

THE
OREGON SURVEYOR



Bert Mason, Jr.
1919–2011



Volume 35 Number 1
January/February 2012

A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Editor's Note | 4 |
| From your 2011 Chair | 5 |
| View from the PLSO office | 6 |
| Reports | |
| PLSO Board of Directors Minutes, December 2011 | 8 |
| PLSO Extraordinary Meeting Minutes | 11 |
| News from the Chapters | 24 |
| Features | |
| Bert Mason, Jr., Dedication and Photos | 3 |
| Auction Activities Planned for the 2012 PLSO Conference | 11 |
| LightSquared Pressuring the FCC to Affirm its License and Let it Begin Work | 13 |
| 2012 PLSO and GIS in Action Joint Conference | 14 |
| The Origins of <i>The Oregon Surveyor</i> | 18 |
| Surveyors in the News | 22 |
| Team TriPod—A surveyor triathlon relay team | 25 |
| In Memoriam—Richard Alan Chesebro | 27 |
| The Lost Surveyor | 27 |

The Lost Surveyor *From page 27*

Answer: LAT 44° 38' 50" N LONG 123° 04' 15" W

Simpson Park, former site of Simpson Timber Company Plywood Mill in Albany, Oregon. It has been remodeled to an area of ponds, waterways, falls, trails and view points. Well worth seeing once it opens.

On the Cover

Three of PLSO's founding members, Eugene (Gene) DiLoreto, Bert Mason, Jr. and Clair Pense. The long-time friends are pictured outside Tebo's Restaurant in Gladstone, Oregon where they would meet at least once a month for lunch.

Inset: Bert Mason, Jr., 1945

Did you know?

Are you looking for something fun and exciting to do this weekend? PLSO has a new geocache waiting for someone to find it and all of its treasures. I've included a link (below) to the PLSO page at geocaching.com, where you can find a complete list of PLSO geocaches.

www.geocaching.com/seek/nearest.aspx?u=PLSO+Oregon+Surveyor&submit4=Go

Happy hunting!

—Ryan Godsey



Join PLSO or Renew Your Membership!

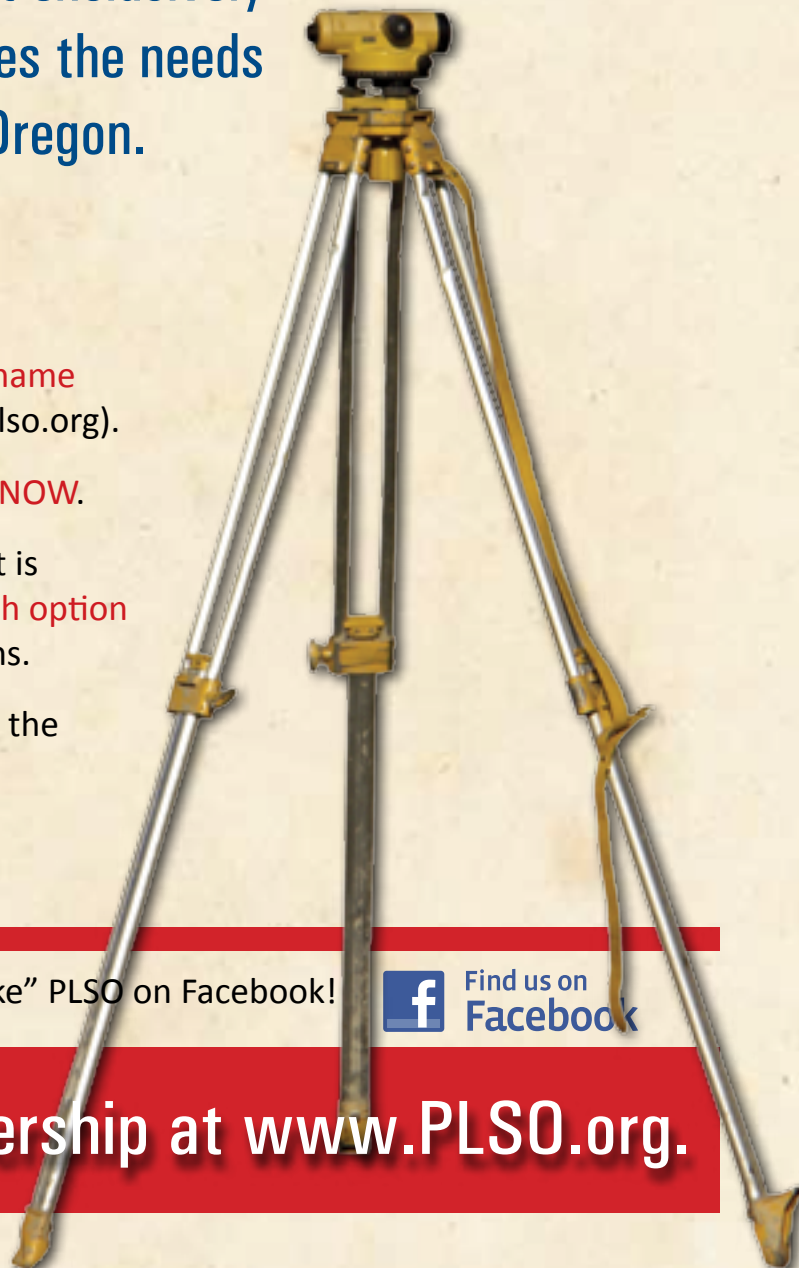
April is "Membership Month"

