

THE

OREGON SURVEYOR

A PUBLICATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF OREGON



Honoring *our* Veterans



VOL. 33 NO. 2
APRIL/MAY 2010

AFFILIATED WITH



THE LOST SURVEYOR

This is an abandoned tunnel (shot at both ends). Can you tell me where it's located?

LAT 45° 49' 54" N
LONG 123° 02' 31" W



LAT 45° 49' 57" N
LONG 123° 02' 56" W



Answer on page



THE OREGON SURVEYOR

Volume 33, No. 2
April/May 2010

Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

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The Lost Surveyor, from the inside front cover

LAT 45° 49' 54" N LONG 123° 02' 31" W
LAT 45° 49' 57" N LONG 123° 02' 56" W

Answer: This is a 1700-foot-long abandoned railroad tunnel let go over 50 years ago. There is a one mile trail from the road to both ends. You'll have to use the coordinates to find it.

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From Your Chair

■ By Tim Fassbender, PLS

How land surveying has changed over the past 50 years! When PLSO first formed, field crews would or could have four people on the crew and actually wrote in fieldbooks. The office staff spent hours looking at logarithm books and coordinate sheets before calculating the first inverse. Now, one person field crews with data collectors record your measurements and also snap pictures of the monument you just tied. Coordinates are generated on the fly and, if you are brave, you can resolve the boundary without going back to the office. Technology has advanced and that is what makes land surveying interesting and fun. However, as I stated in my last article, it still requires a licensed land surveyor to analyze the data correctly and make the final decision. No software package can take into account all the factors and experience you employ to make the call where that monument needs to be placed.

So, has technology hurt land surveying, or are we allowing technology lead us down an incorrect path? Most of us would agree that breaking into our careers we had mentors to guide us through that learning maze we encountered. I remember and value what my mentor taught me about other practicing land surveyors in the area and what to look for in their surveys. How about all those little tricks you were taught when doing fieldwork that would help prevent mistakes? What we learned in those first years of surveying far outpaced what some of us learned in college. Our education in surveying will continue until the day we either retire from surveying or pass away after setting that last monument. The problem as I see it recently is, how are we going to pass on our experience and knowledge? Technology has allowed for the one person survey crew. That's great for those times when you don't have extra people to do the fieldwork, but finding the training time with that up and coming individual you plan on moving into that position can be difficult. Real training occurs on the job where real life experiences are met. You cannot pass on your learned experience and knowledge to an individual without being with them and mentoring them.



Where am I going with all of this you ask? We, the members of PLSO, need to reach out to our associates and bring them into PLSO to prepare them to become the future professionals. The number of people working in our profession that are not licensed are many but the number of associates in PLSO are few. Why is that? Have you invited those individuals to attend a chapter meeting with you? Have you been attending chapter meetings? Ask one of your fellow surveyor's employees to attend a chapter meeting with you. Sometimes it is hard for those who work together all day long to agree to attend an evening meeting. Reach out to an individual and ask them to become an associate member of PLSO and take them under your wing as a mentor. You will be surprised at how good both of you feel about helping someone reach their career goals.

Think about it—if surveying is so great why don't we have more people beating down the door to get into the profession? Maybe we've been too good at keeping our profession a secret and we just need to get out there and let more of those younger people know about it. Why should we have all the fun?

We need to strengthen our profession with new individuals who will take surveying into the future. If we take the time now to teach and practice professionalism with our fellow surveyors and associates, we will have done the greatest work we can do—sharing our knowledge to benefit the next generation of surveyors. ◉

THE OREGON SURVEYOR

The Oregon Surveyor is a publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO). It is provided as a medium for the expression of individual opinions concerning topics relating to the Land Surveying profession.

ADDRESS CHANGES & BUSINESS

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The Oregon Surveyor welcomes your articles, comments and photos for publication. PLSO assumes no responsibility for statements expressed in this publication. Send prospective materials to Lisa Switalla, lisa@llm.com.

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Editor's Note

■ By Oran Abbott, PLS, oranabbott@gmail.com



It was a dark and stormy night as we sat around the campfire and the captain said, "Tell us a story."

Some people have a knack for writing. Give them a pen, a piece of paper, a little time, and the next thing they have is a book.

That is one given talent that some surveyors have and others do not. It is one of those things that we do not look for, or test, or even teach. In today's world I am not sure we even need it in surveying any more. In the past, the Crew Chief had a small book which was filled out for whatever the crew was doing each day and in some cases even what they did at night. The books eventually changed to calculating books that did not tell how they arrived at the calculations, and other information. Diaries were kept by some surveyors and, depending on how they wrote, could be quite interesting. Now far fewer keep a book on how they did a job, only about half or less keep diaries, and everything else is done by electronics, such as angles, distances, and photos.

I have two sons that are both familiar with surveying. We recently had a surprise birthday party for my wife, and one son was in Indiana. Unbeknownst to my wife, we set up a computer, turned off the monitor, and left the sound on. With the room full of people, the son in Indiana talked to her a few times before she recognized his voice. At this point we turned on the screen, as everyone was laughing at the reactions. We could see and talk both ways, without monetary cost. This is a reminder of the Dick Tracy cartoon and his wrist watch, only on a much larger scale.

Now I could find someone who is great at writing, but may not be involved in surveying, who may be in Florida, and I could use a small camera in the brim of my hat, a Blue Tooth in one ear, and we could communicate, by sight and sound, as we both go over a Class 5 rapids, chase off bears, and climb a vertical cliff to a very seldom used point with a great view. Or perhaps a really good surveyor who is lousy at writing, does not like white water rafting or care for bears, and does not climb well may be involved. What role does the licensed surveyor do?

The first sentence of this article is part of an old story, but you will have to ask me in person to hear the rest of the narrative.

Have a great summer! ◉

View from the PLSO Office

■ By Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE; PLSO Executive Secretary



Business: No Loitering Allowed

One of the best presentations I've heard was from the proprietor of a Salem coffee shop, music venue and teen hangout. He spoke of the rules he had set up for his patrons. One of the guidelines was "no loitering." Businesses often display this sign to discourage misdirected youth from settling on the stoop of a business. However, the owner expanded on the concept, as it is commonly defined: *To linger aimlessly, without purpose.* There is no "loitering" at his business because he wants his employees and patrons to live with direction, constantly pondering purpose. I realized how applicable this was to business. How many of us are just loitering at work?

The 8-5 spent at the office can be filled with passion and purpose or can be passed mindlessly with an hourly, voyeuristic peek into the lives of our Facebook friends. We send a few brief texts or a Tweet; daydream and drag through the day until the whistle blows. This starts all over again until the weekend. Then, we try to pack "purpose" into that 48-hour period.

How can we stop loitering and start living with purpose, even while on the clock?

- Consider what is truly most important to you. If you don't know, then look at your checkbook and your day planner. Where you spend your money and your personal time will tell you the truth. If you don't like what you see, then you can start the change process.
- Think about what will improve your life right now. Write it down. Start to do it, whatever it is.
- What have you done in your work or personal life that makes you proud? Have you looked at your biography/vitae or resume in a while? Are your accomplishments contemporary or all in the past?
- Do the people around you bring out your best? Do they have great work and personal habits? Are you the one who motivates and sets the example for others or do you drag down the curve?

This is not the time to feel badly; we all loiter sometimes, but if you are languishing, it may be time to give yourself some CPR (core purpose resuscitation). Many resources

exist to help move from loitering to full engagement. Ponder the following questions before abandoning your work life to a future of just hanging around:

- Do you know the mission of the business and the purpose of your job in it?
- How do you help other people through your work?
- Have you ever made anyone's life better because of your work? Can you increase those experiences a little each day?
- If you weren't at work, what would the business, coworkers and customers miss?
- How do you contribute to society or the world through your work?
- Do you admire someone who seems to be fully engaged in work and enthusiastically pursuing a purpose? Can you learn from that person or emulate any of those qualities?
- Can you talk to someone such as career/life coach, pastor, mentor or counselor about any stumbling blocks to finding your personal or work purpose?

I urge you, don't dawdle! Don't delay! Your loitering days are over. Move off the front steps and get back your passion for your work. ☺

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PLSO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2010 — Salem Conference Center, Salem

ATTENDEES

Officers

Chair Tim Fassbender
Chair-Elect John Mathews
Past Chair Gary Johnston
Executive Secretary Mary Louise VanNatta

Board Members

CENTRAL (1)

Scott Freshwaters, President
Parneli Perkins, President-Elect

MIDWEST (2)

Renee Clough, President
Jeremy Sherer, President-Elect

PIONEER (3)

Joe Ferguson, President
Lee Spurgeon, President-Elect

ROGUE RIVER (4)

Craig Claassen, President
Stephan Barott, President-Elect

SOUTHWEST (6)

Walter White, President

UMPQUA (7)

Randy Smith, President
Ron Quimby, President-Elect

WILLAMETTE (8)

Jack Burrell, President

BLUE MOUNTAIN (9)

Bob Butler, President
Michael Posada, President-Elect

Committee Chairs

Greg Crites, WFPS (Pioneer)

Guests

Joel Smith, Chemeketa Community College
Jean Ferguson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair Tim Fassbender. Attendees made self-introductions.

Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda for the March 16, 2010 meeting was reviewed. There were no additions

Minutes of the January 13, 2010 Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2010 Board Meeting: Minutes were presented.

Motion: Clough moved, Quimby seconded to approve.

MOTION PASSED.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Financial

VanNatta reported that the PLSO Total Assets stand at \$180,572.78.

