASPRS meeting took place. Other items on display included a reproduction of the first ASPRS publication, pictures of Society Presidents throughout the years, actual equipment from private collections, pictures of other buildings that have housed the Society, and covers of the Manuals that have established ASPRS as the premier professional society in the mapping sciences.

LiDAR was a hot topic throughout the meeting, with several well-attended sessions dedicated to the subject. ASPRS has a strong interest in taking a leadership position on airborne LiDAR, specifically on exchange and transfer format standards. Several ASPRS "camps" on the definition of standards, guidelines and best practices have formed and there has been internal discussion about how standards get vetted at ASPRS. Data volumes continue to

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grow and rollbacks to original data sets are of great interest. "LiDAR for the Nation" was discussed and concerns were raised over funding and the potential for quality issues arising from the comparability of acquisitions by different suppliers and sensor manufacturers. In addition, several attendees expressed an interest in a "National Calibration Site."

Another highlight of the 75th Anniversary celebration was the appearance of the Capitol Steps (<http://www.capsteps.com/>), a comedy troupe specializing in political satire. Many of the players are former Capitol Hill staffers, so they know whereof they poke fun.

For those who missed the conference, keynote and general session presentations are available online at <http://www.asprs.org/baltimore09/multimedia.html>. Fourteen presentations are available as MP3 files, and three of the presentations are also available as WMV files and zipped PowerPoint files.

## Rocky Mountain Region 2009 Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to **Kristina Yamamoto**, a graduate student at the University of Denver, for winning the Region scholarship award for 2009. Kristina received a \$1,500 award check at the annual dinner meeting in January. Kristina was our guest at the dinner, where she spoke to us about her work using remote sensing to support sea turtle research on Turkish beaches. We wish Ms. Yamamoto well in her future studies at the University of Denver and beyond. Thanks to all who applied. Applications for next year's award will be available in the fall.



Rocky Mountain Region 2008 Vice President Trent Casi and scholarship winner Kristina Yamamoto.

## New Board Members

### *Vice President: Ramesh Sivanpillai*

**Ramesh** teaches Remote Sensing and works as an Associate Researcher at the Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WGISC) at the University of Wyoming. He has been a member of ASPRS since 1997. He currently directs WyomingView and he serves on the AmericaView board. Ramesh is looking forward to expanding the presence of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region within the state of Wyoming.

### *Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter): Kristi Edwards*

**Kristi** currently manages Marketing Communications and Human Resources for Echoserve, a medical equipment company in Golden, Colorado. Her previous work experience includes GIS product management and archaeological field work. She completed the GIS Certificate Program at the University of Denver in 2007 and has a B.A. in Anthropology with a minor in Spatial Information Management from Colorado State University. Kristi is excited to have the opportunity to remain involved in the industry by serving on the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors.

## Welcome New RMR Members!

Please extend a warm Rocky Mountain Region welcome to our new members!

Gary Grigsby	Jason Rowe
Brian Timoney	Trevor Millward
Dr. Robert Schafer	Rajeswari Siloju
Agus Suratno	Phyllis Thomas
William Mast	Ronald Sims
Debbie Deagen	Craig Gallagher
Andrew Archer	William Brenton
Evan Mandell	Reihaneh Peiman

## GIS in the Rockies 2009

### *Call for Abstracts Is Open!*

The 22nd annual GIS in the Rockies Conference, "Spatial Solutions for the New Economy", is set to take place September 16-18, 2009 at The Ranch in Loveland, Colorado. The Conference Committee is currently accepting abstracts for presentation and poster submissions. The abstract submission deadline is May 30, 2009. Go to [www.gisintherockies.org](http://www.gisintherockies.org) for additional information or to submit an abstract.

Take advantage of discounted registration rates now! The deadline for super early registration (\$200) is April 30, 2009.

## Career Night at the Tivoli

A successful "Career Night" at the Tivoli was hosted by ASPRS-RMR and RM-URISA on February 25th. The event at Metro State College in Denver was attended by more than 120 participants from locations along the Front Range between Cheyenne and Colorado Springs. Five panelists representing different geospatial sectors were asked for their perspective on the present and future state of the geospatial industry, and where opportunities exist. Questions from the audience were then addressed for about an hour.