Please watch your chapter notices for great monthly programs and seminars!

PLSO is the only organization that exclusively represents the interests and serves the needs of Land Surveyors, especially in Oregon.

Follow these easy steps:

1. Go to www.PLSO.org.
2. Login to the site as a member with the **username** and **password** (emailed from webmaster@plso.org).
3. Choose the Members tab and go to **RENEW NOW**.
4. There will be two choices for membership. It is recommended that you choose the **18 month option** to avoid having to renew in just a few months.
5. Have your Visa or MasterCard ready or print the form and mail with a check.



For interesting news and regular updates, "like" PLSO on Facebook!



Renew your 2012 membership at www.PLSO.org.

Bert Mason, Jr.

August 1919, Ione, OR—December 2011, Milwaukie, OR

- PLSO Founding member, 1959
- Creator of *The Oregon Surveyor*, 1960
- PLSO State Chair, 1961–62, 1965–66 and 1966–67
- PLSO Surveyor of the Year, 1981
- NSPS Excellence in Surveying Award, 1999



Bert and Ellen Mason, 2003



Bert Mason, Jr., in the PLSO office, 1984



Clair Pense and Bert Mason, Jr., in the 1970s

“...there is one individual who has devoted close to 40 years [now 50] to the profession, in many capacities, Bert Mason. He has contributed unselfishly and without fanfare for as long as I have known him. He deserves the highest recognition for achievements in advancing the science of Surveying and Mapping, in the State of Oregon.” —Orville Casswell, PLS, March 1999



Linda Pope, Clair Pense, Bert Mason, Jr., and Lisa Switalla, 2010



Bert Mason, Jr., 1939

Editor's Note

■ Oran Abbott, PLS; oranabbott@gmail.com

A new year can bring changes, and PLSO has a few in store for us. We start off by brightening up our magazine with more color pages. That seems to be about the same level of lie that the politicians give out—most of the journal is in color...well, maybe only some of it. Also, we switched the publication to a Jan/Feb issue to fit with conference information. On the business side, PLSO changed the membership renewal date by six months.

If you think these changes are hard to adjust to, we also have to cope with the loss of Bert Mason, Jr. I joined PLSO in the 1970s and everywhere I surveyed, Bert had already been there.

When I think about Bert, a few times when we were travelling come to mind. Some Decembers past, I drove Bert in his car down to the annual conference in Bend. There was a lot of snow and the high temperature was 17 degrees. We didn't want to take any of the mountain passes so we went up the Columbia Gorge to The Dalles and down Hwy 97 to Bend—no chains required.

Bert had a pilot's license and his own plane, so one time he suggested we fly down to Coos Bay for a meeting. We checked on the price of a commercial flight and it was cheaper than paying for gas to drive there, so

we flew. The plane design was such that the wings were above the seating, every seat was a window seat, and you had to bend over to go down the center aisle of the plane. It was a great flight!

I visited Bert and Ellen at their home and apartment several times, but I never saw his San Juan Island house or his plane. Memories of him will stay with me until I am gone.

Bert was one of four members on our Publications Committee. We have filled the vacancy with Paul Galli. We are glad he is willing to serve.

