



July 2009

News & Views editor
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Curt Sumner, ACSM
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Donny Sosa, ESRI
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NSPS Board

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(president), A. Wayne
Harrison (president-elect),
William R. Coleman
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Fenn (secretary/treasurer),
Patrick J. Beehler
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www.nspsmo.org

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TEL 240.632.9716



From the NSPS president

Here we are in the heart (and the heat) of the summer. I am encouraged that construction activity around the country is helping a number of our members. There are reports about an occasional development project being started, and while I think we are a long way from the active times of the past, I am cautiously optimistic that the situation is getting just a little better. Besides trying to increase revenues by getting projects in the door, it is also good to look at expenses. One of the areas NSPS can help with is with your insurance needs. I have heard from members all over the country that our NSPS insurance program has saved them a lot of money...and saving money is never a bad thing. Check out the details on the NSPS website [<http://www.nspsmo.org/insurance.shtml>] and see if you would save some as well.

We just completed a successful NSPS Board ExCom meeting. I took a chance and held the meeting near my hometown in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. No one was eaten by bears, and the local facility did have indoor plumbing which wasn't always the case when I was growing up there. Details of the meeting are included further along in this report.

My August travel schedule is busy, but I want to take advantage of any opportunity that I may have to meet with our members. I will be in Louisville, KY, for the NCEES meeting; in Milwaukee, WI, for the WSLs Summer Conference; and in Orlando, FL, for the 54th Annual FSMS Conference. If you are going to attend any of those meeting, look me up and let me know what NSPS can do for you. This is your Society and your officers and directors work for you. We will do all we can to maintain NSPS as the leading national surveying organization, and we never forget who we work for.

— John Matonich, NSPS president

s h o r t t a k e s

Update on NSPS Board ExCom meeting

The NSPS Executive Committee met in Marenisco, Michigan on July 25 and 26. Hosted by NSPS 2009 President **John Matonich**, this year's meeting attendees included the NSPS President Elect **Wayne Harrison**, Vice President **Bill Coleman**; Secretary/Treasurer **John Fenn**, Immediate Past President **Pat Beehler**, Board of Governors Chair **Pat Smith**, NSPS Area Directors **Jan Fokens** and **Tim Kent**, NSPS Representative to the ACSM Congress **Jerry Goodson**, as well as the ACSM Executive Director **Curt Sumner** and Member Organizations Administrator **Dawn James**.

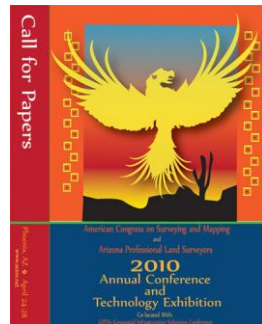
Issues discussed included the NSPS 2010 Budget; an amendment to the NSPS Bylaws; and appointments to the NSPS Foundation, Surveying Student Competition Committee, and the NSPS Hydro Board. The Committee also brainstormed about NSPS college student recruitment, and plans for the development of a young surveyor's group were discussed. The decisions made at the NSPS Board ExCom meeting will be ratified by the entire NSPS Board at its fall meeting in Gaithersburg, Maryland on September 27, 2009.

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Call for papers 2010 ACSM/APLS Annual Conference and Technology Exhibition co-located with GITA

Visit http://acsm.net/documents/ACSM_cfp.pdf for instructions on the information required with the paper submission.

All papers must be submitted online at:
http://www.gita.org/forms/forms/Default/ACSM_Annual_Conference_CFP.aspx

CST news

Texas High School Student Attains CST Level I Certification!

Congratulations are extended to **Nathan Persons** and his family. Nathan, a student of Duncanville High School in Duncanville, Texas, recently took the CST Level I Exam and passed! Nathan was a student in the engineering program at Duncanville High School. Duncanville High School participates in the Texas SkillsUSA program that facilitates the teaching of trade and industry classes to high school students. According to his teacher **Barton Burnett**, Nathan is currently traveling as a missionary with his family outside the United States. We look forward to doing a profile of him in the *ACSM Bulletin* at a later date.

Six CSTs Earn Level IV Certification!

The following earned CST Level IV Certification in the NSPS Certified Surveying Technician program:

- **Steven M. Bissett – Level IV Office Manager**
Bissett is a survey technician at **McCrone, Inc.** in Dover, Delaware. He resides in Dover.
- **Grover T. Fox, Jr. – Level IV Field Manager**
Fox is a senior field engineer with **Clark Construction Group, LLC.** He lives in Stephens City, Virginia.
- **Barry L. Hutchins – Level IV Field Manager**
Hutchins is a senior crew chief with **LAI Engineering** in Marietta, Georgia. He lives in Powder Springs, Georgia.
- **John P. Ray – Level IV Office Manager**
Ray is project/office manager with **CoJer Surveying, Inc.** in Abilene, Texas. He resides in Buffalo Gap, Texas.
- **Jack A. Rosenthal – Level IV Office Manager**
Rosenthal is a land services technician with **Ulteig Engineers, Inc.** in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. He resides in Ottertail, Minnesota.
- **William F. Strable IV – Level IV Field Manager**
Strable is a crew chief with **Advanced Geomatics** in Novi, Michigan. He lives in South Lyon, Michigan.

