



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

Happy Summer Solstice! This signals the beginning of the State and County 2010 Fiscal Year, the end of the Federal 2009 Fiscal year, the end of the school year, and the potential opportunities thereof. Good luck to us all, and to our industry which—according to conventional wisdom—continues to shrink. The pundits say that the economy has reached the bottom of the recession and recovery is underway. Let's hope they are correct. After all, we know that optimism has a positive impact! In any case, there are many positive ASPRS activities occurring in our region. I'd like to summarize some of these activities in a mid-term review:

GIS in the Rockies 2009 is being held September 16–18, 2009, with pre-conference workshops on September 15. As the "Rocky Rogues Nanny" recommends in these tougher economic times, focus your training and conference dollars in your own backyard. Early registration for GIS in the Rockies ends July 15, 2009. Take advantage of the savings by registering early for \$225, versus the regular registration cost of \$325. Conference planning is well underway, with abstracts due this July 24. The three ASPRS tracks include 1) Visualizing Cost-effective Spatial Solutions, 2) The Continuum from LiDAR to Decisions, and 3) Data Acquisition, Exploitation and Presentation in the New Economy. GIS in the Rockies is the best local conference in the west and presents

an excellent opportunity for companies and organizations in the region to demonstrate their capabilities to a qualified and relatively sophisticated audience. Please refer to the GIS in the Rockies conference announcements in this newsletter for more details.

Membership Dues Relief to Unemployed ASPRS Members - ASPRS-RMR recently learned that some unemployed ASPRS members did not renew their memberships to cut costs. The Board of Directors felt that these unemployed members needed the benefits of ASPRS membership more than ever, especially for networking opportunities, and needed to remain active members for the good of the ASPRS Society. In March, ASPRS-RMR recommended to the National ASPRS Executive Committee that membership dues be suspended for unemployed ASPRS members. The ASPRS ExCom (Executive Committee) and National Board of Directors overwhelmingly supported this suggestion, and in April approved the proposal. The National

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ASPRS Society sent an e-mail announcement to the general membership in all regions on April 20th outlining the measure, with instructions included. ASPRS-RMR was the first region to donate funds to the unemployed member dues relief fund. The ASPRS National and Rocky Mountain Region Board of Directors feel that this action will result in a stronger ASPRS Society in the short-term and in the future.

Networking and Collaboration - In the winter issue of the *Rocky Mountain Compiler*, I outlined the region's two main goals and objectives for the year. The first goal is to identify and create value for members by providing opportunities for participation in Industry and Society networking events. The second goal is to foster cooperation, collaboration and education with other organizations in the Region, especially in support of the first goal.

We have worked to plan collaborative meetings and networking events with other professional geospatial organizations. These include joint conference tracks at GIS in the Rockies and ESRI Southwest Users' Group meeting (SWUG) with GITA and URISA, in addition to the social get-together at GIS in the Rockies and the Rocky Rogues Christmas party. Back by popular demand is another Career Night at the Tivoli (Denver) in the Fall. Last, but not least, the Rocky Rogues meetings, one of the best networking events set in a casual and fun environment, are taking place every month at the Wynkoop Brewing Co. in Denver. More information about these events will be forthcoming in ASPRS-RMR e-mails to our members and on the Region website.

Seminars and Professional Development - A priority of ASPRS-RMR has been to provide events for professional development. In the past, many of these events were hosted by companies in the Front Range in the form of technical tours. The RMR Board of Directors decided to change the format this year in order to be more inclusive of our entire widespread region. Therefore, we will conduct 'virtual' technical tours via webinars so that more members across the Rocky Mountain Region can participate. Different companies in our region with internet conferencing capabilities will host the webinars, with potential topics to include professional certification orientation, seminars on cutting-edge technology and solutions, student programs and scholarships, and more. If your company would like to host a webinar for the ASPRS-RMR members, or if you have topic ideas, please contact me.

