



October 2009

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NSPS Board

John D. Matonich
(president), A. Wayne
Harrison (president-elect),
William R. Coleman
(vice president), John R.
Fenn (secretary/treasurer),
Patrick J. Beehler
(immediate past president),
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J. Anthony Cavell
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Timothy A. Kent (Area 10)

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6 Montgomery Village Av..
Suite 403



From the NSPS president

I can't tell you what a great feeling it was to be in Washington, D.C., for the NSPS Lobby Day. We had the best turnout I can remember and, judging from the list of actions we have to complete, it was a great success. I believe we visited offices representing some 35 states and are really being recognized as the leading voice for the surveying community on Capitol Hill. We have already begun the follow-up process and will be looking to strengthen our relationships throughout the year. My thanks to all who participated and to Laurence Socci, our government affairs consultant, who did the lion's share of the work needed to set up the event.

On another bright note, a number of our NSPS members attended a ceremony at the Department of Interior celebrating the unveiling of the new *Manual of Instructions for Surveying the Public Land Survey System*. It was a great event with many opportunities to review the work of the BLM surveyors. I was honored to have been able to meet a number of BLM staff and Interior Department Officials. Any past Surveyor General would have been proud to have been there and seen the new work firsthand.

On a not so bright note, a number of our members in Florida are facing a serious and dangerous problem with stolen equipment. NSPS has been contacted by the Florida Society for any help we can offer. I have asked John Hohol to take this issue to our Sustaining Member group (which comprises instrument manufacturers and sales representatives) to investigate what level of technology could be introduced into our equipment to deter its theft. We seem to be able to do this with vehicles and pets; we ought to be able to protect our investments as well. I will keep you all posted on any new information. In the meantime, please be safe and keep your eyes open.

— John Matonich, NSPS president

October in the news

2010 ballots are coming!

Your ballot for the 2010 NSPS election will be arriving in your mailbox soon. All NSPS members will receive an officer ballot and a ballot amendment. If you live in areas 1, 4, or 10, you will also receive a ballot to elect your area director. You can learn more about the candidates for President and President-Elect at:

http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/NSPS_Pres_Pres_Elec.pdf.

To learn more about the VP candidates, please visit:

http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/NSPS_Vice_President.pdf.

To learn more about the area director candidates in Areas 1, 4 and 10, please visit: http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/NSPS_AD.pdf

All ballots are due to HQ by COB on November 27, 2009.

s h o r t t a k e s

Have photography skills?

The NSPS is coming to Phoenix for the **ACSM Annual Conference** next

Banner based on 'World from Above' image created by Robert Stacey, WorldSat International, for National Geographic's Collegiate Atlas of the World.

Gaithersburg, MD 20879
TEL 240.632.9716

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April, and we're looking for a photographer to take photos at the conference. If you or someone you know are willing to offer your skills, we'd love to talk with you. Please email Dawn James at dawn.james@acsm.net or call 240-632-9716 (extension 113) for more information.

NSPS... Its First 28 Years

Published recently by NSPS, this slender volume is for all history buffs, especially those with an interest in the history of surveying institutions. "NSPS history" is about the formation of NSPS in 1981 and the subsequent 28 years which saw NSPS grow into a one-of-a-kind, national organization for surveyors in the U.S. ***NSPS... Its First 28 Years*** [ISBN 978-1-61623-468-3] is available from NSPS at \$35.00 plus shipping. If you want to purchase a copy, contact Trish Milburn at trisha.milburn@acsm.net. Only a limited print run was printed, and copies are flying off the shelf. — *Harold S. Charlier, ACSM/NSPS Fellow Member*

National Surveyors Week poster competition

Organized by NSPS, this new competition is intended to encourage surveyors throughout the U.S. to express their support for the National Surveyors Week through visual representations of what it entails to be surveyor in our times. Ideas for a possible **theme for the 2010 competition** are welcome and should be **e-mailed, by mid-November**, to the NSPS/ACSM Executive Director Curt Sumner at curtis.sumner@acsm.net. This competition will be orchestrated jointly with the National Museum of Surveying in Springfield, Illinois, where the winning poster will be displayed prominently during each National Surveying Week. The winners' names will be published in the ACSM Bulletin. — *Ilse Genovese, ACSM Communications Director*

The ACSM FIG Forum FIG Congress Student Fellowship

This is the first time for this prestigious award. It is sponsored by the three ACSM Member Organizations that participate in the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG):

- AAGS — American Association for Geodetic Surveying
- GLIS — Geographic and Land Information Society
- NSPS — National Society of Professional Surveyors

This fellowship award provides full funding for the Fellow to travel to, and participate in, the 2010 FIG Congress being held in Sydney, Australia. It is an exceptional opportunity to take part in the preeminent international surveying conference, network with surveyors, fellow students, and young surveyors from around the world while living with a local surveyor/student family during the Congress. For more information visit www.acsm.net/fig.html

— *John Hohol, ACSM FIG Forum Head of Delegation*

AUSTRALIA IN 2010!

