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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

Report from ASPRS Annual Conference in Anchorage

The ASPRS Annual Conference in Anchorage was a successful, well-attended gathering with 1,100 registrants and over 60 companies exhibiting. The city sits on Cook Inlet, surrounded by water and snow-capped mountains. It was truly exciting to be attending this conference in the heart of "the last frontier."

Workshops and Technical Tours were offered early in the week. Choices for tours included the University of Alaska School of Engineering, Dept. of Geomatics; the US Geological Survey; the US Fish and Wildlife Service; the US Bureau of Land Management; and DAT/EM Systems International. This reviewer attended a tour of the US Fish and Wildlife Alaska Region offices in Anchorage. They showed how they use GIS and Remote Sensing for their projects, including land status mapping, wildlife habitat mapping, wildlife refuge planning, wildlife observation data analysis and mapping, and National Wetlands Inventory mapping. In-depth demonstrations were given on Indian tribal lands mapping, walrus population studies in the Bering Sea, and wetlands analysis.

The keynote speaker was to have been **Yang Kai**, Professor, State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping in China, but he had to cancel his appearance due to the SARS epidemic in Asia.

Mr. Kai is President of the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, as well as being President of the Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography.

The plenary session speaker was **Craig Dorman**, Vice-President for Research at the University of Alaska. He is a former Navy SEAL, Director of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Senior Scientist at the Applied Research Laboratory of Penn State University and Chief Scientist at the Office of Naval Research in Washington, DC.

Poster Sessions, Exhibits, and Technical Sessions were held throughout the week.

The Awards Luncheon was held on Thursday. Four members of the Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors attended: **Allen Cook**, National Director; **John Parker**, Past President; **Scott Bennett**, President; and **Sheila Pelczarski**, Communications Coordinator. Various awards were presented at this

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event. The Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) took honors in three categories:

- * Region of the Year -- 1st place
- * Newsletter of the Year -- 2nd place
- * Web Site of the Year (new award) -- 1st place

John Parker accepted the Region of the Year award, and **Sheila Pelczarski** accepted the awards for newsletter and web site. If you haven't visited the site recently, have a look at www.asprs-rmr.org.

This year inaugurated the SAIC Estes Memorial Teaching Award in honor of **Jack Estes** and we are happy to report that the first recipient was Rocky Mountain Region's **Roger Hoffer**.



Left to right: ASPRS President Terry Keating, Roger Hoffer, Claire Estes, and SAIC representative Al Watkins.

The main social event was the "Great Train Adventure," a scenic train ride on the Alaska Railroad south from Anchorage. We enjoyed the views and dinner and wandering from car-to-car, taking in live music by a bluegrass band on the front end of the train, a karaoke setup in the middle, and a German Oompah band on the back end, in the Tiki Bar, adorned with palm trees and a grass shack roof. It was truly a surreal experience to be dancing the polka to a German Oompah band in the Tiki Bar on the Alaska Railroad!

Rio Grande Chapter News

The Rio Grande Chapter will host a Photogrammetry Certification Workshop over the next few months. This Workshop is being offered to ASPRS members and to non-members, and will consist of a series of sessions to help professionals apply to, prepare, and review for the ASPRS Photogrammetry Certification exam in October. For more information, please contact **Steve Scharf**, sscharf@enerquestnm.com, or **Mike Racine**, mike@blueskies.aero.

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Congratulations to Blue Skies Consulting, LLC for their award as USDA Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year for 2003! Both **Tami Wiggins**, CEO, and **Mike Racine**, President, are ASPRS members. We are very pleased for them!

Blue Skies Named USDA's Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year for 2003

Blue Skies Consulting, LLC, has been named the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) 2003 Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year.

Tami Wiggins, CEO, and **Michael Racine**, President, traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept the award in a ceremony at the USDA on June 5, 2003. The company was nominated by the USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office.



