



## THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

*~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~*

**Issue 1**

**Spring 2010**

**Issued Quarterly**

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

### **GIS In the Rockies 2010**

The 23rd annual GIS in the Rockies Conference, "Endless Opportunities for the Next Decade," is set to take place September 14-17, 2010 at The Ranch in Loveland, Colorado.

ASPRS will host two presentation tracks during the conference:

1) "Imagery and Elevation Data: Foundations for GIS and Modeling"

The accuracy of a GIS or a geospatial model is only as good as the data or information it is based upon. A critical source for the majority of GIS and modeling data is derived from imagery and digital elevation data. As a foundation for GIS and modeling, it is crucial to understand how imagery and elevation data is collected and processed to derive the many types of data and information used in geospatial systems. This broad topic covers primary imagery and elevation data acquisition, preprocessing and processing, data and information extraction techniques, different applications, accuracy, QA/QC, data standards and formats, and other considerations when utilizing imagery and elevation data in GIS and modeling systems.

2) "The Role of Imagery and GIS in Decision Support Systems"

How is imagery and GIS used to help managers make more informed decisions? In many cases, spatial decisions have far-reaching effects regarding property rights, land

use, zoning, etc., or decisions need to be made quickly, such as in emergency management events. Imagery and GIS are critical in helping to collect, filter and assess large amounts of disparate data to aid in all phases of planning, situation awareness, and decision support. Presentations for this topic address how imagery and GIS are used in all elements of a decision support system, from planning and preparedness, to situation awareness and response, monitoring, mitigation and recovery.

We are currently looking for volunteers to serve as Track Chairs. If you are interested, please contact **Matt Cross** at [mcdenmail@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdenmail@yahoo.com).

### **President's Message**

Greetings to ASPRS RMR members! We have kicked off 2010 and everyone on the board is getting comfortable in their positions. 2009 was a very successful year and I want to personally thank

---

## **Inside This Issue**

- 
- 2 ASPRS National Director Report**

---

  - 3 Scholarship Winners Announced!**

---

  - 3 Breaking News: RMR Awarded Newsletter of the Year by National!**

---

  - 3 Introducing Our New Treasurer, Ralph Vomaska**
-

everyone on last year's board for all your efforts and hard work. I want 2010 to be an exciting year and I look to grow our membership significantly within the region by emphasizing the value of ASPRS membership and the importance of the use of remote sensing data in solving real-world problems.

The economy has surely taken its toll on a number of industries this past year, and although our industry has suffered some effects of the economy, it has also shown resiliency. As long as we can continue to show that our innovation and technology advancements can solve world problems, then our industry will remain strong.

We will be presenting several professional and social activities throughout 2010 that will be open to the remote sensing professionals of the Rocky Mountain Region. The objectives of these events will be to foster networking, encourage the exchange of technical ideas, and to facilitate the growth of membership in the region.

The annual National ASPRS conference will be held in San Diego, California, this year from April 26th-30th at the Town and Country Hotel. This will be another exciting conference and I encourage you to attend and support ASPRS. The exhibit spaces are currently full, but several of the workshops are still open. This is an excellent event to network and become educated on the latest technologies in remote sensing.

I look forward to an excellent year as president and I will be surrounded by a very supportive team to help the Rocky Mountain Region reach our goals in 2010!

Please stay tuned to our website for news and event updates at [www.asprs-rmr.org/news.html](http://www.asprs-rmr.org/news.html).

Don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or ideas.

Trent Casi  
President ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region-2010  
[tcasi@applanix.com](mailto:tcasi@applanix.com)

## ASPRS National Director Report - The Washington Beat

In my capacity as National Director I have been enlightened by many National ASPRS-driven initiatives. For me, one of particular surprise and interest is the formation of the Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) in August 2008. We, as residents of the geospatial community, are all affected by the actions of COGO, so I thought it important to convey the underpinnings of the organization. The items below are extracted from

## Rocky Mountain Compiler

Rules of Operation and Procedure, "COFPAES Model" Organization of Stakeholders in the Geospatial Community (approved August 4, 2008). This Coalition is a force to be reckoned with, and can potentially have a positive influence on the Nation's Geospatial Policies. Organizations participating in COGO who actively engage in knocking on the doors of Congress include NSGIC, MAPPS, NACo and WGA. The real test will come when these organizations are pressed to act in a collaborative manner. One might consider COGO as the ultimate body to foster industry, education and government "Geo-organizational Collaboration." However, let us also acknowledge that many of these organizations can, and have, behaved with parochial interests first and foremost. Opinions on the best path to move forward Nationally vary greatly on issues of credentials, certifications, and the inclusive or exclusive nature of the geospatial profession. As a result, all of these organizations should be monitored and, at times, held in check by our collective memberships, regional entities and elected officers. So the question remains ... Who watches those individuals designated to craft our future and define our legacy?

COGO Member Organizations (as of August 2008) are:

- American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM)
- American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- Cartography and Geographic Information Society (CAGIS)
- Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA)
- GIS Certification Institute (GISCI)
- International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)
- Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
- National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)
- University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS)
- Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)

COGO Advisory Organizations (as of August 2008) are:

- National Association of Counties (NACo)
- National Emergency Number Association (NENA)
- Western Governors Association (WGA)
- American Planning Association (APA)

**PURPOSE:** The general purpose of COGO shall be to provide a forum for organizations concerned with national geospatial issues that will 1) improve communications among the member organizations

(and others), 2) provide educational information on relevant issues for their respective memberships, 3) align and strengthen their respective policy agendas, and 4) facilitate development of strategies to address national issues.