Timed for attending the FIG Congress in Sydney in April, and by arrangement with Qantas, the Australian International Airline, we are assembling a group of interested people to take advantage of group rates for visiting Australia and seeing the sights of the country. You've probably heard from others how well they were received by Australian surveying and mapping professionals on previous visits. This is your chance! While Qantas flies nonstop to Sydney from LA, we recommend a one-night stopover in Honolulu to break up the long flight, and Honolulu

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is reachable nonstop from many lower 48 major airports and Anchorage. Basic airfare from LA to Sydney is expected to be about \$1600 plus taxes, which includes one Australian domestic flight. Total fares for complete tours of Australia and New Zealand will depend on the interests of the majority of responders. We hope to have options in time and extent of tours available. For more information, contact Gerry Curtis at FAX 817-334-0381 or email him at gerry.gcasurveyors@att.net. — *Gerry Curtis, PLS, past NSPS president*

You report

From New Jersey, with thanks

One of the greatest honors which can be bestowed upon an individual is the recognition by one's peers for service to their profession. On September 26th, I was deeply moved when I was recognized by the NSPS Board of Governors as the Key Governor at the Fall Meeting of the National Society of Professional Surveyors for my work with Schonstedt Instruments on the Land Mine Project.

Financial contributions received at the meeting along with your pledges to take this program to your fellow surveyors and churches back home will help to extend this project way beyond where I could take it myself—and for that I am extremely grateful. Your support and recognition have helped to re-energize me as I continue this work. It is my hope to travel to Vietnam and Cambodia in the winter of 2010, and I look forward to sharing stories about it with you when I see you in Phoenix. If you need further information about the Land Mine Project you can contact me directly or go to our website at <http://www.woodstownfriends.org/> and click on the Humanitarian Demining Initiative button on the left hand side of the page. — *Frank Lenik, PLS,*

NSPS Governor, New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors

SCSPLS Announces Convention 2010

SCSPLS has set the venue for our next convention. We will meet on May 20-22, 2010, at Wild Dunes Resort, Island of Palms, SC [www.wilddunes.com]. The decision to meet at the Wild Dunes Resort marks a change in location from Myrtle Beach where we have been meeting in recent years. The resort offers miles of beach, acres of great golf and tennis, and its meeting facilities are excellent. In addition, it is less than 30 minutes from South Carolina's historic Charleston, a definite draw for families accompanying SCSPLS members to the meeting. To learn more, visit www.scspls.com, e-mail us at scspls@bellsouth.net, or call us at 803-750-7524. — *Brenda Smith, SCSPLS*

TechBits

Taming the Business Card Monster

If you go to a trade show or convention, you'll come home with a large stack of business cards and a lot of good intentions about what you'll do with them.

You might be lucky and have an assistant who can enter those cards into your contact manager. But more and more, as organizations flatten, you don't have that luxury. What to do with that mountain of business cards, and no time to type them in (if you can type)? Get an inexpensive, easy to use business card scanner, such as the CardScan Executive. I use (<http://www.cardscan.com>). These specialized scanners are about the size of a deck of cards and attach to your computer via USB, which also

powers them.

Specialized optical character recognition software (OCR) can convert the scanned images into text. Then the magic happens. Since most business cards follow a relatively standard format, the software can automatically put the right information into the right fields. And they can then automatically put that information, and the card image, into your favorite contact management software (e.g. Outlook) for ready access when you want to make contact.

Take all the information you have collected over the years and give it to CardScan.com or Plaxo (<http://www.plaxo.com>), and they can help keep that information up to date as your contacts change jobs and/or move around.

And after you get the contact information in your computer, you can use your business card collection to prop up that shaky table. — *Gregg Marshall [gmarshall@reconnection.com]*

Mark your calendar

Upcoming deadlines

ACSM/NSPS Scholarship applications are due by COB on **November 2, 2009** [<http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/scholarship2009final.pdf>].

NSPS Map/Plat Competition entries are due by COB on **November 13, 2009**

[http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/ACSM_NSPS_EntryForm_2010.pdf].

NSPS Surveying Excellence; Student Project of the Year and Affiliate of the Year entries are due by COB on **December 15, 2009**

[http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/ACSM_NSPS_EntryForm_2010.pdf].

Earle J. Fennell Award nominations are due by 5 p.m. on **December 31, 2009**

[<http://www.nspsmo.org/documents/NominationsfortheEarleJ.pdf>]