U.S. Department of Agriculture's Small Business Awards Ceremony, Washington, DC, June 5, 2003. Blue Skies Consulting, LLC: 2003 Woman-Owned Business Contractor of the Year, nominated by USDA's Aerial Photography Field Office. Left to Right: John Surina, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration; Ruben Barrales, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, The White House; Tami Wiggins, CEO, Blue Skies Consulting, LLC; Mike Racine, President, Blue Skies Consulting, LLC; Joe Ware, Associate Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; James Little, Administrator, Farm Service Agency.

Blue Skies specializes in aerial photography and remote sensing for mapping and surveying. Its expertise includes primary data acquisition, system integration, and remote sensing applications. Blue Skies has 15 years experience on projects throughout the United States and in Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. Its emphasis on quality assurance and client satisfaction has led to exceptional corporate growth: the company has seen a 500% increase in sales revenues since its inception.

Blue Skies has performed numerous projects for USDA, including acquisition of vertical, high-resolution imagery for the USDA's Natural Resources Inventory Project, five national parks and monuments in Colorado and Utah, riparian studies in New Mexico, and a resource management evaluation in California and Nevada.

Blue Skies is currently a five-person firm located at the Albuquerque International Sunport. The company will complete construction of a new office and hangar complex at Belen Alexander Airport by the end of the year. The 8,000 square foot facility will unify Blue Skies' office space, aircraft storage, and maintenance facility.



Tami Wiggins, CEO and Mike Racine, President, Blue Skies Consulting, LLC

RMR Is Region of the Year!

Every year ASPRS bestows awards for "Region of the Year" and "Newsletter of the Year." These are presented at the Annual Conference Awards Luncheon. This year the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) took honors in three categories:

- * Region of the Year -- 1st place
- * Newsletter of the Year -- 2nd place
- * Web Site of the Year (new award) -- 1st place

Four representatives of the Rocky Mountain Region Board attended the Awards Luncheon in Anchorage to receive these awards: **Allen Cook**, National Director, **John Parker**, Past President, **Scott Bennett**, President, and **Sheila Pelczarski**, Communications Coordinator. Your Rocky Mountain Region has been awarded the honor of Region of the Year for the second year in a row!! We also placed in the top three in 2001, 1998, and 1996. We have reason to celebrate and be proud!

Here are excerpts from the Awards Luncheon Program:

Region of the Year Award

"Purpose: The Region of the Year Award was established in 1968 to recognize excellence at the regional level in providing service to the members and to the profession at large."

"Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) is the winner for the second year in a row. As exemplified by their outstanding membership recruitment and retention programs, the region continuously dedicates itself to the goals of the Society. The region helped their new Rio Grand Chapter flourish and helped expand other local chapters. They again co-hosted the GIS conference in furtherance of their goal of a larger regional conference. RMR also provided technical tours, awarded scholarships, improved the content on their superb web site which included promotion of the Pecora conference, and established a 2004 conference committee. Congratulations, you did it again!"

Region Newsletter of the Year Award

"Purpose: The Society first bestowed this award in 1980 to recognize excellence among the Regions in providing service to members and to the profession at large through newsletter publication."

"The Rocky Mountain Compiler is the Second Place winner of The Newsletter of the Year Award – and it is also a consistent winner. It compiles significant topics throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. Their publication is easy to read, contains informative and professional information, and relays its important message to region readers swiftly. The Spotlight on Student Chapters, new members and the important membership reminder, all add to a publication that makes its mark as a winner with its high standards and photojournalistic reporting."

Rick Vincent is the Newsletter Editor for the Rocky Mountain Compiler.

Region Web Site of the Year Award

"Purpose: This is the inaugural year for the Region Web Site of the Year Award. The award serves to recognize excellence among the regions in providing service to members and to the profession at large through web site publications."

"Rocky Mountain Region is the inaugural First Place winner of the Region Web Site of the Year Award. The Rocky Mountain Region web site provides unique content and an interesting interface. In addition, the Rocky Mountain Region web site highlights student activities in the region through the ASPRS Student Chapter – the Colorado State University Geospatial Information Club."