Membership Drive - The Rocky Mountain Region is one of the most active and dynamic regions of

ASPRS. It is recognized that the strength of the region is due to the breadth and depth of our members involved in the many segments and facets of our industry. In order to help foster our leadership position in the industry, there are three main initiatives underway to build ASPRS-RMR membership. First, volunteers are contacting members who have let their memberships lapse to remind them to renew their memberships. The volunteers are also soliciting suggestions to ensure that members continue to take advantage of the many benefits of membership. The second initiative involves all active ASPRS members, where we all enlist new members interested in becoming more involved in the geospatial industry and in advancing their careers. We encourage ASPRS members to speak with friends and colleagues in the industry to urge them to become more involved and join ASPRS. Please let me know if you need help in this endeavor or need ASPRS brochures or other support material. You are also welcome to pass on contact information to me for follow-up. Our Society and Region will become stronger and more dynamic, and we will all benefit as a result of your efforts. The third initiative is to establish more student chapters across our region. This grass-roots approach represents the future of the ASPRS Society and of our Industry. Efforts are currently underway to establish or renew student chapters in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming.

ASPRS-RMR Scholarships - ASPRS-RMR sponsors academic scholarships for deserving students in all accredited universities and colleges in the Rocky Mountain region. Please refer to the article in this newsletter on the topic for further details.

In summary, the role of all ASPRS-RMR Directors is to serve the ASPRS members in our unique region. In order to do this effectively, we need both your input and volunteer efforts to plan and successfully implement the various initiatives and activities of importance to our region. Please do not hesitate to contact any Director with suggestions or to get information on how to become more involved in your Society and our industry – you will be richly rewarded in terms of professional satisfaction, expanding your network of contacts, and having fun with kindred spirits in an engaging environment.

Jeff Liedtke
ASPRS-RMR President
303-517-9594

ASPRS-RMR National Director's Report

A Sense of History and Purpose: ASPRS as a Standards Bearer

As a member of the ASPRS' National Board, I was asked, along with about 30 others, in late May to provide review comments on the final draft of *ASPRS Policy on the development, maintenance, approval, and compliance of ASPRS Authored Geographic Information Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks*. This policy is intended to distinguish itself from standards formulation policy. Since I believe this is a core value and purpose policy for ASPRS, I have spent a good deal of time reflecting on this draft policy and its impact on parallel ASPRS standards initiatives. For the purposes of this review, I applied this definition of "Standard": something set up and established by authority as a rule for the measure of quantity, weight, extent, value, or quality (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/standard>, definition 4). In addition, I must gain an appreciation of our society's historic role in mapping standards, best practices, handbook development and publication. Over our 75-year history, from the initial notes on forming the Society led by Col. Claude Birdseye in 1934 through today, mapping standards and best practices have been an imperative of ASPRS leadership and have served our membership well. The revised draft of the ASPRS Policy provided below reflects my comments, and are the result of working closely with Ms. **Rebecca Morton**, the ASPRS Photogrammetric Applications Division Director. Interestingly, Ms. Morton indicated that I was the only Board member to provide comment during this review cycle. I found Ms. Morton to be purposeful and well grounded during this refinement of the policy. Please review the policy [below] and provide me with your feedback, addressed to jyoung@lizardtech.com.

Jeff Young

National Director, Rocky Mountain Region
jyoung@lizardtech.com

ASPRS Policy on the development, maintenance, and approval of ASPRS Authored Geographic Information Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks

-- Approved by the ASPRS Board on July 6, 2009

The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) has an imperative to develop Geographic Information Specifications, Best

Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks. These Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines and Handbooks are periodically compiled by ASPRS to communicate contemporary, definitive and authoritative methodologies, procedures, tools and techniques to plan, procure, acquire, compile, review and deliver consistent, predictable and high quality Geographic Information. When available, these documents reference universally accepted Standards and Specifications as defined and approved by the international standards community. These documents are differentiated from ASPRS Standards which are subject to compliance with ISO approval protocols for eventual vetting by this universally recognized international standards body. Procedures for the development of ASPRS Standards and Specifications that are to be developed into a Standard are outlined in a separate document entitled "ASPRS Policy on the development, maintenance, approval, and compliance of ASPRS Authored Geographic Information Standards and Specifications."