PLSO Membership by class	3/10
Corporate*	474
Associate*	55
Special*	41
Student	67
Life	21
*Dues paying members	570
Totals	658

- PLSO has closed online membership sign up and people can sign up now using a fill-able PDF on the website or by calling the office. A final email notice went out to people who have not renewed on a list provided by Lori Servin of Action Reg.
- A new “members only” website code was in place in February and all non-members are considered delinquent at this point and will not be included in the directory.
- The first batch of membership cards and letters were sent out. Another one will go out in a week or so.

Conference—A final conference financial report was prepared and everything was packed and stored for next year. Final conference payments and collections are still being made. Those on the payment plan are being billed and four members registered as members, but didn’t pay dues and we are following up on those people. 1099s were sent out to speakers so we don’t run into a question next year at tax time.

Strategic Planning—The office met with Gary Johnston to update the strategic plan from a variety of notes, comments and documents.

Legislative Committee—The office worked with the legislative committee on the Semi-independent board issue. Fred VanNatta monitored legislation at the special session.

Finance—The budgeting process was completed, and chapter financial summaries have been distributed. Chapters should continue to receive updates two weeks before each board meeting. A training session for secretary-treasurers was held at the conference to keep financial controls in place and that has been successful. The office continues with the regular bookkeeping duties. Materials are being gathered for taxes. A reminder that anyone who needs 1099s (speakers, etc.) needs to get those forms to the office.

Scholarship—Thank you letters were sent to people who made online or other contributions by check with their membership renewals.

General Administration—Working on the sales of the *BLM Manual*; they should be delivered the second week of March. We sold 179.

Continues on page 8

OUT OF AGENDA ORDER

Joel Smith from Chemeketa came to speak about the Chemeketa Surveying program. They are splitting away from the drafting program. He has noticed that people are looking for a four year degree. Chemeketa wants to partner with OIT to create a 4-year degree. They need a push from industry to make this work. It is not designed to dilute OIT's existing program, just to provide another method to get a four-year degree. Location of Klamath Falls may be an issue for some people. Moving to a metropolitan area may help enhance the program. He requested a letter to the college from PLSO. Students could complete the second two years in Salem through distance learning. There will be some cost savings for students because they could attend Chemeketa.

MOTION: Ferguson moved that the board support the program by a letter from the Board. Quimby seconded.

Motion passed.

Smith will send talking points to PLSO and VanNatta will send it to the Board. Matthews will draft the official letter from the board. It will be sent out as soon as possible.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Fassbender and Matthews met and discussed ideas he had for the coming few years.

- An expansion to dues levels was discussed. Fassbender asked that the Chapters discuss dues rates with their members. Crites said he has access to other states' rates. He said "Fellow" was a category that is used in other groups. Fassbender will ask Fidler to put together a task force to discuss dues rates and have a report at the next board meeting. Sherer volunteered to be part of the dues team. He supported the tier idea.
- Fassbender has a blog at <http://timfassbender.blogspot.com>. He

reminded the Chapter Presidents to put their events on the calendar.

- Discussed possible changes in the BOD manual.
- He is looking into more ways to do electronic/video meetings.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR-ELECT

Matthews reported that he is getting engaged with all of the elements of PLSO and looking forward to becoming more involved with leadership functions.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Willamette—

Burrell reported that they had a small PowerPoint meeting and great history and it was a good meeting. They are going to have an OSBEELS investigator attend the next meeting. They will try to do a workshop and will do as much and with as many people as possible.

Pioneer—

Spurgeon reported the Pioneer Chapter had one meeting; there were over 50 people in attendance. It was an opportunity for open discussion. A new volunteer from California will do a newsletter for the chapter. Ferguson added that they did a lot of giveaways, including a \$100 bill which was donated back to the scholarship fund by Shaun Fidler.

Central—

Freshwaters said they had their first meeting a few weeks ago. Mike Berry the Deschutes Co. Surveyor presented.

Southwest—

White said they will have their first meeting next week. With the local PEO Chapter, they jointly hosted "Careers in Surveying" for high school students.

Blue Mountain—

Butler reported they had about 12 members at their meeting. Leland Myers will be the representative for the legislative committee. Blue Mountain is open to online meeting.

Umpqua—

Quimby reported that their County Surveyor is now an elected position. He announced the Harold Stockhoff Memorial Golf Tournament coming on May 1. Last year they had 30 teams and PLSO sponsored two holes.

MOTION: Quimby moved the PLSO sponsor two tees at the Harold Stockhoff Memorial Golf Tournament. Johnston seconded.
Motion passed.

Randy Smith said Tim Moore from BLM will be coming to their next meeting on March 8 at Elmer's.

Rogue River—

Claassen reported they will be going to an educational program on March 17. They will be doing Trig-Star at Phoenix High School and in April at Grants Pass High School. They just started a committee to put on a fall workshop. Barott said they are trying to make their meetings more interesting. They have a great relationship with First American Title. They did a program on riparian rights. They changed their meeting time back to 6 pm which has been popular. They also moved the location to the City Hall Chambers because it is quieter.

MidWest—

Clough said a speaker from the City of Springfield will be coming to talk about LIDAR. City of Eugene's police department is coming to talk about crime scene mapping in March. On June 11, FEMA will do an all-day workshop. Lane County will be doing major code changes and Sherer will be able to speak to those.

OLD BUSINESS

Board of Director's meetings were discussed. The June 12 meeting was moved to June 19 and the July meeting was cancelled. The June 19 meeting may be held at Bend.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget—Johnston handed out the

scholarship report. Auction proceeds from the conference and individual contributions were approximately \$12,515. Auction costs were \$600, so the net was about \$11,915.

Reserve policy—Johnston presented a draft reserve policy dated March 3. Freshwaters suggested the wording in section six should be changed from “cost cutting” to “budget balancing.” Perkins commented that he didn’t see a need to make policies that aren’t necessary. Burrell said it is helpful to have a policy that gives us guidelines on how to spend our money. Spurgeon noted that the mechanism for responding to economic emergencies is important. He likes the efforts that have been made. Matthews likes the idea of having a policy that explains how we are managing as a non-profit. Crites asked that we change the wording and that Johnston will make changes and bring back for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic Planning Session—

Johnston gave a short history of the strategic planning process and he split the group into two to discuss outreach or legislative issues. A report on the comments will be provided to participants by the end of March.

Conference—

Fassbender asked which chapter might like to host next meeting. Smith said some of this should be discussed with the chapter. Fassbender said to discuss it with the members. The schedule is tentatively 2011, Salem; 2012, Portland; and then 2013, Eugene.

Scholarship—

Johnston gave report earlier.

TwiST—

June 22–26 are the dates. The cost is \$500 per attendee and it most likely will be held at Clark Community College. There was a discussion as to whether scholarships should be available. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Trig-Star—

Ferguson led a discussion about providing “cash” awards to students. He suggested that we use either a “check request” form or provide the student a gift card to a merchant, like Amazon. Ferguson told the group that participants taking the Trig-Star exam, could apply for a scholarship if they are intending to enroll in a surveying curriculum. He has brochures and posters. Trig-Star’s recognition from the American Society of Association Executives was mentioned.

EGAC—

Anderson was not in attendance. Johnston noted that we may have a coordinator for Geocaching—Ryan Godsey said he will take it forward.

Legislative—

Freshwaters said the state legislature passed legislation that cleaned up language making the county surveyor a non-partisan position. The bill that PLSO was worried about was the restructuring of OSBEELS and that wasn’t addressed in the special session, which was a relief.

As for proposed legislation, the committee will be looking at boundary line agreements, USPS notices, reviewing 209.150, 155 which deals with destruction of monuments. Some utility companies feel they aren’t under these statutes; increasing recording fees for documents for the corner preservation fund and continuing to monitor the OSBEELS semi-independent board status. Also low distortion projections is an issue. Let Freshwaters, Linscheid or Fassbender know if there are ideas for legislation. There is a representative for each chapter. We have an email list called PLSO-laws. There are 30–40 names, and Scott would like to manage that list.

He presented the contract for Fred VanNatta, the current lobbyist and supported its renewal. It was at the same level. He said he thinks VanNatta is a good fit. Burrell asked

the question that we need to consider: Do we need a lobbyist? Claassen said the Rogue River Chapter is supportive of having a lobbyist. Quimby agreed.

MOTION: Johnston moved the contract be renewed with the effective dates commencing the end of March continuing four weeks after the 2011 session. Quimby seconded.

Discussion: Freshwaters said this is for a one-year term at the conclusion of the session. Johnston reminded all that support of the legislative program goes both ways. VanNatta has engaged the members in a positive way.

Motion passed unanimously.

Kalb, Anderson, Parsons, Fidler, Neathamer and Tolbert were not in attendance.

WFPS—

Crites reported the Hawaii conference was very good. He noted the change in the WestFed meeting June 12. It will be at the Portland Airport Hilton.

OSBEELS liaison to PLSO—

Linscheid was not in attendance.

PLSO Liaison to OACES—

Fassbender is looking for a liaison. Freshwaters and Quimby volunteered.

Oregon GPS Users Group—

A flyer was sent out by Minor via Fassbender. Minor was not in attendance.

Constitution and Bylaws—

Bacon was not in attendance. He provided a written report and suggested changes on the legislative committee on the operating procedures.

Publication/Oregon Surveyor—

Getting information in a timely fashion and in the magazine. Freshwaters wants to keep the publication as it is. A reminder that the articles need to be sent to Abbott, the editor. Clough said her group sends them to Abbot, LLM and PLSO office at one time.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm. ◊

ACSM Explores Reorganization Following Outreach Report— NSPS Board Votes to Initiate Withdrawal

■ *Christine L. Grahl, POB Editor*

An independent marketing and outreach report published in December 2009 has sparked debate over the future of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. The report, which was compiled by strategic marketing firm Scott Oser Associates, North Potomac, Md., at the request of the ACSM Marketing and Outreach Committee, identified five key challenges facing the organization. These challenges include a lack of awareness, a lack of perceived value, the perception of ACSM and its member organizations (American Association for Geodetic Surveying, Cartography and Geographic Information Society, Geographic and Land Information Society, and National Society of Professional Surveyors) being outdated, a negative stereotype of the term “surveyor,” and high levels of internal and external competition. The report stated that “all of these challenges must be addressed for the organization to thrive in the future.”