Our joint annual conference with GIS is coming up in March at the Red Lion Janzten Beach. Short of "living under a bridge," try to attend at least Thursday and Friday of the conference. Light Squared might be gone by then and maybe ACSM. Maybe we need to open our membership to surveyors who do not have a license, but are



regularly doing survey work and need to know what is going on in Oregon.

We are sending this issue to all of the licensed surveyors in Oregon. If this is your first reading of *The Oregon Surveyor*, welcome! If you want to join PLSO, please visit our website at www.plso.org.

If I do not see you before, I will see you at the annual conference.

Happy New Year. ◉

Trivia: John Wayne played the part of a surveyor in what movie?

Answer: The Fighting Kentuckian, 1949

Starring: John Wayne, Oliver Hardy, Vera Ralston, Philip Dorn, Marie Windsor

A light-hearted western about two Kentuckians played by Wayne and Hardy, who are looking to settle down after their years in the fighting Kentucky forces. Wayne finds himself in the position of pretending to be a surveyor sent to check the boundary stakes. Good fun, and the dialogue and action related to surveying will tickle any surveyor. In one scene, John Wayne picks up a survey stake only to have it shot from his hand by an unseen sniper!



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.

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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 materials to Lisa Switalla, lisa@llm.com.

For an editorial calendar, please contact Lisa Switalla at lisa@llm.com.

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From your 2011 Chair

■ Gary Anderson, PLS; 2011 PLSO Chair

Thank You!

There is much gratitude in my heart today, after serving as your state chair for the past 12 months. The experiences I've had and learned from, and the community of committed leaders which I was fortunate to have worked with, has brought me great joy and tremendous reward. There are certainly too many individuals deserving of my thanks to enumerate in this letter. So instead of trying, I have chosen to share three stories of significant people, and one more reading recommendation.

Those of you who heard me speak at last year's annual conference may remember how mightily I struggled to maintain my composure as I simply read the names of PLSO members who passed away during 2010. Later, at the auction dinner, a visiting State Representative commented how he thought that someone on that list meant a lot to me. His comment turned out to be an unfortunate foreshadow. Only a week after the conference, when I called up my old mentor—who beginning in the summer of 1975 led me into the profession of surveying—did I fully understand the significance of my choked-up feelings. I had stayed in touch with **Jim Nelson** since leaving his employ in 1982. We talked when I first got my PLS license in 1986, when I moved to Oregon, when I took on a department manager role, and when I was honored by PLSO as Surveyor of the Year. So, I gleefully called his office to share that I was now our state organization's chairperson. No one answered my call, and my voicemail message was not returned. An email reply did finally come from his wife, informing me that Jim had passed away in December.

Jim taught me the significance of thorough research and analysis, continuing education, clear communication and respect for our shared humanity—so much of what I use on a daily basis in the practice of our profession. Jim reinforced the idea that people, those we work with, and those we work for, matter immeasurably. Jim taught me (more usefully than college courses) the law of sines by sketching figures in the dashboard dust of his GMC while traveling to a job site. He taught me to always look for alternate solutions to each problem we encountered (mathematical or logistical).

I was inspired to become a surveyor largely because of his mentoring as to the techniques and various challenges of the field(s) of surveying, as well as the important role surveyors play in protecting the public interest. We serve the public on every project by acknowledging our clients and their neighbors equally, both (their land) ownership rights (property) and engineering integrity. Jim's spirit continues to mentor.

When I was elected to become Pioneer Chapter's President-elect for 2004, the new State Chair was **Lloyd Tolbert**. I credit Lloyd as my mentor for the role I have played as PLSO State Chair this past year. At his first Board meeting, Lloyd asked us—the new incoming Board Officers—to choose something that caught our interest from the PLSO's Strategic Planning Goals. He challenged us to consider choosing a topic which we could endeavor to improve upon, each with our own unique abilities. My choice was to “consider” working (with Lloyd, as it turned out) on the Education Goals and Action



Committee. This began an incredibly enlightening eight years of engagement with PLSO members and Boards, and with my larger community. Projects noteworthy to me include the Choose Your Path/Make Your Mark campaign, Trig-Star, TwiST, Job Fairs, Community College presentations and a special Willamette Stone event. It has been a pleasure, and I have learned and benefitted greatly from the experiences shared with the many wise leaders and eager supporters of our profession. This all transpired because of Lloyd, and the involvement (with you-all) of PLSO.