PURPOSE:

This policy defines the ASPRS responsibilities and procedures in the development, maintenance, approval, and compliance for ASPRS Authored Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks.

BACKGROUND:

An objective of ASPRS, as stated in the ASPRS Strategic Plan, is for ASPRS to "Proactively develop standards and guidelines for emerging technologies." To meet this objective, ASPRS needs to maintain a leadership role in the development of guidelines and handbooks for those activities and initiatives of primary importance to the membership.

POLICY:

(a) **APPROVAL:** ASPRS authored Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks require approval by the ASPRS Board of Directors.

(b) **OWNERSHIP:** The ASPRS Board of Directors is owner to the specifications, best practice, guidelines, and handbooks and agrees to maintain and encourage their implementation. The ASPRS Board of Directors may designate ownership responsibility for these documents (ASPRS Board of Directors' designee) to a division or standing committee within the society. The Standards Committee will maintain a list of all current and active specifications, best practices, guidelines, and handbooks. The Standards Committee will coordinate with the ASPRS Board of Directors, or its designee, to facilitate evaluating these documents every three

years or as necessary to satisfy revision requirements following the process described in (f).

(c) **COMPLIANCE:** The use of ASPRS Authored Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks are completely voluntary.

(d) **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS:** ASPRS will not knowingly approve a Specification, Best Practice, Guideline, or Handbook that it believes has or would infringe on third party Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) unless the owner of that IPR had agreed to provide license rights on a “reasonable and non-discriminatory” basis. Due to cost and other considerations, ASPRS will not perform patent searches prior to approving Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, or Handbooks.

(e) **FORMAT:** In general, ASPRS-authored Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks should conform to a style guide approved by the ASPRS Board of Directors. The Division Directors and Standing Committees shall define and maintain the style guide. An alternative format may be used, if at the discretion of the Board an alternative format better suits the intended purpose of the document.

(f) **PROCEDURE:** Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbook development shall adhere to a multi-step process under the oversight of a Division or Committee:

1. Notification to the Board of Directors, Standards Committee, and other Standing Committees of the intent to develop a specifications, guidelines, best practices, or handbook document. Notification will include such information as purpose, brief scope, proposed process, and contact information for the individual assigned to lead the development process. Individuals on the Board of Directors, Standards Committee, and other Standing Committees will be given a period of 30 days to express any concerns, identify any potential duplication of effort, or provide any other suggestions or guidance. The status of ongoing work will be reported to the Board within the Division and Committee reports at the bi-annual Board of Directors Meetings or more frequently as necessary.
2. Notification to the full ASPRS membership of the intent to develop a draft document, including such information as purpose, brief scope, proposed process, and contact information for the individual or group assigned to lead the development process.
3. Development of the draft document by the assigned working group; development may be

initiated concurrently with notification of the ASPRS membership.

4. Submission of the draft document to the Board for approval to publish as a draft for review to the full ASPRS membership.
5. Publication of the draft for full ASPRS member review with a timeline for comments and a point of contact for receipt of comments; timeline, process and review period to be set by the Board. Outside organizations may be included in the draft for review process at the Board or working group’s discretion.
6. Submittal of a final document for Board approval and adoption. Submittal of a final document will also include a review summary including a synopsis of the comments received, the corresponding responses and/or actions taken, and a copy of (or reference to) the full text of the original comments.
7. If approved, the Specification, Best Practice, Guideline, or Handbook will be communicated by the Board (or the Board’s designee) to the full membership of ASPRS and the document will be posted to the ASPRS website. The Standards Committee will maintain the official list of all current and active Specifications, Best Practices, Guidelines, and Handbooks, and will post these documents to the Standards web pages. Divisions and committees may also post copies or links to the same documents on their web pages.

Every effort will be made to ensure transparency, openness, impartiality, effectiveness, relevance, consensus, coherence, and due process.