The report noted that the current organizational structure of ACSM lacks “strategic direction.” It recommended the formation of one industry-wide membership organization that would include all of the member organizations as special interest groups as well as state and local pieces of NSPS. Under the suggested structure, members would join the national organization and select affiliate special interest groups,

and all members would receive automatic membership in state and local chapters. Dues would be collected by ACSM, and ACSM would distribute the revenue based on agreements with the state and local organizations.

After reviewing the report’s findings, the NSPS board of directors voted on April 27, 2010, to initiate withdrawal from the ACSM, with 11 board members voting for the move and five voting against it. According to NSPS Past President John Matonich, the decision was made with the understanding that the action can be revoked at any time during the mandatory two-year withdrawal process. A joint statement issued by Matonich, ACSM Executive Director Curt Sumner, and NSPS President Wayne Harrison sought to explain the move. “Given the state of membership, the current financial situation and the findings of the commissioned report, NSPS and the other MOs have reached a critical juncture and there is no luxury of extra time to move this in the right direction, whatever that direction may be. The work that will be done by both the NSPS and ACSM committees will be extremely valuable in the discussions about the future. The two-year time frame keeps the importance of this issue where it belongs—at the top of the list.”

In the meantime, CaGIS is on track to complete its previously announced transition to an independent organization by Jan. 1, 2011.

For more information, you may also read the article, “**The Evolution of a National Voice—The Future of the NSPS**” by Wayne Harrison, NSPS President; Curt Sumner, NSPS Exec. Director; and John Matonich, NSPS Imm. Past President posted on the PLSO website at www.plso.org

A task force has been formed to evaluate ACSM’s structure in light of the report. Chaired by Dan Martin, American Association of Geodetic Surveying (AAGS) delegate and ACSM chair-elect, the task force will comprise members from all four member organizations, including CaGIS and NSPS, and will provide recommendations by September 1. NSPS has also formed a separate committee to evaluate the feasibility of operating NSPS as a separate organization; that committee will issue its report by September 15.

“National issues touch all surveyors,” Harrison said. “Public, private, topographic, boundary, layout and many others all have national tones. ALTA standards, Qualification Based Selection, academic accreditations, real estate settlement survey issues, GPS height modernization, letters of map amendments (LOMAs) and many more issues are all dealt with at the national, not the state or local level. These issues won’t go away, and some organization will deal with them nationally for the surveying community. The question is which one?”

Harrison urged all professionals to share their thoughts about the proposed changes. “Together, the result will be the best option possible for the entire surveying profession,” he said. ☉

Log on to RPLS.com to find discussion on this issue and share your thoughts. Additional comments can be found in POB’s April 29 Sight Lines blog, “What Will Become of ACSM?” at www.pobonline.com/Articles/Sight_Lines/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_10000000000000812619

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PLSO 51st Annual Conference

FINAL REPORT

The PLSO 2010 Annual Conference was held at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, from Wednesday, January 13 through Friday, January 15. The Salem Conference Center and The Phoenix Hotel were excellent in their support of our conference and come with high recommendations to be our host in the future.

A very strong program was built for this conference, with over 40 separate presentations. While some attendees were not able to attend their first choice of presentations, there was room for everyone. Many positive comments were received on the program content.

The workshop session attendance averaged 31 for the 1.5 PDH sessions, 49 for the 3.0 PDH sessions, and 121 for the 6.0 PDH sessions. All of the workshop topics had good attendance, with overflow in workshops offering PLSS, scanning, and historical subjects.

The evaluation responses were mostly good to excellent for the workshops presented. A surprising comment was the cost to value ratio, which was rated very good overall. The convenience of location garnered a top spot which supports the I-5 corridor location for the conference.

Approximately 70 students from survey programs at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Clark College in Vancouver, WA and Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls were in attendance. They assisted the conference committee in many areas, mainly with tracking the attendance in the workshop sessions. There was also an excellent video presentation prepared by students from Oregon Institute of Technology highlighting their program.

Ironically, parking became one of the bigger issues just prior to the conference. The hotel went out of their way to

secure additional off-site parking and also provide a shuttle back to the hotel. It turned into a very small problem.

The *Annual Conference Guideline* book has been updated and is being utilized for planning future conferences. The guidelines are dynamic and are being used by the various committee members as the conference planning unfolds. The Guidelines have been presented to the Board.

The 2011 conference planning is underway with plans for an exciting and informative gathering again at the Salem Conference Center from January 19–21. ◊



Close-Out comments by Conference Committee members

SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION

- Change to Thursday to allow for more prep time of items
- Have up to 10 oral auction items
- One nice item to raffle at end of auction (must be present to win) to entice people to stay.
- Offer a chance to donate to the scholarship fund at the end of the auction.
- Silent auction items out all day Wednesday.
- Continue silent auction on Thursday
- Put auction items in numerical order on table to make retrieval quicker.
- Oral auction winner announcements (i.e. name, cost, and item number) so winners can write them down to make retrieval quicker
- Band or DJ before scholarship auction

AWARDS & ENTERTAINMENT BANQUET

- Change to Wednesday evening
- Pay for good entertainment or a professional speaker

PROGRAM

- Come up with a way to figure out percentages of attendees better (without incurring a lot of extra admin time)
- Need to explain the scanning of badges for PDH. No need to scan every session every time.
- Speaker bio and abstract limited to one style on program
- Send sample contract to program committee at beginning
- Have chapter non-committee members take care of the speakers during the conference
- Get a list of next year's committee and have those members attend the conference close out meeting
- Get information and comments from speakers at end of conference

- Figure speaker costs up front better
- Program flyer was good
- Show break times
- Sort abstracts alphabetically
- Add when a session repeats
- Add Vendor Rodeo sessions

REGISTRATION

- Provide "Traffic Cops" first day of conference to show the way to classes, etc.
- We paid extra to hard wire the registration computers this year; it seemed to work well
- Drop to one Action Registration employee after Wednesday, since registration slows down after the first day
- 25% of our registrants were on paper—need to get this number down
- Make it easier for large companies to pay registrations with one card and answer demographic questions online
- Have students hand out bags at registration desk
- Pick up ballots for Truck and Plat contests at display, instead of getting them at the registration desk
- Set up a lost and found procedure
- Online registration questions
- Hotlink on registration page to PDF of flyer advertising the dinner, etc.
- Different types of registration—i.e. Attendee, Exhibitor, Student, Speaker, Conference Committee
- Radios for conference committee to communicate with one another

COLLEGE STUDENT HELPERS

- Need better job descriptions for college volunteers
- Get the students here at 7:00 am on Wednesday morning
- Assign students to jobs before the conference starts and set up work schedule

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Better (longer) time selling to kids and teachers to get more to attend.
- Have high school program the same time that the vendors are at the conference.

SURVEY OLYMPICS

- Self-service events over the length of the conference

ALTERNATE PROGRAM

- Had to cancel due to lack of interest
- Announce it on the website and in *The Oregon Surveyor* earlier

EXHIBITORS

- Appreciated being in the same area with attendees
- Reception held in vendor area was appreciated
- Add rodeo topics on program schedule
- Give vendors a program schedule with their badges
- Need to stress to vendors that they do their own marketing

GENERAL IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS

- Have a Technician Day
- More tech presentations by vendors
- Maybe no/low charge for technicians
- Mentor for new attendees
- Look into bringing other professions (attorneys, engineers, etc.)
- Make sure advertisements gets into *The Oregon Surveyor*
- Marketing article on speakers for the upcoming conference
- Invite legislators to show up to one of the lunches (especially since we will still be in Salem)
- Use survey monkey to send out an electronic survey after the conference instead of the paper form
- Make major announcements at the Wednesday lunch ◉



Registration Count Summary

Total Full Conference Registration	523
Total Daily Conference Registration	54
TOTAL	577
Conference Registration - Full	
Member - Full	290
Non-Member - Full	24
Life Member - <i>complimentary</i>	12
Student Registration - <i>complimentary</i>	71
Speaker Registration - <i>complimentary</i>	48
Exhibitor Registration - <i>complimentary</i>	34
Hardship Registration	17
Full Registration - Extended Pay Option	9
FEMA Class & Lunch	18
TOTAL	523
Conference Registration - One Day	
Member - Wednesday	30
Member - Thursday	12
Member - Friday	5
Non-Member - Wednesday	6
Non-Member - Thursday	0
Non-Member - Friday	1
TOTAL	54
Past President's Breakfast	23
Wednesday Scholarship Dinner	17
Alternate Program for Spouses (program cancelled)	2



North Carolina Incident Sparks Reaction from Surveying Profession

In October 2009, NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner was contacted by Mike Benton with the North Carolina Society of Surveyors (NCSS) about a television report concerning a 91 year-old woman who had been victimized by some men posing as land surveyors. WBTV in Charlotte, NC had run as its lead story a video clip of an interview with the victim. Apparently, the MO utilized by the criminals is one that has been employed previously, and since.

As word spread through the professional surveying community, reports of similar incidents were reported in South Carolina and New Hampshire. The New Hampshire incident was reported in a local newspaper in April 2009. Recently, another such incident was reported in a Nassau County, New York publication.