More recently, I had the great fortune to meet and work (a small bit) with a young man by the name of **Daniel Helmricks**. Daniel is a student at Oregon Institute of Technology, President of the Associated Students of OIT, and a leader for the Geomatics Federation International (FIG) Young Surveyors Network. His youthful enthusiasm, which is balanced and tempered by his training in OIT's Geomatics program, has enabled his involvement with the next generation of wise leaders in our field. As you all well know, our world is ever changing and is doing so at an increasingly fast pace. I can remember pace and chain, vernier and stadia. Today, it is automated reflector-less, point clouds and IM...fast...faster. I am reminded of some of Jim Nelson's early wisdom, “save the four wheel drive to get us

Continues ►

View from the PLSO office

■ *Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE; PLSO Executive Secretary*

Why “In Person” Education has Value

Up Close and Personal at the March PLSO Conference

PLSO is embarking upon a new year! New leadership, new membership year, new website and more! With the cold weather and the dragging economy, it's tempting to pull up the covers and hide out for a while. However, this may be the best year yet to get out and visit with your PLSO colleagues.

With our computer-based life, our e-personalities and online profiles, we have more excuses than ever to stay home and stare at the screen. That may work for night-owls or people who aren't “people-people,” but for education, in-person is still best.

This year, the opportunities for education abound at “Points to Polygons—Bridging the Gap,” the 2012 PLSO and GIS in Action Joint Conference, held at the Red Lion Hotel

on the River at Jantzen Beach in Portland on March 13–16. This will be a great time to get all your Professional Development Hours (PDHs), as well as experiencing “live” interaction between speakers, colleagues and students.

Unlike an on-line experience, being at the conference gives you access to speakers and enables you to take your understanding of issues to the next level. You can add to conversations during question and answer time and throughout the breaks and meals. Visit with our sponsors and learn about new technologies, products and programs that can help you do your job better.

Be a mentor to students! This year, 12 colleges will be participating in the NSPS Student Competition on March 13. High school students also come to learn about careers in surveying. This is your chance to be encouraging to a young person.

You spend plenty of time on the job, so plan to stay at the Red Lion and enjoy an evening beverage with members from around the state. You can even sleep a little later and arrive just in time for the morning session. If you're motivated, you can even workout or take a swim in the morning. If the weather is right, you can take a walk and enjoy the Jantzen Beach area.

Watch for all the great conference information in this issue and coming your way via email and our great updated website. We hope to see you in Portland in March, in real life, up close and personal. ◉



An advertisement for SURV-KAP surveying products. The top part features the text "The MEASURE OF EXCELLENCE" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, there is a photograph of various surveying tools including a yellow cap, a red cap, a purple funnel, and a silver marker. A gold medal with the text "The Landmark Name SURV-KAP In Survey Products" is prominently displayed. At the bottom, the text reads "EASY ORDERING ONLINE! SURV-KAP.com" in large, bold, blue letters, followed by "SURVEY MARKERS, CAPS AND ACCESSORIES • 800-445-5320". A gold seal with "100% GUARANTEE" is also visible.

From your 2011 Chair, continued

back out of wherever you get stuck.” Daniel seems to me to be quite level-headed and wise. He is developing networks of support locally and abroad to help him should he ever get stuck in the future. Please check out his website and support his attendance in Rome at the upcoming FIG conference. *Carpe Diem*, Daniel!

As we are social animals, there is a strong impulse for me to list and thank the individual folks who have labored together to make this difficult year as successful as it has been. Thanks to you all. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve PLSO! Mason Marker, and the incoming Board certainly have real challenges ahead. But working together, the members of PLSO will continue to make a difference and enhance our profession’s place in our changing world. Please encourage others to join PLSO and become involved members.

Mentor those associates and students who would follow in your footsteps.

Lastly, here is a relevant sentence excerpt from an interesting book I am reading, *The Social Animal* by David Brooks. He quotes a study that reveals “... joining a group that meets even just once a month produces the same happiness as doubling your income.”

PLSO may not double your income, but you too can increase your happiness immeasurably by getting involved with your colleagues at PLSO!