Sheila Pelczarski is the Rocky Mountain Region Web Site Editor.

John Parker, President of the RMR in 2002, was there to accept the Region of the Year award.

Sheila Pelczarski, Communications Coordinator,

accepted the awards for newsletter and web site. If you haven't visited the web site recently, be sure to have a look at www.asprs-rmr.org.

ERDAS IMAGINE Front Range Users Group

On Friday May 2, the Denver office of Leica Geosystems GIS and Mapping, LLC (LGGM) held the second meeting for the ERDAS IMAGINE Front Range Users Group. At this meeting attendees were encouraged to socialize and discuss current projects and seek advice with some of the in-house experts at LGGM. There was also a 30 minute presentation by instructor **Joe Mostowy**, on advanced classification techniques. The meeting lasted approximately one and a half hours and will be held on a quarterly basis. The next meeting will be in mid-August and will include some special guests from LGGM. If you are interested in attending please contact **Ben Dorland** at 303 799 9453 or ben.dorland@gis.leica-geosystems.com <mailto:ben.dorland@gis.leica-geosystems.com>.

Chapter Creation: New Mexico Has One, Montana and Wyoming Next

In 2002, the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS worked to help a group of ASPRS members in New Mexico create a new chapter, the Rio Grande Chapter. We are now looking forward to helping members in other RMR states create and support their own Chapters. Much of the initial work that is required for chapter creation has already been completed, in the formation of the Rio Grande Chapter. We are actively searching for ASPRS members in Montana and Wyoming to help us create chapters in those states. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact **Brian Soliday**, Vice President, ASPRS RMR Board of Directors at 303-250-5537, or thesol@mesanetworks.net.

GIS in the Rockies October 1-3

GIS in the Rockies is the Rocky Mountain region's premier geospatial information and technology conference. This year's conference marks the 16th anniversary of the conference.

The conference offers a low-cost opportunity for professionals in the fields of GIS, facilities management, remote sensing, photogrammetry and surveying to learn more about the latest developments in these fields, from peers from across the mountain west.

Regular attendees include representatives from local, state and federal government, the utilities

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industry, environmental services, surveying professionals, the oil and gas industry, retail and business marketing professionals, and other related fields.

The 2003 Board has proposed a number of format changes this year. Workshop and track sessions will run concurrently on the first and second days of the conference, allowing participants to see more in a shorter space of time. The third day will include technical tours, a golf event, and other "geospatially-related recreational opportunities."

The 2003 GIS in the Rockies Conference is scheduled for Wednesday October 1 through Friday, October 3

Once again, we are pleased to have the Plaza at the Mart, part of the Denver Merchandise Mart, as the site for the conference. The Denver Merchandise Mart is conveniently located at I-25 and 58th Ave, about 5 miles north of downtown Denver. The entrance to the Plaza is off Washington, on the east side of the building

For more information visit <http://GISintheRockies.org>

Welcome New Members!

Active Members:

Ron Salmans
Gregg Swayze
Peter Vaziri

Student Members:

Sunil Kumar

Report on Intermap Tech Tour

Intermap Technologies, Inc., producer of IFSAR RADAR data products, hosted a technical tour for 26 ASPRS members on Friday afternoon, June 13, at their headquarters in Englewood, CO. We started out in the conference room for an introduction and welcome by **Amy Daniels**, Director of Data Services. We were then split into two groups. One group stayed in the conference room for a presentation by **Eric DesRoche**, Vice President, who outlined the history and background of the company. The IFSAR RADAR product started out as a Dept. of Defense DARPA project in the Washington, DC area; it was next adopted by the Environmental Research Institute of Michigan (ERIM), and later adopted by Intermap. Intermap has offices in Denver, Ottawa and Calgary, Canada, and Munich, Germany. He further elaborated on the various applications the data have been used for, and talked about major acquisition projects in the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Germany, Indonesia, and parts

of the US. They also acquired a sizable portion of Colorado to cover the Hayman Fire burn area (as well as a good deal of the Front Range) for the US Geological Survey in 2002.