Rightfully, the North Carolina Society of Surveyors was upset about the impersonation of surveyors by the perpetrators of the incident near Charlotte. They wanted to do something that would demonstrate the outrage of the surveying community, and to develop an appropriate response to a request from the television station for comment.

During conversations between leaders of NCSS and NSPS Executive Director Sumner, it was decided that a list of suggestions should be developed to assist anyone in determining the legitimacy of individuals approaching them claiming to be surveyors.

The result was a document entitled "Helping Land Owners Identify Legitimate Surveyors". NCSS and NSPS suggest the following actions when you are approached:

- Always ask for identification: Picture ID and business card
- Call the number on the business card to confirm that the person is a legitimate representative of that company, and is authorized to be at the site to perform a survey.
- Ask the person to identify the name of their client.
- Look at the vehicle—Is it marked with a company signage or appropriately equipped?
- Are the individuals equipped to survey—do they possess maps, other documents, metal detectors, measuring tapes and the like?
- Call the police, if you are uncomfortable.
- Never leave your house until you are certain that the person is legitimate.
- Land surveying is an outside activity, be alert to individuals that claim to be "surveyors" who ask to enter your home.
- Remember: Legitimate professional surveyors and their field personnel will never be upset to have you ask these questions.

When surveyors across the country were informed about the situation, Larry Perry of Cheyenne, WY contacted NSPS to suggest that a reward fund be established that could be used to facilitate the capture and conviction of individuals who pose as surveyors in the process of committing crimes. The fund could be administered through the NSPS Foundation, much like the Disaster Relief Fund.

The Professional Land Surveyors of Wyoming offered to seed the fund with an initial donation. To date, no other response has been received.

All surveyors are encouraged to share the suggestions list with their clients and their communities. ◉

Reports of incidents involving "surveyor impersonators and questions/suggestions related to the issue can be sent to:

Curt Sumner, LS
Executive Director, NSPS
curtis.sumner@ascm.net

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Trig-Star 2010

■ *Al Hertel, Caswell/Hertel Surveyors Inc.*



Each year, the first teacher to contact me about Trig-Star is Kipp Johnson of Valley Catholic High School, in Beaverton. He sees the value in giving his students some practical examples for studying Trig. He teaches many of his students for two years, once for Pre-Calculus (Trig) during their Junior year and then again for Calculus during their Senior year. For several years he has invited his Seniors to join the Juniors in the Trig-Star contest, and each year he gets a few takers.

This year was no different, three of the Seniors saw the challenge (and the money prizes) as a goal worth working for. So the Trig-Star test was given to 28 Juniors and 3 Seniors. Usually, the Seniors are a little rusty on their Trig and the Juniors edge them out. Not this year, however. The three Seniors, Alex Chau, Jane Kim, and James Ford took the top honors for the school. This, of course, put Mr. Johnson in a pickle. So, we decided to award additional prizes to the top three Pre-calculus Juniors (which I volunteered to donate, since I didn't want the school to have to pay for a PLSO test).

When I was going through the test to pick the winners of place 4, 5, and 6, I noticed that place 5 and 6 had the same score of 85 pts. and were only separated by time. In fact, four additional students had 85 pts. So, it came down to where they sat in the room and how fast they got the test into my hand. Well, if we've had fun so far, why not add a little more prize money to the pot and award them \$20 as well. So we ended up with 10 very happy students, and a lot of excitement about surveying.

A huge credit to the students, though. The number of "Thank you's" that I received *far* outweighed the checks that I handed out. Congratulations to Valley Catholic High School. ◊



(Back Row L-R) Alex Chau, Al Hertel, Zeke Seminario, James Ford, Jane Kim, Lisa Wilson, Dani Flasshoff, John Deeney, Jamie Cheng, Mr. Kipp Johnson
(Front Row L-R) Colleen Johnson, Vivian Tran



June 21–25, 2010
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Oregon Institute of Technology hosts the annual Teaching with Spatial Technology (TwIST) training course.

The fundamental aim of TwiST is to integrate geospatial information technology into educational curricula. By providing training on the use of this cutting-edge technology, we prepare educators to enrich learning experiences throughout a broad range of grade levels and disciplines.

Sponsors

The Conference is sponsored by the Oregon Institute of Technology (www.oit.edu) in cooperation with the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology (IAGT) and Cayuga Community College in Auburn, New York. Course materials are licensed to the Oregon Institute of Technology by IAGT.

Contact

Tim Kent

TwIST Course Coordinator

timothy.kent@oit.edu

360-254-4905

Surveyors Volunteer for the Water Memorial at the Willamette National Cemetery

■ Oran Abbott

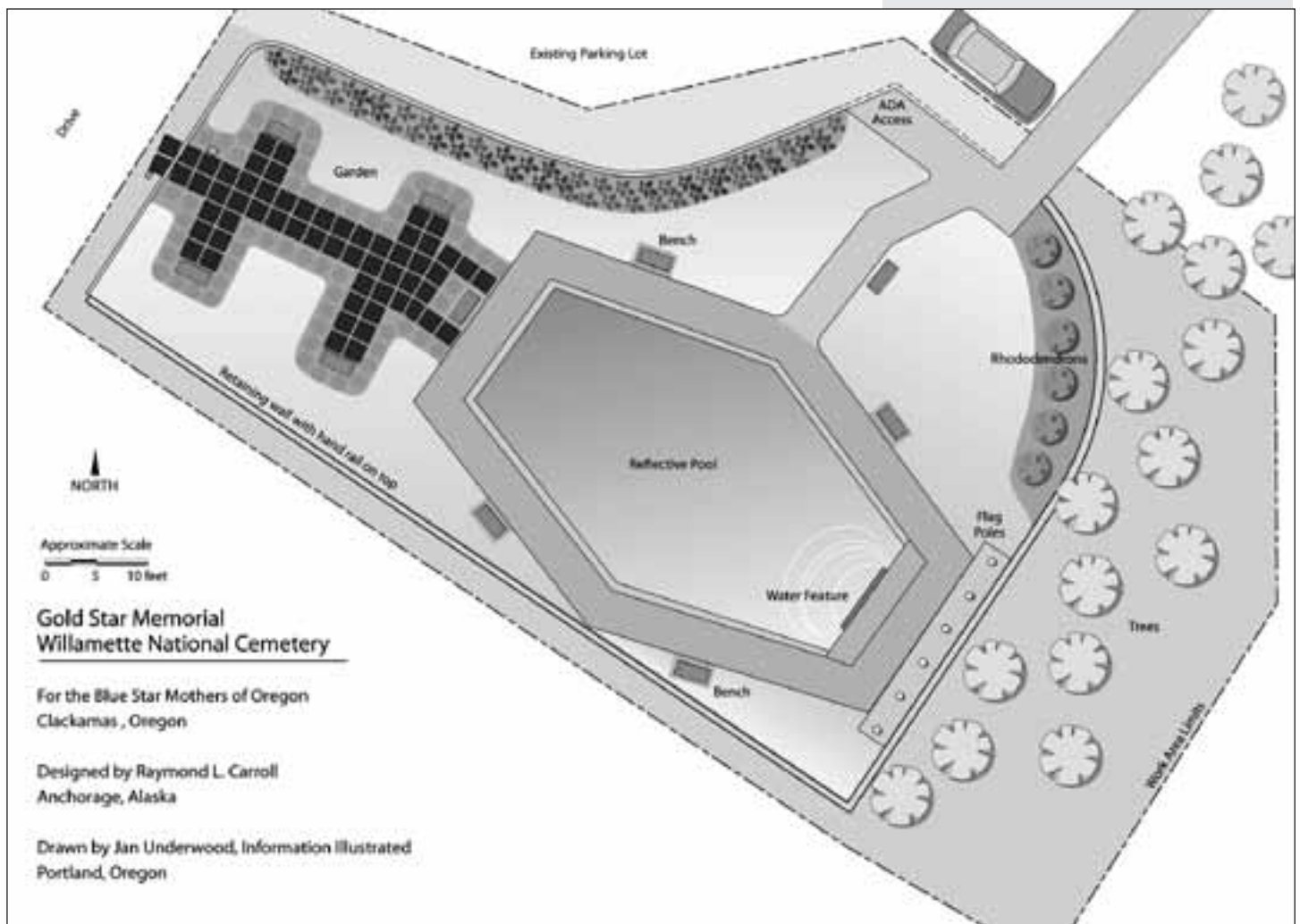
On April 16, Judy Hinsley, President of the Blue Star Mothers of Oregon, along with over 18 surveyors, assessed the site of the future Water Memorial at the Willamette National Cemetery. Surveyors attending represented more than seven local companies and brought more than five different instruments. According to Gold Star, “We have been asked to design and build a water feature memorial for our fallen heroes at Willamette National Cemetery. It will be a peaceful refuge where we can all pay homage and reflect on the sacrifices these great men and women have made for our country.”

The horizontal pond is being placed in a near vertical location which requires a 25 foot retaining wall with several things underground and at least 15 trees above ground. There were more than enough surveyors to get a lot of shots from three set ups which should give a good rendition of the land. It may take a year or two before it is built.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. and American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. are great national organizations that should have each one of our support. ◉

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political organization. The organization does not support any political candidate, nor endorse any religious organization; the military represents all aspects of America as does the organization. They are mothers who have, or have had, children honorably serving in the military. It is a non-profit (501(c)3) Veterans service organization supporting military children while promoting patriotism.

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is a private organization and you must apply for membership. AGSM is also a non-profit, 501 C(3), organization and as such cannot engage in political or lobbying activities. The organization takes no position on political issues of the day but does support our military and has many activities that reflect that support.



Sometimes it Just Makes you Cry

■ *Joe H. Ferguson, PLS*

This week I was lucky enough to participate in a project that just made me cry.

