

American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

The Imaging and Geospatial Information Society
PUGET SOUND REGION

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FALL 2002



THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Ward Carson

The PS Region Board has been active since our summer Newsletter. There have been meetings attended and meetings planned—like the important, upcoming Annual General Meeting in February, 2003—and we now face our need to elect our new officers and our National Director before that meeting. You'll find these activities and needs covered in the other articles of this newsletter issue. In my message, I'd like to talk about the success of our Information Exchange Meeting held this past October 15th.

Once again we joined the Columbia River Region to co-host the meeting in Vancouver, WA. This was our sixth such fall arrangement in as many years. Again, the format followed our invitation to "come and talk about what you're doing", or just come, listen and meet others who are working in your field. We had a good turnout: 10 speakers and approximately 30 attendees who seemed to enjoy the day.

Our speakers covered the **imaging and geospatial information** gamut. **Rory Retzlaff** reported on his use of a LIDAR-based, "canopy-top" digital elevation model (DEM) to prepare shade and shadow models that he proposes to improve the potential for interpretations of Landsat Images into vegetation, shade, soil, and non-vegetation classifications. I also discussed some LIDAR features: some detailed accuracy assessments on the ground level DEMs that one can expect from high-density (4 to 5 hits/square meter) collections over forested areas. **Rex Sandwith**, Living Database, Sammamish, WA discussed their software product directed at the need to manage and deliver image and geospatial information. Both **Joshua Greenberg** and **Vincent Sandor** informed us of the imaging and GIS efforts in their organizations—Skagit County, Washington and Portland, Oregon, respectively and the organizations that these governments have formed to conduct these efforts. And, just before lunch we had the pleasure of being updated on the large and interesting efforts of **Martin Plamondin** to complete his new Corps of Discovery map series documenting the expedition of **Lewis** and **Clarke**. After lunch, **Duncan Munro** told us more about his continuing effort to map and prepare data to support the City of Seattle's Habitat Conservation Plan for the Cedar River Watershed. **Tom Pagh** then summarized Spencer Gross's large and interesting "Denver Freeway and Light Rail Extension" project: an application of photogrammetry—both analytical and softcopy--and LIDAR—both terrestrial and airborne—to amass the high-resolution (e.g. 0.25 foot pixel orthophotos) and high accuracy (0.10 foot, field checked) data necessary for the design and construction of that

massive project. Our final discussion was on water rights: an interesting coverage of this important issue by Robert Harmon.

I found the day very interesting and, I would claim, successful. Successful because it served our members: they met and exchange information! Hopefully, we'll be able to do it again next year and, hopefully, **you'll join us as well.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

By: Terry Curtis, Membership Liaison

Puget Sound Region would like to extend a warm WELCOME! to all our new members.....
BUT THERE AREN'T ANY!

Why is this list so short (Non-existent) ?? **Brenda Rask** was our last new member (April '02) and our ONLY ONE since October of 2001. Every month I look through the PE&RS Journal at the New Members listing..... and month after month Puget Sound Region is ABSENT. Many Regions CONTINUALLY have multiple new members. What are they doing that we're not ?? This is always a topic of discussion at the National Membership Committee meetings. One common thread among the more active Regions is MEMBERS recruiting NEW MEMBERS. I'm sure most of you know a colleague or co-worker who is not a member, but who could benefit from membership. We all need to encourage those folks to join us in ASPRS - the PREMIER Geospatial professional association. Let's all work to LENGTHEN THE LIST!

THANK YOU SUSTAINING MEMBERS!

By: Terry Curtis, Membership Liaison

The Puget Sound Region would like to thank our Region's eight "Sustaining Member" organizations, their proprietors, and staff for providing ongoing support of the National (and Regional) ASPRS, and for their contributions to and/or advancement of the mapping sciences through the products and services they provide.