IFSAR data was compared with LIDAR data, and the two products are actually complementary. LIDAR data is best suited for small, site-specific projects, such as a development site or downtown area, where a higher degree of detail is needed for building footprints and heights or ground contouring. IFSAR data works well and is more cost-effective for covering larger areas, including entire regions, states and countries.

The other phase of the tour consisted of a walk-through with **Amy Daniels** of the production area, where initial processing is performed after IFSAR data collection. The data are then transferred to the Ottawa office for hand editing. **Amy** also provided an overview of their data storage and cataloging system.

Some value-added products are also produced in the Denver office. Many examples of these are displayed on the walls throughout the facility. These include draping of Landsat and other imagery over the RADAR-derived elevation models. RADAR imagery has also been merged with Landsat data to produce stunning natural color imagery with vivid texture and detail. Intermap has partnered with ImageLinks to provide these value-added products.

Refreshments and conversation were enjoyed by all following the formal portion of the tour. ASPRS-RMR appreciates this opportunity to see what goes on behind-the-scenes at Intermap Technologies. Visit their web site at www.intermaptechnologies.com

President's Message –

Good Times in our Region

It's summer time in the Rockies and what a great Region we all live in from Mexico up to Canada. And what wonderful diversity in geography we have from the arid deserts to the glacial cirques and from the fields of wheat to the alpine tundra. Perhaps it is no surprise that the Rocky Mountain Region is home to so many of us working in the fields of geology, biology, geography, forestry, etc. and proponents of remote sensing, photogrammetry, and GIS technologies. We all like to work hard and in turn play hard. And it certainly shows on our faces – whether exhausted on a mountain biking trail or in a strategic meeting room for one of the large satellite companies.

It also is clearly evident within your own ASPRS Region. Besides being in the middle of planning for

another successful GIS in the Rockies Conference and working on details to host the National Conference in Denver next May, we are returning from an eventful Anchorage meeting (May 5-9) with **3 awards out of 3 categories!** Board Members **Sheila Pelczarski, Allen Cook, John Parker** and myself attended the 14th Annual Awards Luncheon at the top of the Hilton Hotel overlooking Anchorage and Cook Inlet. See other article in this newsletter describing the awards that were bestowed upon us in more detail. Congratulations to all who contributed last year to this success!

Besides the Region Awards, many others were offered (during the 3+ hour ceremony) that included monetary awards funded by various leading companies in our Industry. Nearly \$12,000 was awarded in five categories for 13 of the top "outstanding papers" written in PE&RS. Another 14 awards were presented that included Scholarships and Academic Awards as well as Professional Achievement Awards. Of most interest to members in our Region, **Roger Hoffer**, retired professor of Remote Sensing and former director, Remote Sensing and GIS Program, Department of Forest Sciences, Colorado State University, was the first recipient of the new SAIC Estes Memorial Teaching Award. This new award, initiated in honor of **Jack Estes**, was designed to recognize individual achievement in the promotion of remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) technology and applications through educational efforts.

Summary of ASPRS Nation-wide

While in Anchorage, I also attended the Region Officers and Directors Meeting along with **Allen Cook** and **John Parker**. It was good to meet members from other Regions across the US and learn what programs and directions other Regions are focusing effort on. We may even adopt some of the better ideas into our Region, just as I am sure some of the others will try to mimic the success we have had in the RMR. It was also good to hear that the Anchorage Conference exceeded attendance forecasts with nearly 1200 attendees.