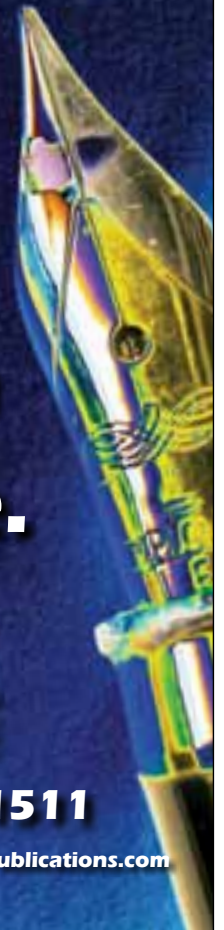
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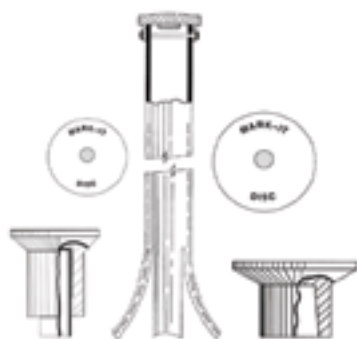
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PLSO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Officers

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EXEC. SECRETARY Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE | PAST CHAIR Tim Fassbender

Board Members

CENTRAL (1) Parneli Perkins, President | David Williams (for Andrew Huston, President-Elect)
MIDWEST (2) Jeremy Sherer, President | Ron Rice, President-Elect | Ryan Erickson*
PIONEER (3) Lee Spurgeon, President | John Thatcher, President-Elect
ROGUE RIVER (4) Stephan Barott, President | Fred Frantz, President-Elect
SOUTH CENTRAL (5) Allen Hart, President
SOUTHWEST (6) Edith Forkner, President | Mike Erickson, President-Elect | Mike Dado*
UMPQUA (7) Carl Sweeden, President-Elect | David Edwards*
WILLAMETTE (8) Lee MacDonald, President | Jamey Montoya, President-Elect |
Nathan Magness (Sec-Treas)
BLUE MOUNTAIN (9) Rod Lewis, President-Elect

*President-Elect for 2012

Committee Chairs

FINANCE Gary Johnston | EGAC/TRIG-STAR Joe Ferguson | GPS USERS GROUP John Minor
LEGISLATION Dan Linscheid | OREGON SURVEYOR Oran Abbott | BYLAWS Brent Bacon
WEBMASTER Wendell Harness

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Anderson at 10:04 am.

Review and Approve Agenda

It was suggested that Archives and GPS Users Group reports be added to the agenda.

MOTION: Spurgeon moved the agenda be accepted as printed and amended. MacDonald seconded. Motion passed.

The minutes of the October 22, 2011 Board Meeting were reviewed. Montoya noted his name is spelled "Jamey" and that ERISA in the Secretary's report should be ESRI.

MOTION: Spurgeon moved the minutes be approved as amended. Montoya second. Motion passed.

Report FROM THE Executive Secretary

VanNatta reported that the organization has total assets of \$53,826.51 in its accounts. PLSO has 129 members renewed to date. Membership opened with the mailing of the membership renewal postcards to our members at

the beginning of the month. About 100 renewals have come in with about 85% being online renewals.

- The office filed letters with the FCC and Congressman Walden's office on the LightSquared issues on behalf of the PLSO Board. NSPS thanked PLSO for its efforts.
- The office worked with Gary Johnston to come up with a draft budget for the 2012 year. A copy was sent to the board for review.
- Reviews of the new PLSO policies for whistle-blowing, conflict of interest and records retention required by the IRS for all non-profits, are done.
- The office coordinated with leadership to solicit award nominees from the Chapters and prepared ballots for voting.
- Outreach: A press release was done to promote TrigStar. PLSO drew some interest at the career fair in Salem. Twitter and Facebook continue to be updated. The online calendar is getting plenty of use and Surveyor Connect is becoming more popular.

- The office has been reviewing the conference committee notes and providing input when asked.
- The basic PLSO website is up and running, events and registration forms are being posted on the website, and the member information section has gone live. More benefits will be included in Phase 2, which will create groups for chapters and administrative functions for Presidents in 2012.
- The office has had many questions from members and non-members via e-mail and phone calls, concerning membership, looking for a surveyor and event information.
- A Board Meeting Evaluation Survey was conducted that board members received and answered. Positive initiatives and ways to improve PLSO were discussed.
- The office is working on the 2012 PLSO Planning Calendar and most dates will be on the online calendar.

Report FROM THE Chair

Anderson reported that WestFed had communicated with him about TwiST. There may be a group that will be able to underwrite the costs of this program. There may be matching dollars for this.