The “Blue Star Mothers of Oregon” approached the Pioneer Chapter of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon about a project that they had in mind. This is a nationally recognized organization of Mothers of Military Service Men and Women. It is also associated with “Gold Star Mothers”; these are mothers of service men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. Their request was for help in starting

a project at Willamette National Cemetery. They want to build a reflection pond that honors all five branches of the military.

At our chapter meeting we agreed to help with this noble cause. We asked for volunteers to show up on the appointed day with either their instrument or a rod and prism.

It is a small area 75' wide by 100' long with an elevation change of about 30'. When you take into account the slopes, then double that size, some existing road and parking area, a few trees and many, many water

valves—small job, ordinary work for this bunch. Just a chance to get together and do a good deed for a worthy cause.

On the day we did the work, the sun was out, the birds were singing. We came together as surveyors do with jokes, donuts, coffee and a “let’s get this done” attitude. It took a little time to get things coordinated (like herding cats!). The robot would not talk to the rover, who was going to cover what area. How many surveyors does it really take to cover such a small area? There were six Licensed Surveyors, six



crew members, one reporter and one student—with three instruments, five prism poles, two dozen donuts and black coffee. This was going to be fun! As it turned out, three of us seemed to always be looking for something to do.

Once things got started, it was all business. One crew going up a small ravine, another crew locating headstones and slopes, and the lone robot silently taking more shots than everyone else combined. As each area was finished the crews peeled off and went about the rest of their day. Pretty ordinary stuff.

When I went to leave the site, I found out that my son put the keys to my truck in his pocket and driven off with the field crew to do another project. I promptly called and chewed him out, as I really needed to get back to the office. Work, work, work you know. As I was waiting for my keys to arrive he sent me a text, it read, “Quit complaining. It is a beautiful day, enjoy it!”

So I strolled over to the flagpole with the “Prisoners of War” flag and



near there was a plaque with the Gettysburg Address on it. I began to read and the full impact of what we were really doing hit me like a ton of bricks! This was no ordinary job! Even though we had all shown up and joked around getting things started, even though the work was routine, even though we had 15 people more than was needed to do this job, this was

no ordinary job! This was to be the foundation of all the work necessary to build a monument to the future.

I reflected on the two memorial services that were held while I was there. I reflected on a memorial service I attended years earlier at that very place. I reflected on the headstone re-alignment project I worked on while at another company. I reflected on the P.O.W. flag that is always there as a symbol to those who never came home. I reflected on all the men and women whose bones rest in the ground below me. This was no ordinary job! I realized that we were laying the foundation for a memorial that will be there for a very, very long time.

Friends and families of those buried in this cemetery will have a place to quietly reflect on the memories of their loved ones. Children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, wives, mothers, brothers, sisters all will have a place to cry the tears that cleanse the soul.

Thank you Blue Star Mothers for making me cry. ◉

■ *Photos by Oran Abbott*

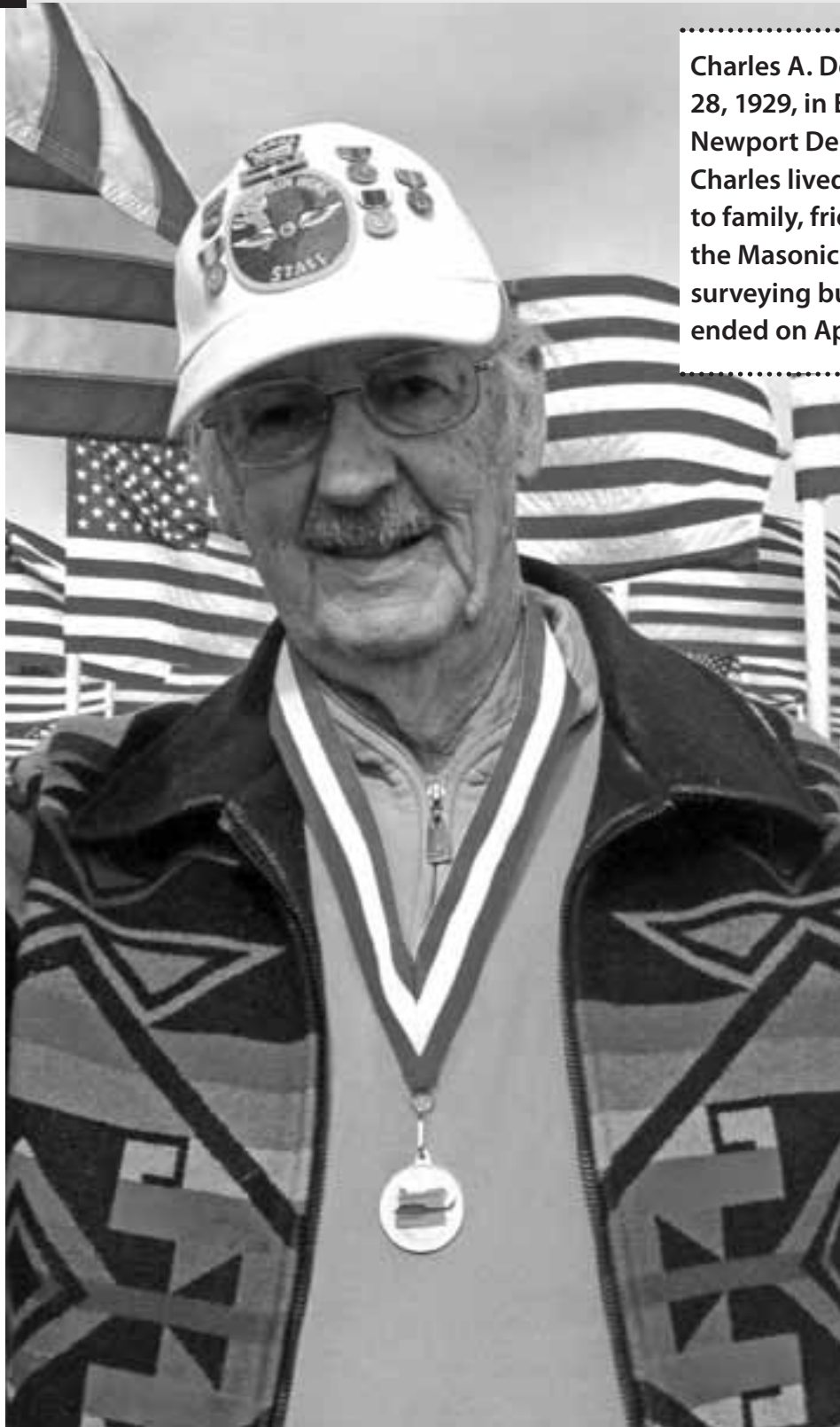


In Memoriam—PLSO Charter Member

Charles A. Denison, ORLS #574

■ *Ann Denison*

Charles A. Denison was born on September 28, 1929, in Eugene, Oregon to Beatrice Ione Newport Denison and Arthur Hall Denison. Charles lived a very interesting life devoted to family, friends, community, endeavors with the Masonic Lodge of Oregon, and his land surveying business. Charles' earthly journey ended on April 17, 2010 due to a sudden illness.



Charles comes from a long line of Oregonians. His Great-Great-Grandmother came around the Horn in a raging storm, giving birth to his Great-Grandfather, Nathaniel Monroe Newport. The law offices and home of his Great-Grandfather still stand in Lebanon, Oregon. Charles was a nephew of Frank Groves, a long time resident of Lebanon.

Charles Arthur (Chuck) Denison grew up in Lebanon, Salem and Klamath Falls, Oregon. He graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1947.

Chuck worked at Safeway as a box boy during high school. After high school, he worked in construction on the Tokatee project on the North Umpqua River, until joining the Navy in October 10, 1950. Chuck served the Commander of **Fleet Air Wing 6** as a Radioman during the Korean War while serving in Japan for reconnaissance flights that flew over Korea. He received an Honorable Discharge on August 6, 1954.

Upon returning from the Navy, Chuck attended Oregon Technical Institute in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and graduated with a degree in

Surveying. He worked on a survey crew for Weyerhaeuser Timber Company at Klamath Falls, Oregon, and had many memories of his time spent working at Camp 9.

Chuck came to the Oregon Coast and worked with his brother, Jim, in surveying and forestry work for various timber and milling companies. Chuck started his own business known as Denison Surveying, where Don Denison first became acquainted with surveying. Russ Johnson was also mentored by Chuck. He and Russ were surveying partners for over 30 years. In May, 1981 the company previously known as Denison Surveying was incorporated and has operated since that time as Denison Surveying, Inc, in Newport, Oregon.

Don Denison recently wrote to Chuck, telling of the times he recalled surveying with Chuck. Don asked Chuck if he could remember when Don set off the coyote trap on Boone Island. Then Don asked if he remembered how Chuck had to search *every* pocket of his vest *every* time he needed the plumb bob that he had just had 10 seconds earlier. Don wrote, thanks for “breaking trail” for me through life, in more ways than he can say. (Don explains this so well. Most of us have memories of Chuck that reflect this sentiment).

Chuck was licensed on July 9, 1962, as Registered Land Surveyor of Oregon No. 574, and November 19, 1987 as Oregon Water Rights Examiner No. 35. Chuck’s experience and knowledge of land surveying in Lincoln County have greatly served the community and its property owners, the cities and the ports for many, many years. It is easy to say that Chuck is a “Legend” in his own right when it comes to land surveying. He was honored in 2009 by PLSO as a **50 Year Charter Member**. The PLSO sponsored a luncheon for all the Founders.

Chuck was active in the local Newport Masonic Lodge #85 A.F. & A.M., for many years. He entered Apprentice December 12, 1952; Fellow Craft February 20, 1953, and Master Mason March 27, 1953 at the Klamath Falls Lodge #77. Chuck held a dual membership in these two Lodges. He served as Worshipful Master in the years, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2008, and held the office of Secretary for multiple years in between.