Executive Director **Jim Plasker** reported that the overall health of ASPRS is good after the successful conference in DC last year in addition to the Pecora Conference held last fall in Denver. It was also announced that around \$70,000 remains on the mortgage for the new building our National Headquarters occupies. With the RMR agreeing to contribute to match donations and National agreeing to do the same, we all hope that a mortgage burning (or perhaps shredding is more appropriate in Colo.) ceremony will take place next year at the 70th Annual Conference being held in Denver in May of 2004. It was also announced that after the mortgage is paid off, the goal is to increase the dollar amount and the

number of scholarships and awards to students and professionals excelling and advancing the goals of the society through their own research and applied work.

Honoring Our Treasurer and Looking for New Volunteer

It saddens me to announce that our Treasurer for the past few years, **Leanne Hanson**, is having to take a leave of absence from her Treasurer responsibilities for the RMR and the 2004 National Conference Planning Committee. She had a wonderful opportunity to advance her degree as well as her professional career and will be moving out of the Denver area this summer. I know she will stay active in our Region and volunteer to help out again in the future. She was a tremendous asset to our Region and leaves her post in the most organized shape I am sure it has ever been in. We will all miss her contributions immensely and wish only the best for her. But **NOW**, we need a new volunteer to take over this organized board position. So if you have been thinking you might like to get more involved and give a little back to the Society, and you've just been waiting for the right time – well now that time has arrived! **Please call me if you are interested!**

Enjoy your Summer in the Rocky Mountain Region!

Scott A. Bennett

President ASPRS-RMR 2003
sbennett@imagelinks.com

Licensure Materials Online

The ASPRS Professional Practice Division Licensure Committee announces the online availability of several useful and informative items regarding licensing of photogrammetrists and GIS professionals. All of these materials are available on the Licensure Committee page located at:
www.asprs.org/asprs/society/licensure-committee_frame.html

-- ASPRS Policy and Procedures concerning Licensure: Approved Sept. 2002, by the full Board.

-- PowerPoint Presentation on Professional Licensing: Defines ASPRS policy and position regarding licensing. Provides an outline for licensing considerations. To be used as a basic guideline for regions and others considering licensing issues.

-- Link to compendium of Individual State Licensing Boards and Regulations (includes forms and information regarding licensing).

-- Link to the South Carolina Forms and Regulations (zipped packet).

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If you have questions about this material or require additional information concerning the activities of the Licensure Committee, please contact the Chair, **Doug Fuller** (mailto:dfuller@aerometric.com) or PPD Division Director **John Simmers** (mailto:john.simmers@virginiadot.org).

Landsat 7 SLC Anomaly

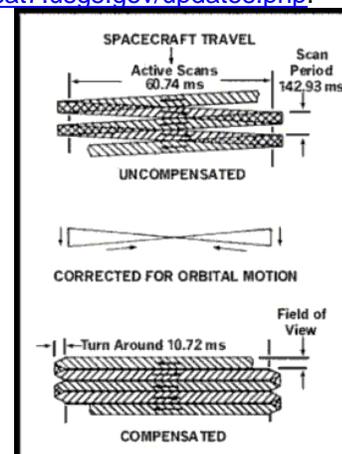
Beginning May 31, 2003, unusual artifacts appeared in the Enhanced Thematic Mapper data from Landsat 7, consistent with a failure of the scan line corrector (SLC).

On June 20, USGS reported the following:

The Landsat 7 anomaly team is making progress on identifying the failure scenarios leading to the Scan Line Corrector (SLC) anomaly. The team is investigating both electrical and mechanical scenarios. The SLC assembly includes redundant electronics, but only a single motor. The team is looking for scenarios that exhibit the same telemetry and data signatures seen since the SLC anomaly occurred. From this information, the team will generate a plan for recovery of the SLC. While we would all like a "quick fix" for this problem, the team is taking necessary precautions to avoid any further problems with the SLC.

As a parallel effort, a team of engineers and science users are investigating the scientific validity and usability of the Landsat 7 data with a non-functioning SLC. A report and sample data will tentatively be available by next week at this site.