Congratulations to our new Level IV CSTs. To learn more about the CST program please visit: <http://www.nspsmo.org/cst/faqs.shtml>

2009 Trig-Star National Contest

Richard E. Lomax National Trig-Star Student Award Winners

1st Place—**Tommy Scott**, Patuxent High School in Lusby, Maryland
2nd Place—**Anthony Pabillano**, Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi, Texas
3rd Place—**John Berman**, John T. Hoggard High School in Wilmington, NC

2009 Richard E. Lomax National Trig-Star Teaching Excellence Award Winners

- 1st Place—**Blaine Mably**, Lusby, Maryland
2nd Place—**Ghada Salem**, Corpus Christi, Texas
3rd Place—**Colleen St. Ledger**, Wilmington, North Carolina

To learn more about the NSPS Trig-Star Program please visit:

http://www.npsmo.org/trig_star/index.shtml

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You report

Become a GeoMentor—

Following up on the *Young Surveyors* topic at the Surveying and Engineering GIS Summit in San Diego this July, I would like to invite NSPS members to become GeoMentors. It's easy, here's the link:

<http://edcommunity.esri.com/geomentor/guidelines.cfm#>.

Jack Dangermond addressed the issue of geo-mentoring in his closing address, as documented at the end of this webpage:

<http://www.esri.com/events/uc/agenda/closingsession.html>.

I look forward to working with you all to grow the Young Surveyors group—let's keep the ball rolling.—*Donny Sosa, Surveying Industry Specialist, ESRI*

Federal Geospatial Data Management

The purpose of the Oversight Hearing on Federal Geospatial Data Management before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on July 23, 2009, was to find ways of improving coordination among federal agencies in geospatial data collection. **Karen Siderelis**, Geospatial Information Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior; **Michael Byrne**, Geospatial Information officer, State of California; **John Palatiello**, Executive Director, MAPPS; and **Susan Marlow**, Chief Executive Officer, Smart Data Strategies, Inc. provided testimony on current activities, processes, and outcomes and made suggestions on avoiding duplication of effort and the siting of an oversight body. **Francis Derby**, GLIS Director, and **Ilse Genovese** attended as observers. Full-text testimonies at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov>. Observations from the meeting will appear in the August issue of the *ACSM Bulletin*.

TechBits

Speed up that PC, add RAM—

You've optimized your hard drive, deleted all the extraneous stuff in your registry and minimized the number of start up programs, yet your computer still seems sluggish. Before going out and buying a new one, there are a couple of things left to try (one even works if you do buy a new computer).

If your current computer is running Vista, and you can get the drivers for your system for XP, one option is to "downgrade" to Windows XP. It uses fewer resources (processor and memory) than Vista and for most people it has all the features they'll need. The biggest problem with downgrading is you need to re-install all your applications and put your data back...

If you are already running XP, or are stuck with Vista, the next best option is more RAM memory. Doubling the amount of memory in a PC or notebook from 1 gigabyte to 2 gigabytes will often give a 20-25% improvement in speed. You can get a feeling for how much improvement you will get by watching the hard disk light on your system. If it is always on, Windows is using it like memory and adding more RAM will help.

The good news is more RAM is relatively inexpensive. You should be able to get 1 gigabyte of RAM for either a desktop or notebook for under \$25 on sale,

I've seen 2 gigabytes for that, but it is more uncommon. More memory is something you should watch Spoofee (<http://www.spoofee.com>) for. Sometime in any 30-45 day period you'll see several RAM specials listed. Just make sure you get the same speed as your system requires (e.g. PC2700 DDR memory absolutely won't work in a system that requires PC5300 DDR2 memory). There is a point of diminishing returns, but generally more memory means faster.

[Gregg Marshall can be reached by e-mail at gmarshall@repconnection.com, or visit his website at <http://www.repconnection.com>.]

Save the date!!

ACSM Fall Meeting

The ACSM Fall Meeting will take place September 23 – 28, 2009 at the Gaithersburg Holiday Inn. Business meetings for all ACSM member organizations including AAGS, CaGIS, GLIS and NSPS will be held. ACSM Lobby Day at the U.S. Capitol will take place on Thursday, September 24, with a preparatory meeting beginning at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23.

New BLM Manual to be unveiled!

An unveiling ceremony for the "next edition" of the *BLM Manual of Surveying Instructions* will occur on **September 24** (Lobby Day) at the main office of the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC, beginning at 4 PM EDT. The primary speaker will be **Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar**. In addition to BLM officials and Congressional speakers, **ACSM Executive Director Curt Sumner** will also participate. This "next edition" is the first update to the manual since 1973.

All ACSM Lobby Day participants are invited to attend the ceremony and the reception to immediately follow it. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Curt Sumner (curtis.sumner@acsm.net) within the next two weeks so that a comprehensive list of ACSM attendees can be presented to BLM in order for access to the ceremony to be arranged.

Fall meetings at a glance:

ACSM/MOs Fall Meetings, Gaithersburg Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg, Maryland, **September 23-28, 2009**

Lobby Day Prep Meeting, Wednesday, September 23

Lobby Day, Thursday, September 24, 2009

BLM Manual unveiling, Thursday, September 24, 2009, Department of the Interior, 4 pm

ACSM / MOs Meetings, September 25-28, 2009

Alaska Society of Professional Surveyors—

2010 Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference, the last week of February, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel. Information will be posted as it becomes available at www.aksmc.org.