These organizations pay annual dues at the National level in exchange for several Sustaining Member benefits including reduced advertising rates, 4 copies of the PE&RS Journal, reduced rate and preferential exhibit space at conferences, company profile in annual "Directory of the Mapping Sciences", and listing in the "Products and Services" section of the ASPRS homepage.

Shouldn't YOUR company name be included here ?!

For more information contact ASPRS Membership Dept. at (301)493-0290 or email at members@asprs.org, or the ASPRS website at <http://www.asprs.org>

In grateful recognition of all the Puget Sound Region's Sustaining Members:

Eagle Mapping Services, Port Coquitlam, B.C.
ISM International Systemap Corporation, Vancouver, B.C.
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Radarsat International, Richmond B.C.
Terra Remote Sensing, Sidney B.C.
The Boeing Company, Seattle, WA
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Walker & Associates, Inc., Seattle, WA

ATTENTION Smaller Firms..... (DeGross, Inmap, osi geomatics, etc) ASPRS is establishing a two-tiered membership structure so YOU too can participate and receive Sustaining Member benefits. Watch for it in the near future!

THE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By: Terry Curtis, Puget Sound Region Director

Greetings Puget Sound Region members. Here's an update on National affairs of ASPRS, and a brief report on the recent (November 2002) ASPRS/Pecora 2002 Conference in Denver, Colorado.

2002 Pecora Conference: This was held November 10-15 at the Adam's Mark in Denver, CO. It was a great show, with lots of workshops, a separate MAPPs conference on Aerial Photography, a wide array of technical sessions, and an exhibition. All the workshops, sessions, and exhibits were well attended and there was a broad cross-section of attendees. Income projections from the meeting are significantly up from the planning figures! Typical Denver weather (sun, cold, snow) and a good time was had by all.

Financial Status: The Society continues to remain very HEALTHY in terms of financial status, even with the downturn in the economy. Outstanding fiscal planning and management continues to keep ASPRS in a favorable position. Projected to end 2002 with a \$200K+ surplus over projections, partly due to the great turnout at the spring FIG conference in Washington DC, and healthy publication sales.

Building Fund: GREAT NEWS here with the National "matching" campaign resulting in a continuing paydown of the mortgage. The balance is now only \$100K, and the goal of an early payoff is well within our grasp. Thanks also to the sustaining members who's generous donations have also contributed to the paydown! Remember, your donations are TAX DEDUCTABLE!! We're starting to plan the "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" for 2003 or 2004!

2-tiered Sustaining Membership: **George Southard** of Leica Geosystems, chair of the Sustaining Members Council, and others proposed a 2-tiered Sustaining Member program with reduced dues to allow smaller firms to participate and receive discounts and other benefits. The Board is awaiting final proposal and will vote on the matter via email later this year.

WWW Presence: ASPRS's website and electronic services continue to improve. Publication sales from the web are surpassing all expectations. Online membership renewals are quick, easy, and convenient. Member database information is improving as members have the ability to update or correct personal/society data. PLEASE VISIT www.asprs.org and update yours if you haven't recently. The Region is relying more and more on email to communicate with members, and we depend on the national data being current.

Certification Program: All materials, including application forms, are now available on the ASPRS Website! The program continues to improve and the exam has been updated and the new version will be implemented in January 2003. The current passing rate is 53 percent. The Technologist Program is on track to be implemented in January 2003. This program is designed for those up and coming in the photogrammetry and remote sensing professions who don't yet qualify for the full professional level certification, and there seems to be a lot of interest!. **Mike Renslow** (of Spencer Gross Inc in Portland, OR) is now the chair of the committee. ASPRS offers a formal Workshop on preparing for Certification. If there is enough interest in the Region, we could pursue having the Workshop held here in Puget Sound. Let any board member know if you're interested.

Future Conferences: May 5-9, 2003 - Anchorage – "Technology Converging at the Top of the World". (Don't miss this opportunity to visit the "Great White North" and "Land of the Midnight Sun"). Bring your COLORED golf balls for the tournament!! The Fall 2003 conference is scheduled for October 25-30 in Charleston, and will be co-sponsored by MAPPS, USGS, NOAA, NASA, and NIMA. The theme is DEM Visualization.