He expressed some concerns about online PDHs being offered by McKissock and how they represent themselves as Oregon Professional Surveyor online classes. VanNatta expressed that groups offering online education is troubling to her because they compete with the local association's conferences and classes.

Chapter Activities

Central—Perkins reported that they had a meeting November 9 and Mike Berry put on a presentation on Vampire Cemeteries. They elected Dave Williams as president-elect and Eric Huffman as secretary/treasurer.

Mid-West—Sherer said they decided to skip the December Chapter meeting. They focused on a local issue related to newly adopted property line adjustments in Lane County.

Pioneer Chapter—Spurgeon said that the Forest Service came in to discuss their surveys. In October, they featured “Surveys from the Underworld.”

Rogue River—Barrott reported that they have been invited to sit on a surveyor panel for Crater High.

South Central—Hart reported they had their spouse’s dinner in Klamath Falls. Keith Rhine is president-elect and Ernest Lundeen is secretary/treasurer.

Southwest—Forkner reported that they elected Mike Dado as president-elect and Corey Woodruff will stay on as secretary/treasurer.

Umpqua Chapter—Sweeden reported that they elected Dave Edwards as president-elect. Brent Knapp will remain secretary/treasurer. Pat Parsons of Douglas County Planning talked about elevation certificates. The President of Umpqua Community College spoke about an upcoming bond measure.

Willamette—MacDonald said the chapter enjoyed a presentation from Royce Hill and Scott Morrison on the David Thompson Brigade.

Blue Mountain—Lewis reported that they had a meeting in October, but not in November. They are currently working on GIS issues. Umatilla County came to discuss the County GIS system.

Old Business

Membership Drive & Renewals—VanNatta reported on the status of membership renewals. Only 129 have renewed to date. She provided lists to the chapters of lapsed members and a phone script for them to use. Spurgeon encouraged the board to have the Chapters create

strong meetings to attract members and events that cater to younger people. He also suggested creating membership recruitment incentives, which might include reduced membership dues, etc. He recommended that we seriously look at the future of the organization.

Anderson, Spurgeon, Montoya, Harness and staff will work on membership. Harness suggested using Facebook or Google ad words. Recruitment incentives were discussed.

Perkins asked if renewals are the same as “new” members. Abbott asked about the group that works in the field, but not licensed to date. Johnston mentioned it is important to make personal contacts and also work with allied organizations. Spurgeon noted the Pioneer Chapter’s “bring an associate” meeting was successful. VanNatta suggested that meetings be announced in local papers. It is usually free to put something online.

PLSO Foundation (Tim Fassbender)—Fassbender said it is time for the Board to decide if it will move forward with the foundation filing or not.

MOTION: Thatcher moved and Spurgeon seconded that the creation of the Foundation move forward.

Discussion: Anderson opened the discussion about costs. Fassbender said \$50 for registration. They will need to get an EIN. They will need to file a 1023 form if they don’t exceed \$5k per year. If income exceeds that amount, another form will be required. The foundation can function as a non-profit charity while the form is being processed. Fassbender noted the foundation can also apply for grants. It needs to have representatives from each Chapter for the Board. There should be at least 11 people on the board. Foundation board members do not have to be a PLSO board members. He suggested a tax consultant be a

board member, and using the PLSO’s PO box for the official mailing address. The foundation operates similar to an association. Sherer asked how much control the PLSO board has over the Foundation. That has not been decided. Motion passed.

Fassbender asked that PLSO find a leader in each chapter.

Budget (Gary Johnston)—Johnston showed the budget that was prepared for the Board. Freshwaters suggested that we update the reference to ACSM because they no longer exist. He also questioned funding in category 630 Professional Service. He doesn’t know where the lobbying discussion will go.

Anderson noted that we will have some money coming back from expenses related to the David Thompson Brigade.

Johnston said that they will need to adopt this budget at the January Board Meeting. A revised draft will be sent to the new PLSO Board prior to the meeting.

New Business

Webmaster (Harness Technology)—Harness went through the website. He showed the board how the tools work.

Life Member, Surveyor of the Year, Associate of the Year—A list of the recommendations for Life Member, Surveyor of the Year and Associate of the Year were brought forward. A confidential vote by ballot was taken for these awards.