We received about 30 resumes which were subsequently reviewed by **Richard Serby** from GeoSearch. Those submitting resumes were then contacted by Richard with input, advice and edits, as well as notification about potential positions in the industry. Thanks go out to Richard for supplying this valuable service.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to **Brian Soliday, Simon Montague, Richard Serby, Scott Kellar** and **Jeff Liedtke** for their participation as panelists, **Tony Palizzi** for moderating the event, to **Craig Gallagher** for hosting and coordinating the venue, **Matt Krusemark** for hand-out material and to **Linda Meyer** for distributing information regarding GeoEye open positions. We received about 30 emails and phone calls from participants who found the event informative and worthwhile; thank you for your input and suggestions. Based on the positive results, we plan to co-host another Career Night at the Tivoli at a later date this year. Please check our website ([www.asprs-rmr.org](http://www.asprs-rmr.org)) and *Rocky Mountain Compiler* newsletter for future events, seminars, workshops and membership information.

## Rio Grande Chapter Annual Spring Meeting Report

### *What's Happening in New Mexico?*

On March 14th, 2009 from 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM the Rio Grande Chapter held their first annual spring meeting at Bohannon Huston; Courtyard 1; 7500 Jefferson NE; Albuquerque, NM.

**Dennis Szarka**, current President of the Rio Grande Chapter, gave the welcoming address and **Clyde Hubbard** gave a presentation on the history and current status of the chapter. Fourteen people

attended, including three students from Clyde's class on Photogrammetry at Central New Mexico Community College. **Michaela Buenemann** travelled from Las Cruces, New Mexico and **Joe Zebrowski** came from Las Vegas, Nevada to give presentations. There were five technical presentations and several attendees went to lunch for continued discussions on licensure for photogrammetrists in New Mexico, among several other topics.

The Rio Grande Chapter is also proud to announce that progress has been made in developing ASPRS student chapters at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, The University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque!

## News from Headquarters

ASPRS Films - View or download a series of short videos developed for the ASPRS 75th anniversary celebration and first shown at the March 2009 annual conference in Baltimore. The films can be found on the National ASPRS website and at [www.youtube.com/user/ASPRS](http://www.youtube.com/user/ASPRS) on the ASPRS YouTube channel.

Inspired by response to the initial set of videos, the ASPRS Board of Directors approved funding for the ASPRS Films project to continue throughout this year. Please contact the ASPRS Films Committee at [films@asprs.org](mailto:films@asprs.org) if you ...

- Have an idea for a 60-90 second short film
- Would like to nominate an individual to be interviewed
- Would like to join the ASPRS Films Committee
- Would like to become a sponsor of this project -- all donations are tax-deductible!

The following press releases were issued since our last Rocky Mountain Region *Compiler* was released:

**Ray Helmering** and **Thomas R. Loveland** have been named the 2009 ASPRS Fellow Award winners. The ASPRS designation of Fellow is conferred on active Society members who have performed exceptional service in advancing the

science and use of the mapping sciences. <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-02-fellow-award-winners.htm>.

**Nicole Wayant** is the first winner of the Abraham Anson Memorial Scholarship, established in 2008. <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-04-wayant-anson-winner-09.htm>.

The BAE Systems Award was given to **JuWon Hwangbo** for work (co-authored by **Kaichang Di** and **Rongxing Li**) entitled "Integration of Orbital and Ground Image Networks for Automation of Rover Localization." <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-04-hwangbo-bae-winner-09.htm>

The Boeing Award for Best Paper in Image Analysis and Interpretation was given to **Robert A. Chastain, Jr.**, **Matthew A. Struckhoff**, **Hong S. He**, and **David R. Larsen** for "Mapping Vegetation Communities Using Statistical Data Fusion in the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri, USA," pages 247–264 in the February 2008 issue of **PE&RS**. <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-04-boeing-winner-09.htm>.

The Robert N. Colwell Memorial Fellowship for 2009 was awarded to **Sergio Bernardes**, a doctoral candidate at the University of Georgia. <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-04-bernades-colwell-winner-09.htm>.

The Photogrammetric Award (Fairchild) was awarded to **Charles K. Toth**, PhD at the 2009 Annual ASPRS Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-04-toth-photogrammetric-winner-09.htm>.

## Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors Contact Information

Contact information for the Board of Directors is provided on the region website, <http://www.asprs-rmr.org/officers.html>, for your reference and in an effort to encourage communication and participation in regional events. We hope to hear from you!

## GIS in the Rockies – Key Dates

Super early registration, available through April 30, is only \$200  
 Abstracts are due May 30  
 Early registration is \$225 through June 30  
 Workshops are September 15, conference is September 16–18  
[www.GISintheRockies.org](http://www.GISintheRockies.org)