Rocky Mountain Region 2009-2010 Scholarship Announcement

In its continuing efforts to support and build awareness for the Remote Sensing and GIS sciences, the Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS is proud to announce that it is accepting applications for two \$1250 academic scholarships for 2009-2010. Please visit www.asprs-rmr.org to learn more about the Scholarship Program. ASPRS-RMR offers scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students every year. The scholarships are intended for students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming) who demonstrate excellence while pursuing careers in the fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or related disciplines.

Both undergraduate and graduate students of any third-level educational institution within the four-state Region who are current members of ASPRS and pursuing degrees in these disciplines are eligible for the awards. The deadline to submit applications is in the fall every year and the winners are chosen in early or mid-December. Awards are presented at the ASPRS-RMR Annual Dinner Meeting in January. We have consistently offered thousands of dollars in annual scholarships and this year will be no different! Preference is given to those studies that apply sound scientific principles to practical applications and/or to those presenting their work at an ASPRS-sponsored conference.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship and are not a member of ASPRS, it is not too late to join! Please visit <https://www.asprs.org/application> to learn about becoming a student member. ASPRS-RMR will reimburse \$20 to every new student member upon request!

Awards are based on academic merit (that is, the application form does not request any personal financial data). For more information, please contact: **Ramesh Sivanpillai**, Vice-President, ASPRS-RMR at 307.766.2721 or at sivan@uwyo.edu (preferred).

GIS in the Rockies 2009

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 is sponsored by these professional societies: ASPRS, GIS Colorado, GITA, PLSC and URISA.



ASPRS is confirmed to host three presentation tracks and **your abstracts are invited by July 24:**

The Continuum from LiDAR to Decisions

LiDAR technology has matured and is becoming more familiar and accepted by both public and commercial sectors. Like most geospatial technologies, the type and quality of LiDAR data depends on the need and application of the data.

This track explores how the collection and processing methodologies for LiDAR data affect the utility and application of the data, and thus the decisions dependent on the particular LiDAR data.

Track Chair: **Carol S. Mladinich**

US. Geological Survey
303-202-4313 - voice
csmladinich@usgs.gov

Visualizing Cost-Effective Spatial Solutions

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then dynamically visualizing geospatial information is worth a million words. This track focuses on software descriptions, applications and development environments that will engage the GIS community in functions that are becoming part of the GeoWeb. Additional presentations include spatial solutions using mobile technologies, site selection models, GIS frameworks and spatial analytics.

Track Chair: **Sharolyn J. Anderson**

University of Denver
sharolyn.anderson@du.edu

Data Acquisition, Exploitation and Presentation in the New Economy

The present economy requires new, more efficient data collection, processing and presentation methods to be effective. This track explores innovations and developments in primary data collection from satellite and airborne remote sensing platforms, data processing and feature extraction, and ways of presenting and conveying information to help facilitate informed decisions.

Track Chair: **Robert E. Crawford**

Intermap Technologies, Inc.
303-708-0955 Ext. 233
rcrawford@intermap.com

Early Registration is still open and the discount deadline has been extended! Save \$100 by taking advantage of the reduced rate of \$225 for the entire conference until July 15, 2009.

Need help convincing your supervisor to send you to GIS in the Rockies? A letter template explaining the importance of attending the conference is available on the GIS in the Rockies website. Go to www.gisintherockies.org for additional information and conference registration.

Pre-Conference Workshop: Marketing Your Business

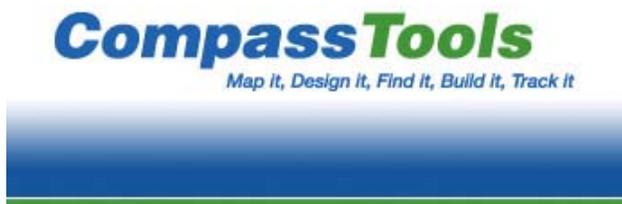
On Tuesday afternoon, September 15, ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region will sponsor a half-day

introductory workshop, "Marketing Your Business." Workshop leader **Dr. Tina Cary** presented this workshop at the ASPRS Annual Meeting in March in Baltimore, and it got very good reviews.