Licensing: Several states are pursuing the licensing Photogrammetrists as Land Surveyors, including our neighboring Oregon. The programs and status varies state to state, but most are utilizing the NCEES Model Law that ASPRS supports. For those interested.... South Carolina has their "Grandfathering" period open till June 30, 2004. Cost to apply is \$65 plus a \$15 exam fee, and there is NO REQUIREMENT to reside or have performed work in South Carolina. For more info, contact the South Carolina Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, 110 Centerview Drive, PO Box 11597, Columbia SC 29211-1597. Telephone (803)896-4422. It's not known how other states Boards will approach comity or reciprocity issues regarding a licensee in South Carolina.

IMPORTANT EVENTS REMINDER

By: George Maalouli

The Puget Sound Region Nominating Committee is now accepting recommendations for nomination to the office of Vice President. Please be advised that this is a progressive position. After serving one year as Vice President the candidate becomes the President-elect, then President, then Past-President. The Past-President usually fills the duties of Region Membership Chairman. Please send your recommendations to:

Ward Carson, ASPRS-PSR President
carsonw@u.washington.edu

Our annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place during the upcoming LSAW conference from February 19 till February 22 at the Seatac Hilton Hotel in Seattle. The meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20, at 11:00AM after the ASPRS sponsored session on LIDAR Evaluation. Please make an effort to attend the meeting. New officers will be installed during the meeting.

Additional information on the LSAW conference could be found on the LSAW web site www.lsaw.org

A LEGENDARY FIGURE RETIRES

By: Terry Curtis, Puget Sound Region Director

Sky Chamard (or **Roger Chamard** if you're into formalities) has retired as Chair of the ASPRS Certification Committee after over 20 years of continuous service to that committee. **Sky** saw the Certification program grow from it's infancy in 1975 to the highly praised and sophisticated program that it is today. **Sky** has been around ASPRS as long as I can remember, and he, **Spencer Gross**, and **George Walker** were the TRUE PIONEERS of Photogrammetry in the Northwest. I think **Sky** and **Spencer** mapped the majority of the state of Oregon on the old Kale plotters (the predecessor to the Kelsh plotters). Most of the folks in the industry today probably don't even know what space-rods or radial plots were! **Sky** has been a mentor to many, including myself, and his contributions to ASPRS and the profession are invaluable. He always speaks his mind (at times to the chagrin of his associates), has a heart bigger than all the outdoors, and remains dedicated to the profession. Thank You, **Sky**, for all you've done for ASPRS and the mapping sciences, and especially the Certification Program! (Sure glad I got certified BEFORE that written exam!)

ASPRS PSR Technical Exchange with the Central Puget Sound GIS Users Group

By: Kristin Gerhart

PLEASE JOIN fellow ASPRS PSR members in attending the February 2003 meeting of the Central Puget Sound GIS Users Group (CPS-GIS). If you missed out on the Puget Sound – Columbia River Fall Technical Exchange in October, here's another chance to present your work to the geospatial community. If you're not interested in presenting, come anyway – better yet, bring a colleague who needs to join ASPRS; this meeting is our opportunity to gain regional visibility and new members! Hear what other remote sensing professionals are working on in the Pacific Northwest and pick up information on new sensors, applications, techniques and software..

Presentation slots are 15-20 minutes long; a ceiling-mounted multi-media projector is available. Please contact any ASPRS PSR board member or Kristin Gerhart, VP as soon as possible to get your space on the program.

The monthly CPS-GIS meetings generally attract 25-30 attendees, and there are no dues or fees to attend and participate.

Contact:

Kristin Gerhart, k_gerhart@tyrnstone.com 206.855.8968

Time and Place:

February 18, 2003 1 to 3 p.m.

Mercer Island City Hall – easy access from I-90, free parking, digital projector

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