The objectives in carrying out its general purpose shall be: 1. Developing programs of coordination and mutual action by member organizations that positively affect the interests of the membership from each of the Member and Advisory organizations. Subjects may include, without limitation, legislation, agency policies and regulations, publications (including a website), conferences and seminars. 2. Providing a framework maintaining awareness and coordinating policy positions of the organizations comprising COGO, as such policy positions relate to issues at the federal, state and local levels.

**AUTHORITY: Adoption of Policy Positions**  
COGO shall undertake legal or advocacy action only through unanimous agreement of all of the Delegates in accordance with its purposes on behalf of the Member Organizations. Each Member Organization or Advisory Organization reserves the right to express separate views or take independent action when it is not in agreement with a proposed course of action presented for consideration by COGO, except that no Member Organization or Advisory Organization shall take a contrary public position or bring suit or commence legal action (external or internal) without first submitting notice of such intent to COGO for consultation prior to the initiation of such action. Notice of such intent to take a position or to commence legal action is to be given as early as practically feasible so that, if time permits, COGO may provide counsel on the matter and may determine whether or not COGO concurs in such action.

Your comments on COGO are welcome.

**Jeffrey M. Young**  
National Director, ASPRS-RMR  
[jyoung@lizardtech.com](mailto:jyoung@lizardtech.com)

### Welcome New Members

Natalie Heberling	Lauren Maske	Andrew White
Christine Tindall	Justin Calvert	Thomas Flowe
Isabella Mariotto	Amanda Noon	Chris Padwick
Eric Vossenkemper	Michelle Kinseth	John Lovseth
Dawn Browning	Timothy Martin	

### Scholarship Winners Announced!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 ASPRS-RMR Scholarship Competition!

First Place Winners (each to receive \$1,000):

**Mr. Joseph Hoover**, University of Denver  
**Ms. Kristen Hestir**, New Mexico State University  
**Mr. Marques Munis**, Colorado State University

Second Place Winners (each is eligible to receive imagery/DEM data):

**Mr. Gabriel Bellante**, Montana State University  
**Mr. Jeremy Dunn**, University of Denver  
**Ms. Elizabeth Paulson**, University of Colorado at Boulder

### Breaking News: RMR Awarded Newsletter of the Year by National!

We have just learned that the Rocky Mountain Region has once again been recognized by ASPRS National in the Region of the Year awards! We will receive First Honorable Mention for the 2010 Region of the Year, and FIRST PLACE for the 2010 Newsletter of the Year award!!! Congratulations to all who served on the 2009 ASPRS-RMR Board of Directors for these accomplishments, and many thanks for all your good work!

The hand-embossed certificates will be presented at an awards luncheon at the upcoming ASPRS conference in San Diego.

### International Lidar Mapping Forum Report

The 10th annual International Lidar Mapping Forum ([www.lidarmap.org](http://www.lidarmap.org)) was held in Denver March 3rd-5th. The event was very successful: the attendance has nearly tripled since the first conference was held ten years ago, showing the increasing importance and innovation of lidar technology. New applications are being created every day, such as accurate and efficient indoor mapping for buildings. If you have not had a chance to attend this conference, please consider doing so in the future, as it offers valuable insight into the world of lidar.

### Introducing Our New Treasurer, Ralph Vomaska

Ralph Vomaska, [mapworks@mho.net](mailto:mapworks@mho.net), agreed to fill the Treasurer position recently vacated by Linda Meyer. Ralph has been working in mapping since 1979. About nineteen years of this has been in photogrammetry, including numerous highway and utility projects, some using metric mapping standards. Since 1990 he has been working on large scale photogrammetric mapping projects.

## 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 23rd, 2010. 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 and several members of the industry. Kudos to **Clyde Hubbard** for driving all the way from Albuquerque to join us!

ASPRS-RMR National Director, **Jeff Young**, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the evening; **Jeff Liedtke**, outgoing President, was not able to attend. As an icebreaker, Jeff instructed each guest to put their birth place on their name tag and then to sit with others whose places of birth were in the same region. This facilitated some lively conversations and the beginnings of new friendships. Once the evening program was underway, Jeff Young 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.



New officers for 2010 are sworn in by Dr. Roger Hoffer, retired CSU professor and former ASPRS National President. From left: Linda Meyer, Kristi Edwards, Eric Vossenkemper, Clyde Hubbard, Jeff Young, and Roger Hoffer

The Rocky Mountain Region's six scholarship award winners were announced and scholarships were presented to the two winners who were able to attend the dinner, **Joseph Hoover** of the University

## Rocky Mountain Compiler

of Denver and **Marques Munis** of Colorado State University. After receiving their scholarship awards, each talked to the group about their research interests and project work at their respective universities. Joe Hoover is integrating remote sensing and GIS to study the hydrologic impacts of land use change in a botanical garden in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Marques Munis is using the SAVANNAH ecosystem model to improve management of the spread of invasive cheatgrass in the southern Rocky Mountain region.



Jeff Young (left) presents scholarships to Joseph Hoover from Univ. of Denver (center) and Marques Munis from CSU (right).

Near the end of the program, Treasurer Linda Meyer, standing in for President Jeff Liedtke, made a surprise presentation to Jeff Young. It was a "Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service to the Rocky Mountain Region" for his efforts in communicating ASPRS National activities and decision-making processes to the members of the Rocky Mountain Region, as well as his efforts to communicate regional ideas and concerns to the National leadership.



Treasurer Linda Meyer presents a Presidential Citation to National Director Jeff Young on behalf of outgoing President Jeff Liedtke.

See you in  
San Diego!