Chuck’s enthusiasm for sailing was contagious and he was involved in the Newport Yacht Club for many years. Chuck, as Captain of the 31-foot *Choy Lee*, placed in one of the Regattas from the Yaquina Bay to the Port of Toledo. The award was a ceramic “turtle”. Many laughs were had over that one.

Chuck was an outdoorsman in his soul. When he wasn’t surveying, climbing a mountain or sailing, he was exploring the wilderness or canoeing.



(above) Charles Denison standing among the Flag Memorial of 1000 Flags

(right) Flag #242, Charles A. Denison



Chuck volunteered his services on many occasions for various community organizations. In 2009, he volunteered his time to “stake-out” the Veterans of Oregon *Field of Honor* Traveling Memorial. Chuck’s Crew Chief, John Hanna, volunteered his time to help accomplish this Flag Memorial of 1000 Flags. The Flag Memorial travels to cities throughout Oregon. Veterans and Families and Friends of Veterans are able to purchase a plaque and have a flag number to honor a Veteran. Chuck’s Flag Number is 242. Whenever the flags return or when you see them while traveling, please stop and visit and say a special “hi” to Chuck.

Continues on page 20

Chuck's (Charles') name appears at the Veterans Memorial Wall in the City of Toledo. When the wall was first placed, it was Chuck's idea to include the names of family and friends [Al Allstott, James Denison, Jack Chase, Paul Chase (deceased), Ralph Evans (deceased)]. Chuck was always thinking of others and including them in the "good stuff".

Chuck was a long-time member of the Races Rats Emergency Radio Team in conjunction with the Lincoln County Emergency Services. In the 1990s Chuck dedicated his time and radio/morse code skills in educating and helping train persons interested in 2 meter radio to obtain their licenses.

Knowing Chuck, there was always a project going on and an enthusiasm that showed that he was always interested in **you, your good time, your interests, seeing that the outcome benefitted you, your advancement, your safety, and always with a "nudge" to say that "you'll be okay"**. For those who really knew Chuck and how he felt, how he thought, how he worked, how he lived, and what he believed really matters in life and living, have learned from one of the best.

Chuck, you *are* "the best" to us, we thank you for your life. With what you have given, we can carry on, always remembering that you are right beside us—every step of the way. If we are able to "compass" our way as you have, using the same tools you have used to chart your course, we will all find our way through this life and meet up with you once again, on a new trail. ◉





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To Accept or *Not to Accept*: The Use of BLM Administrative Records

■ Edith Forkner

Early in 2003, I was researching for a survey I had coming up for the BLM. The official survey records had been provided to me as part of my instructions, but I always check our administrative files to see if I can find anything useful. Usually, the information available is superseded by more recent filed surveys, but much to my surprise, I found a corner card indicating that Chalmer Gustafson, District Engineer, had perpetuated the 1/4 corner of sections 35 and 36 from original evidence in 1965.

The card read:

Both original bearing tree faces illegible. The 72" D.F. was windthrown in the 10-12-62 storm. Eric Rutquist stated that the faces (B.T.s) were legible 15 yrs. ago when he placed his cruiser's mark [mark] on a 14.2" chinquapin oak bearing S. 10 E. 10 feet from corner. I placed as an approximate corner a 7 ft. steel fence post driven 4 feet in ground with a BLM car seal #500 locked in place.



The front side of the original BLM card

Further poking through our administrative files discovered a copy of an administrative survey by a local timber company subdividing section 35 and a hand-written affidavit signed by Rutquist asserting that he had found scribe marks on the bark of the large fir and marked the chinquapin as noted by Gustafson.

This was interesting because I had no official record of any surveyor being at that corner since it was set, except for a local land surveyor who had set a proportioned 1/4 corner in 1996. I pointed out the situation to my boss and said, "So which would control—the fence post or the cap?" He said, "First you have to find the fence post." So, out to the field I went.

I work out of the Coos Bay District Office, and we have files of unofficial surveys and corner locations dating back to the 1950's. Other district offices may have more or less administrative data, in other formats, but in Coos Bay we have two types of unofficial records: administrative surveys and corner cards.

Administrative surveys may include copies of administrative surveys done by other entities, such as timber companies in this example, but mostly consist of administrative surveys done by our office. In the 70's and early 80's the BLM at times subdivided sections and set fence posts, or occasionally rebars, to mark new corners. Currently, BLM may perform administrative surveys only between official BLM or previously accepted monuments, and then only to refresh the blaze line. In regard to

these older administrative surveys, unless the unofficial corner has been made official by being accepted by a local land surveyor, we consider them useful temporary points and nothing else. (See sidebar for more information.)

I had no official record of any surveyor being at that corner since it was set, except for a local land surveyor who had set a proportioned 1/4 corner in 1996.

Corner cards are records of corners located by BLM personnel, often foresters, and usually describe what the person found in the way of monument(s) and bearing trees. Sometimes there is information on how to find the corner, or where a location tag was posted, or a similar useful comment ("In the fall, bring a bucket for all the huckleberries!"). Most corner cards are from the 60's and 70's; in the 80's the cards were often filled out by Cadastral to describe the corners they had used or set during the past field season.

Most times, the administrative information is primarily useful for having a newer bearing to run or assurance that a corner was found more recently than the last public record. Sometimes it's not even good for that—I find, on an infrequent but regular basis, boundary tags set during an administrative survey for which we have no record. Still, I like to check...and guess what happened this time?

We found the fence post.

Naturally, the post in and of itself meant nothing. I still don't know what, exactly, a "BLM car seal" is. We found a chinquapin at the record position with a BLM location tag and some decayed places that might have started out as a cruiser's mark, but there was nothing definitive. The tree that best fit the position for the original yew was down and the roothole could not be made to fit record, as the tree would have had to slide uphill to achieve its current position, and we found no marks except a decayed area that might or might not have been a former blazed face. There was a large down fir at the record original position, a whopping two feet away—the fence post was in the roothole—but there were many large down firs in the area and we found no marks on that one. But after digging through the dirt that had slid down alongside the tree when it fell, we did eventually find a GLO "Warning to Trespassers" tag dated 1950, with the initials "E.G.R." and "J.W."

Was this sufficient evidence to accept the fence post as the best available evidence of the original position of the corner? Our office thought it was.

This made for an awkward conversation with the local land surveyor who had proportioned the corner in 1996, especially as his corner was almost 60 feet east of the fence post. He admitted he had found the fence post but dismissed it as just another approximate, set by persons unknown under circumstances unknown, and of no legal significance. I don't blame him; in the absence of any record, I'd have done exactly the same. The difference in this case is that there was in fact some record information on the origin of the fence post, which he didn't even know was available.

Bottom line? Call your local BLM Cadastral office and find out if they have any administrative records. Under most circumstances, we would be more than happy to provide you with any information we have, even if it's unofficial. Next time you're looking for one last drop of information before declaring a corner lost, try squeezing your local BLM office to see if they have anything useful.

The good news in this case is that the fence post perpetuating the

.....
Next time you're looking for one last drop of information before declaring a corner lost, try squeezing your local BLM office to see if they have anything useful.
.....

original corner gave the local timber company 60 feet of land they didn't realize they owned. In other words, no bona fide rights were harmed in the filing of this survey. ☉

BLM Administrative Surveys

Selected quotes from the *2009 BLM Manual*:

1-4 In the general plan, each cadastral/official survey includes: a request for survey; special instructions; assignment instructions; a field note record of the observations, measurements, and monuments descriptive of the work performed; and a plat representing the official survey. All are subject to review, approval, and/or acceptance of the Director, Bureau of Land Management (Director, BLM). A cadastral survey is not complete until it is officially filed with the BLM as the culmination of this process.

1-5 A cadastral survey is a formal decision by the Federal Government and is subject to administrative or judicial appeal. Official surveys are executed by authorized surveyors acting in the stead of and under the direction of the Director, subject to the delegated authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

An official survey is distinct from a local survey or an administrative survey. A local survey is an opinion on the location of a boundary based on a survey that does not contain every element of an official survey. An administrative survey is a local survey for a Federal agency executed by a Federal employee or an agent of a Federal agency for administrative purposes.

6-54 Corners established in an administrative survey by BLM employees, by other Federal departments and agencies, or by or for an Indian tribe...cannot be considered official United States corners unless and until they are accepted by the authorized officer of the BLM. In the absence of official acceptance by the BLM, users rely on such corners at their own peril.

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PLSO Chair Writes President Obama

March 6, 2010

Dear President Obama,

As President of the United States of America, you are regularly asked to “proclaim” special days or weeks on behalf of hundreds of organizations every week. We believe a recognition for the profession of surveying would be appropriate for the United States of America because many of our greatest American leaders were surveyors; including Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

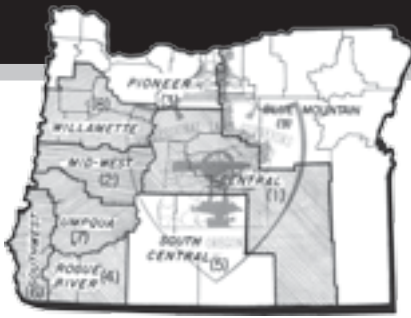
We represent hundreds of professionals in Oregon and our mission is to promote legislation and educational programs to improve the professional status of Oregon Land Surveyors; and to advance the profession of Land Surveying by promoting high standards of practice and ethical conduct, holding paramount the interests of the public.