The course is designed to help people who are new to marketing and those who want to review marketing principles and techniques in the context of the geotechnology industry. Material will cover marketing of both products and services. Primary emphasis will be placed on marketing to organizations more than to individuals. Course participants will receive a workbook.

Registration details are being finalized and will be available on both the conference website www.GISintheRockies.org and the ASPRS-RMR website www.asprs-rmr.org.

CompassTools is the conference Platinum Sponsor.



Welcome New Members!

O'Conner Bailey

Lauren Morse

News from Headquarters

Webinar Workshop Series Announced by ASPRS

One of ASPRS' most popular workshops, "Preparation for ASPRS Certification" is being offered in four 2-hour segments on August 19th and 20th. You must attend all four segments to qualify for CEUs.

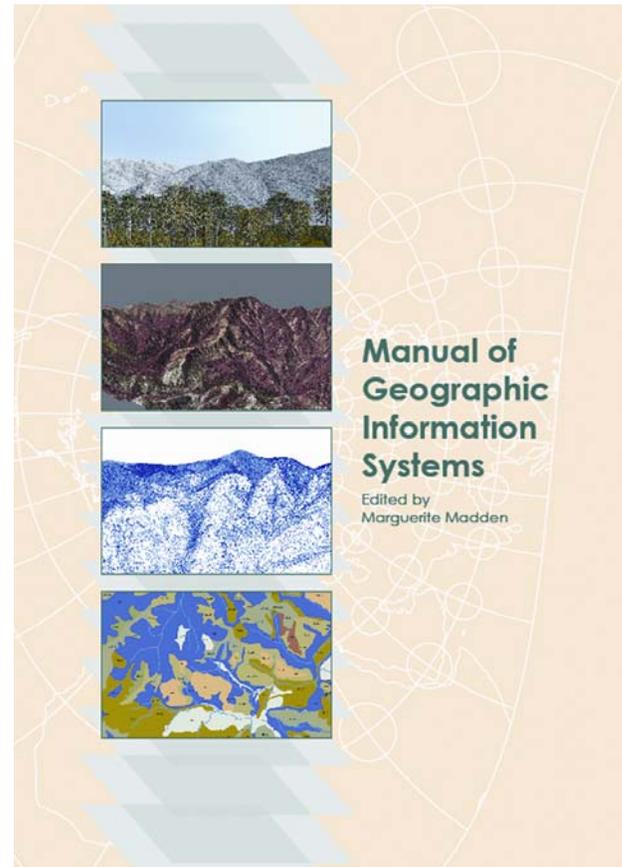
In this time of especially limited travel budgets, ASPRS is offering this opportunity to prepare for Certification Exams conveniently. To register go to: <http://www.asprs.org/webinarseries/>. The press release: <http://www.asprs.org/news/releases/2009-07-webinars.htm>.

Manual of Geographic Information Systems Published by ASPRS

The latest addition to the ASPRS collection of publications, *Manual of Geographic Information*

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Systems, is now available for purchase. The volume is designed to be a comprehensive resource on GIS for students, researchers and practitioners who are interested in asking spatial questions, assessing landscapes, building spatial databases and envisioning a world of integrated geospatial technologies.



The Table of Contents and list of authors for this manual can be found at www.asprs.org/gis_manual. The book is available to ASPRS members at the reduced price of \$110 plus shipping. To order, go to www.asprs.org/gis_manual and click on the On-line Bookstore link. Instructors may request an *examination copy* for this title.

ASPRS will be in booth 808 at the ESRI User Conference. If you are there, stop by to see this massive (four pounds and 11 ounces, 1330 pages) contribution to the field.

Online Registration Is Now Available for the ASPRS/MAPPS 2009 Specialty Conference

November 16 - 19, 2009. San Antonio, Texas
[DIGITAL MAPPING: From Elevation to Information](#)