All Landsat 7 scenes that were acquired from May 31, 2003 to present cannot be ordered at this time, and therefore will not appear on the search and order interfaces. Standard data acquisitions and scheduling are suspended until this problem has been resolved. Details and updates on the anomaly investigation will be provided, as they become available, on the USGS web site at <http://landsat7.usgs.gov/updates.php>.



Top show gaps and duplicate data that result when the SLC is not functioning properly

ASPRS - Rocky Mountain Region: 2003 Officers

This contact information is provided to make it easy for you to get involved

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | Scott Bennett ImageLinks, Inc. 1746 Cole Blvd, Suite 225 Golden CO 80401 | Work: 303-215-1700 Fax: 303-278-0092 sbennett@imagelinks.com |
| Vice President | Brian Soliday Earth Search Sciences Inc. Erie CO | Work: 303-250-5537 Fax: 303-485-0100 thesol@mesanetworks.net |
| Secretary | Andrew Shepherd Intermap Technologies, Inc. 400 Inverness Drive S., Suite 100 Englewood CO 80112-5847 | Work: 303-708-0955 Fax: 303-708-0952 ashepherd@intermaptechnologies.com |
| Treasurer | Position is open To volunteer, contact Scott Bennett, President | |
| National Director | Allen Cook Northrop Grumman Mission Systems 200 Union Blvd., Suite 100 Lakewood CO 80226 | Work: 720-963-6941 Fax: 720-963-6950 allen.cook@ngc.com |
| Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies) | Mark Hess Director of Operations Rocky Mountain Region Ocean Imaging, Inc. | Work: 303-948-5272 Fax: 303-948-5272 mhess@oceani.com |
| Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies) | Jaymes Pardue VARGIS 19124 W. 60 th Lane. Golden CO 80403 | Work: 303-384-1925 Fax: 303-384-1926 Cell: 303-475-4874 jpardue@vargis.com |
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| Regional Director (General) | Ken Turnbull PO Box 261872 Littleton CO 80163-1872 | Work: 303-790-7070 Fax: 303-790-4864 Cell: 303-829-6916 ken@kenturnbull.com |
| Regional Director (At-Large) | Stella Todd Metropolitan State College of Denver Campus Box 22 PO Box 173362 Denver CO 80217-3362 | Work: 303-556-3144 Fax: 303-556-4436 toddst@mscd.edu |
| Past President | John Parker BAE Systems 8400 East Prentice Ave., Ste 1500 Greenwood Village CO 80111 | Work: 303-409-7755 Fax: 303-409-7748 john.parker6@baesystems.com |
| Communications Coordinator (not on Board of Directors) | Sheila Pelczarski Denver Water 1600 West 12th Avenue (MC 414) Denver CO 80204-3412 | Work: 303-628-6511 Fax: 303-628-6852 sgp@denverwater.org |

New Publication about US National Reconnaissance Capability

ASPRS has announced limited availability of a new publication, **Beyond Expectations-Building an American National Reconnaissance Capability: Recollections of the Pioneers and Founders of National Reconnaissance** By Robert A. McDonald, editor

Published by ASPRS in cooperation with the Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance Office of Policy National Reconnaissance Office

This book includes recollections of 46 pioneers whose collective, professional contributions represent the very foundation for the discipline of remote sensing and national reconnaissance. With the Cold War, the founders and pioneers were confronting threats and uncertainties that their generation was finding frightful and initially baffling. Many of the systems and strategies in use today derive from this important period.

As described by **Robert A. McDonald**, editor, "When you read these accounts and reflect on their content, you will find that they are insightful stories about the theory, doctrine, and practice of national

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reconnaissance. You will find information about the lives of these individuals who were committed to a mission and brought the nation extraordinary engineering solutions to the complex challenges of national reconnaissance."

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List Price: \$50

Stock #4567

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Call for papers

<http://www.asprs.org/denver2004call.pdf>

Abstracts due Sept 19, 2003