On behalf of Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, I (we) respectfully request, in accordance with the recommendations made in Senate Resolution 361, passed January 31, 2006, and House Concurrent Resolution 223, passed September 24, 2008, that you direct your office to prepare and issue a Presidential Proclamation establishing the third (3rd) full week in March as National Surveyors Week, which this year will be celebrated March 21-27. This request is being made in support of a similar request contained in a letter addressed to you and sent in November, 2009, by Curt Sumner, Executive Director of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping and the National Society of Professional Surveyors, to the attention of Christina M. Tchen, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

All of us in Oregon anxiously await your proclamation.

Sincerely,

H.Timothy Fassbender, President, PLSO



News from the Chapters

Midwest #2

■ Dan Nelson, LSI, Secretary/Treasurer

February 9, 2010

Chapter President: Renee Clough
Called to Order: 7:15 pm | **Adjourn:** 9:48 pm
Attendees: 21 members, 2 guests

Guest Speakers

Kent Howe and Lindsey Eichner reviewed ministerial- and director-approved PLA applications. Dave Wellman suggested a return in six months to see how the new processes are going.

Approval of the minutes

Tim Fassbender moved; seconded and approved by all.

Subcommittee Reports

Legislative: (Tim Fassbender) Legislation is in session. OSBEELS bill did not make it onto floor or in committee.

Trig-Star: (Guy Dent) Thurston High School has rejoined as a participant.

Seminars: (Dave Wellman) June 11 at Eugene Hilton with Christine Shirley, FEMA – Unnumbered A Zones.

Educational goals: (Dan Nelson) Career fair at Lane Co. Fairgrounds on February 16.

PLSO Board: (Kent Baker, Renee Clough)

- Membership is down and reasoning was discussed.
- Switching *The Oregon Surveyor* to quarterly distribution would save \$8,000 annually. Midwest Chapter supports.

Standards of Practice Manual:

- Login and passwords sent to PLSO members
- Encouraged to develop relationships with Representatives and Legislators.
- Tim Fassbender decided to grant free membership dues to serving National Guard members.

Old Business

Bill Guile's supplies and files are being sorted at Dave Wellman's office. Call Dave for viewing and copies. No originals are to leave Dave's office.

New Business

Renee Clough proposed meeting in Florence.

For the Good of the Order

- Richard Skinner introduced Jamie Davies and accepted two PLSO applications.
- Dan Weller from BLM notified the chapter he will be working locally.
- Chapter was reminded about the upcoming OPB special. ◊

March 9, 2010

Chapter President: Renee Clough
Called to Order: 7:07 pm | **Adjourn:** 8:45 pm
Attendees: 19 members, 2 guests

Guest Speakers

Brandt Melick and Chris Zeitner spoke about LiDAR and the various uses of available data. For information on LiDAR, contact Chris at czeitner@ci.springfield.or.us.

Approval of the minutes

Tim Fassbender moved; seconded and approved by all.

Subcommittee Reports

Educational goals: (Dan Nelson) Career fair at Lane Co. Fairgrounds on February 16 was successful.

PLSO Board: (Renee Clough, Jeremy Sherer)

- New log ins to the PLSO website are being sent out.
- PLSO is now on Facebook and Twitter.
- Discussed recording conference seminars and allowing people to watch them for a fee.

Trig-Star: Survey class scholarship

OSBEELS: PLSO's current liaison to OSBEELS, Gary Johnston, would like to step down and needs a volunteer replacement. We also discussed legislation that requires all conveyances to require surveys.

Old Business—None

New Business—None

Good of the Order

- Trig-Star participants will be invited to our May meeting. Funds are being collected from attending members to pay for dinner. The remaining balance will be paid by Midwest chapter account. Renee Clough moved; Tim Fassbender second; approved by all.
- OPB show was well received and provoked many discussions amongst viewers.
- The need for LiDAR and Machine control regulation by surveying community was expressed.
- Engineering/surveying seminar crossover idea was discussed.
- Anna Guile would like help cleaning stuff out. Discussed meeting at Dave Wellman's office to go through Bill Guile's stuff. ◊

Pioneer #3

■ Ryan Godsey, Secretary/Treasurer

March 10, 2010

Chapter President: Randy Smith, chapter chair-elect
Location: Buster's BBQ, Tigard
Called to Order: 6:30 pm | **Adjourn:** 8:45 pm
Attendees: 37 member & guests

Approval of Minutes

Gary Anderson moved to approve minutes as written.

Surveyor Beginnings: Jim Burgess shared his story about getting started in Land Surveying.

Discussion: Jim Luke has prepared a newsletter for the pioneer chapter. What shall we name it?

Presentation

Jim Luke shared an informative presentation on Mineral Surveys.

Committee Reports

Board Report: (Lee Spurgeon)

- PLSO is looking for a new OSBEELS liaison.
- Chemeketa Community College is looking into offering a 4 year degree with OIT and is asking PLSO members to write letters of support to be sent to the President of Chemeketa Community College. Chapter Discussion.
- PLSO is considering publishing *The Oregon Surveyor* four times a year instead of six to reduce expenses. The chapter supports the idea.
- PLSO is researching the idea of having a tiered membership. The Chapter is not in favor.
- Pioneer Chapter to host the 2012 PLSO conference in conjunction with GIS in Action.

Legislation: (Lee Spurgeon)

- Revision of the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund recording fee.
- Formalize Boundary Line Agreement process in the statutes.
- Move Right of Entry law from ORS 672 to ORS 209.
- Opposition to the Governor's proposal to move OSBEELS from semi-independent status to the building code division.
- Allowing legal descriptions to reference the ODOT low distortion projection.

Education Goals and Action: (Gary Anderson)

- Four-pronged approach to outreach includes: students, contact with professional land surveyors that are not members of PLSO, contact with professionals outside

of the land surveying profession and contact with the general public.

- Anyone interested in doing a Trig-Star presentation?

New Business

- Pioneer Chapter Picnic, August 14, Champoeg Park.
- Discussion regarding chapter seminars to be hosted by Pioneer Chapter.
- 2010 Outreach events Pioneer Chapter members can participate in:
NW Youth Career Expo on May 11, 2010
Blue Star Mothers of Oregon—Willamette National Cemetery war memorial survey

OSBEELS: (Mark Mayer)

- Department of Revenue may require taxes to be paid prior to renewal of professional license.
- PDH violations—Keep records current and be responsive when contacted by the board.

For the Good of the Order

- PLSO geocaching project is looking for volunteers.
- The 2009 BLM Manual of Surveying Instructions have been shipped.
- Discussion regarding PDHs for chapter meeting and presentation. Gary Anderson moved to approve 2 PDHs for tonight's meeting, Mark Mayer seconded the motion and John Putnam interjected that PDHs would probably only qualify for the duration of the presentation, Gary Anderson amended his motion to approve 1 PDH for tonight's meeting, Mark Mayer seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. ◉

April 14, 2010

Chapter President: Randy Smith, chapter chair-elect
Location: Buster's BBQ, Tigard
Called to Order: 6:30 pm | **Adjourn:** 8:00 pm
Attendees: 29 members, 4 guests

Approval of Minutes

Bob Hovden moved to approve minutes as written.

Surveyor Beginnings: John Putnam shared his story about getting started in Land Surveying.

Presentation

Merideth Webber with ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) Oregon discussed the benefits of ACEC membership for surveyors.

Announcement: Roger Galles will be retiring from ODOT after 39 years and will be having a retirement party at the Old Spaghetti Factory on May 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Committee Reports

PLSO Board: Next meeting is April 24, 2010

Legislation: (Chuck Pearson)

- The question, “Is machine control practicing Land Surveying?” was presented to the legislative committee—No action at this time.
- The question, “Should a Land Survey be required for conveyance of property?” was presented to the legislative committee—No action at this time.
- Legislation to formalize a Boundary Line Agreement mechanism—In process.
- Legislation to increase the Public Land Corner Preservation Fund fee on recorded documents—In process.
- Modification to ORS 672.047 (Right Of Entry by Land Surveyor)—No update.
- Governor’s proposal to move OSBEELS from semi-independent status to the building code division—No update.

Education Goals and Action: (Gary Anderson)

- Reminder that this is the time of year to be doing a Trig-Star presentation.
- TwiST (Teaching with Spatial Technology) needs volunteers to take the program to local schools.
- Is there an interest in having a PLSO funded statewide outreach coordinator? Chapter supports the idea.

Old Business

- Pioneer Chapter Picnic, August 14, 2010, Champoeg Park.
- Trig-Star state exam at HHPR May 8, 2010.
- Discussion regarding seminars to be hosted by Pioneer Chapter—Standards of Practice in Survey Research.
- Blue Star Mothers of Oregon—Willamette National Cemetery war memorial survey.

New Business

- PLSO Scholarship Fund—Send donations to PLSO office for Pioneer Chapter.
- 2010 Outreach events Pioneer Chapter members can participate in:
NW Youth Career Expo on May 11, 2010

For the Good of the Order

- PLSO geocaching project is looking for volunteers.
- Orrin Frederick passed out a cross-reference paper to correlate the *2009 BLM Manual* with the *1973 BLM Manual*.
- Multnomah County Surveyor’s Office has a questionnaire on their website, please take time to answer the questions.
- Remember to submit your maps and trucks to the competition at the 2011 conference. First place gets free registration to next year’s conference. ◊

Rogue River #4

■ Otto Ribanszky, Secretary/Treasurer

February 22, 2010

Chapter President: Craig Claassen

Location: First American Title office, Medford

Called to Order: 6:05 pm | **Adjourn:** 8:00 pm

Attendees: 16 members, 4 guests

Introductions

Donna O’Grady, Title Officer, introduced herself and three other employees and provided a brief overview of the services offered by First American.

Old Business

- Discussed silent agenda added this year and asked for comments.
- Discussed TwiST and how to recruit teachers. Jim Hibbs passed out handout explaining TWIST. He suggested using Trig-Star contacts to recruit teachers. This was supported by Peter Allen.
- Claassen reported that the 2010 PLSO Conference made approximately \$30k profit based on communication with Gary Johnston. This number will be revised at the March 6 BOD meeting.

New Business

- BOD Business—PLSO paid Outreach Position discussion Herb Farber discussed need for Board to make money available for this position, makes motion in this regard. Bob Neathamer seconds this motion. Chapter votes to support the Outreach Program, with caveat to first investigate cost to budget.

Committee Reports

Trig-Star Committee: Craig Claassen will attend next Trig-Star meeting in Grants Pass with Peter Allen

Legislative Committee: Discussed OSBEELS as semi-independent board status. There are possible amendments to ORS. Email Craig Claassen with any ideas.

State Board Reports

BOD Report: Discussed adjustments to budget. We could save money by reducing *Oregon Surveyor* from 6 to 4 issues annually.

OSBEELS Report:

- Continue to work on standards of practice
- Appointed Bob Neathamer as emeritus member

Continues on page 30

News from the Chapters

Rogue River Chapter, continued

Local Jurisdictional/Government Reports

Jackson County (Kerry Bradshaw): Work continues on getting survey records online. They may be ready to go in as little as 2–3 months.

Josephine County (Peter Allen): Handed out Annual Plat and Map filings report

City of Medford (Jon Proud): Coker Butte/Crater Lake Avenue construction project will start soon. Local surveyors will be able to bid on staking the project.

Other New Business

- Discussion on whether RR Chapter should host PLSO Conference and/or local workshop.
 - Herb Farber moves to have local workshop in Fall 2010. Jim Hibbs seconds motion. Sean Kampmann suggests panel discussion format. RR Chapter votes to have local workshop. Discuss publication in local media to promote workshop. Workshop Committee members will include: Sean Kampmann, Herb Farber, Craig Claassen, Joseph Bova, Stephan Barott.
- Discussion on earlier meeting time suggested Craig Claassen. RR Chapter agrees to begin social hour at 5:30 pm and start meeting at 6:00 pm
- Roger Roberts reported that the Jackson County Clerks Office processed their first electronic deed filing—no hard copy was used
- Roger also reported that Mark Boyden will not renew his license.

Program

Speakers Sean Kampmann and Donna O’Grady led a discussion of riparian boundaries and case studies on title officer and surveyor aspects of this subject. ◉

March 22, 2010

Chapter President: Craig Claassen

Location: Council Chambers, Grants Pass

Called to Order: 6:18 pm | **Adjourn:** 7:54 pm

Attendees: 11 members, 1 guest

Approval/amendments

The February 22, 2010 meeting notes were approved.

New Business

- Dues paid over time discussion (similar to 2010 conference)
- Boundary Line Agreement discussion (subject for workshop?)
- Prospect career day for Charter School on April 28, 2010 (1200–1600) Darren Cone and Jim Hibbs

State Board Reports

BOD Report: The 2011 Conference Sponsors are the Southwest Chapter and Umpqua Chapter.

OSBEELS Report (Bob Neathamer): The exam is April 17, 2010.

Committee Reports

Trig-Star Committee (Jim Hibbs): Peter Allen will lead the Grants Pass contest at the end of April.

Legislative Committee: Bob Neathamer is our Chapter Representative. Boundary Line Agreements discussion (see email from Craig to Chapter members)

Strategic Planning: Update from BOD March 6.

Local Jurisdictional/Government Reports—No report

Other New Business

- Discussion on local job fairs and career days
- Ideas for fall workshop (from Joseph Bova’s notes)
 - Chain of Title—Title Plant and County records
 - LIDAR—photogrammetry
 - Revestments—vacations of roads, etc.
 - Boundary Line Agreement, by Darren Cone
 - Legal issues, acquisitions, ALTA surveys, by Dave Corsi
- Silent Agenda (No Attachments)—Subjects are “Information Only Topics” and will not be discussed in the meeting unless you have questions.
- OCRS (Oregon Coordinate Reference System)—OGUG and ODOT are sponsoring a workshop on April 16 in Salem. Cael Neathamer is the contact.

Program

Our speaker was Dave Corsi a Land Acquisition Specialist with the City of Grants Pass. Corsi presented a very informative program on his extensive experience on government procurements. He is currently working for the City of Grants Pass to “clean up” prior land acquisitions, easements, and other land issues. Some brief examples are:

- FHA and other Federal Government loan programs; Urban renewal projects; ALTA/ACSM surveys to support major projects; Merger (can’t grant an easement to yourself) refer to Wick V. Reavis.

Corsi could be a very good speaker for PLSO on legal ownership issues, and how the surveyor fits into the big picture.

Good of the Order

A big thank you to Barb and Craig Claassen for coordinating, preparing, and cleaning up after our catered dinner. ◉

Southwest #6

■ *Corey Woodruff, Secretary/Treasurer*

March 10, 2010

Chapter President: Walter White

Location: Venture Inn Restaurant, North Bend

Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendees: 6 members

Business

Walter briefed us on the January Board meeting.

Highlights included:

- Possibility of *Oregon Surveyor* magazine becoming quarterly to save money
- Removing advertisement from *Building Futures* magazine
- Addition of “Financial Reserve Policy” to Operating Manual
- Our lobbyist’s (Fred VanNatta) contract has been renewed
- Board would like a member from each chapter to join the Geocache Committee
- Elimination of cash rewards for Trig-Star

The Southwest Chapter will be co-hosting the 2011 annual convention with the Umpqua Chapter.

If you have a suggestion for a topic you would like to see presented at the convention, please contact Walter. ☺

Umpqua #7

■ *Brent Knapp, Secretary/Treasurer*

March 8, 2010

Chapter President: Randy Smith

Location: Elmer’s Restaurant, Roseburg

Called to Order: 6:30 pm

Attendees: 20 members, 5 students, 2 guests

Business

Guest Nancy Stockhoff began the meeting by providing the chapter with information on the upcoming Annual Harold Stockhoff Memorial Golf Tournament. Randy noted that the state board will be providing \$100 in tee sponsorship

as will the Umpqua Chapter. Mrs. Stockhoff asked for donations and sponsorship from local businesses and agencies.

- Randy presented a plaque to 2009 Chair David Beedle from the state board for his service to PLSO.
- Randy gave a report from the board meeting. Joel Smith of Chemeketa Community College (CCC) is proposing a four year surveying degree through CCC. It was asked that the Umpqua chapter support with a letter. Tim Moore made a motion to support with a second from Romey. Randy said that the State board wants to have a “variable structure” membership plan costing less and bringing more members to PLSO.
- Budgets and profits for the 2010 conference were discussed.
- The 2011 conference will be held in Salem. The Southwest and Umpqua chapters are looking at being the hosts. The various elements of hosting a conference were discussed at length. Several Umpqua chapter members expressed interest in helping host the 2011 conference.
- Other State board notes included Fred VanNatta’s position has being extended for another year, the discussion of a statewide Boundary Line Agreement protocol, Right-of-Entry possibly being moved to ORS 209, and the further discussion of the lien law. David Beedle made a motion to support lien law being re-introduced at the state level, a second came from Mr. Ware. All were in favor.
- Romey added that the Governor has signed the bill making the position of County Surveyor a non-partisan position.

Program

The chapter was lucky to have a presentation by Tim Moore on the new Manual of Surveying Instructions. Mr. Moore provided a very interesting look into the changes and updates in the manual and fielded questions on how it will affect the day to day practice of Oregon’s professionals. Tim explained that the new manual has been effective since September 24, 2009. As always, the chapter engaged in spirited discussions during the presentation. The chapter gave Tim a round of applause and thanked him for his presentation and time. ☺

Willamette #8

■ John Wise, Secretary/Treasurer

March 15, 2010

Chapter President: Jack Burrell

Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendees: 29 members, 3 guests

Presentation

J.R. Wilkinson, along with Dan Linscheid from OSBEELS, gave a presentation regarding common complaints against surveyors and engineers. They presented a flow chart illustrating how complaints are handled by OSBEELS. The flow chart showed whether a complaint goes to the Law Enforcement committee review or is dismissed.

Corrections

Last month's minutes were amended. Richard Broadwater was listed twice, and Virgil Broadwater was omitted. Lee MacDonald motioned to accept the amended February minutes.

Chapter Business

Jack Burrell and Gary Johnston reported on the TwiST program at the board meeting. John Newberg made a motion that the chapter support a teacher for the program. Dave Malone seconded.

Old Business—None

New Business

- Gary Johnston brought the 2009 BLM Manuals. Many of the chapter members purchased copies.
- Scott Morrison will be recognized for his presentation at last month's meeting. He will receive additional PDHs as a presenter.

- At the next meeting, the chapter would like members to bring specific current survey problems for group discussion.
- Dave Bateman presented the chapter with a question concerning release of a easement for a current survey.
- Tyler Newberg was acknowledged for his attendance at the chapter meeting. He is currently a junior at West Point.

Committee Reports

Trig-Star: Chapter members were reminded to get information to local high schools. There was a reminder that NSPS has a scholarship for Trig-Star students.

Geocaching: Ryan Godsey from the Pioneer Chapter is working on three geocache sites. He can be reached at rgodsey@cesnw.com

Workshops: Jack Burrell, John Newberg and Lee MacDonald are working setting up a workshop for Spring or Fall 2010.

Good of the Order

Gary Johnston made the motion to adjourn with one PDH awarded. Scott Morrison seconded. ◊

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THE LOST SURVEYOR

Our photographer is so lost this issue that he needed a full page to give you the coordinates. You will find the Lost Surveyor on the inside front cover.