Funding options for outreach—Anderson discussed various ways to collect money for outreach. The request by OIT for attendance at the ESRI Conference was discussed. Willamette Chapter did not recommend funding this request. Pioneer and Central were favorable. Umpqua wasn’t sure they wanted to support it, as they weren’t sure how the benefit would be given to PLSO.

Continues ►

PLSO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, continued

VanNatta emphasized that if we develop a foundation, we need to make sure to encourage requests to go to the foundation when appropriate. We should have a budget for contributions and criteria and then let the group do its work. If we raise money through the scholarship auction for other causes we need to make sure to let members know that.

Ferguson noted that we need to advertise the auction appropriately so our donors know to what “cause” they are donating. Ferguson will be on the task force.

Committee Reports

By-Laws (Brent Bacon)—Bacon discussed the possible necessity for new policies to meet the criteria for the IRS 990 filings. A discussion was held on the need for these policies and suggested that the whistle-blower policy and conflict of interest may not be needed because either they did not apply in PLSO’s case or are already met in other policies. Bacon said he believed that only the archive policy needed to be amended. VanNatta said she was advised by accountants and the Association community to make sure these policies were in place. These protect the organization and satisfy IRS recommendations.

MOTION: Perkins moved that we update the Archive Policy to meet the IRS requirements for records retention. McDonald seconded. Motion passed.

Legislative (Scott Freshwaters)— The contract with Public Affairs will end at the end of March. Freshwaters attended the OACES meeting. Fassbender said that chapters should ask if there are any ideas for legislation they should let the Legislative Committee know. PLSO is also looking for relationships with the real estate industry.

Conference (Allen Hart)—Sponsorship package ideas were sent to the board.

Scholarship (Steve Haddock not in attendance).

Education Goals and Actions/TrigStar (Joe Ferguson)—He will be seeking assistance to be more active in the coming year. Anderson suggested that the group contact NCEES to obtain matching funds for TwiST. Ferguson reminded the group that there is a proposal for \$1000 funding from PLSO for the program.

MOTION: Spurgeon moved that PLSO budget \$1000 for the TwiST program and Ron seconded. Motion passed.

GPS Users Group (John Minor)—There will be a meeting of the group on January 11. There is a benefit for being a member. The next meeting will probably be at the PLSO conference.

PLSO/OSBEELS Standards of Practice (Dan Linscheid)—Linscheid reported on changes related to SB274. He also shared copies of CDs that contained scans of all 25 current standards from around the nation for comparison. This is in relation to Oregon’s one-page draft being circulated for comment and possible adoption.

NSPS & Professional Practice (Bob Neathamer not in attendance)—In writing, Tim Kent noted that LightSquared has 12 firms engaged to get its word out; we need to be vigilant about the issue. Railroad preservation is an issue. There are very few applicants for the TrigStar survey scholarship. An applicant only needs to have taken the exam to apply for the scholarship. NGS adjustment is in the works. Students from 12 colleges will participate in the student competition at the PLSO conference. March 25 is “occupy a corner” day.

WFPS—(Greg Crites not in attendance, supplied packet)

Publications/Oregon Surveyor (Oran Abbott)—Abbott reviewed proposals by LLM.

Option 1—The magazine will be published six times per year with a four-color separate cover and 32 black & white pages inside, saddle stitched. It will be mailed to each PLSO member and additional copies will be sent to the association management company to distribute. LLM will charge for all services and reimburse all advertising sales at 65% to offset the charges. The cost of the publication will not exceed \$3,800 for 700 copies, \$3,850 for 800 copies and \$3,900 for 900 copies to PLSO per issue.

Option 2 (Recommended by Abbott)—The magazine will be published six times per year with a four-color self cover front and back with a minimum (counting front & back cover) of 16 four-color pages and 16 black & white pages, saddle stitched. Up to 800 copies will be printed. It will be mailed to each PLSO member and advertiser. Additional copies will be sent to the association management company to distribute. LLM will charge PLSO a flat rate of \$3,800 per issue for six issues, with no advertising reimbursement.

Option 3—Keeps everything the same with the following changes: The magazine will be published six times per year with a four-color self cover front and back with a minimum (counting front and back cover) of 16 four-color pages and 16 black & white pages, saddle stitched. For five issues, up to 800 copies will be printed and mailed to each PLSO member and one issue up to 1,800 magazines will be printed and mailed to every licensed surveyor in Oregon plus advertisers. Additional copies will be sent to the association management company for distribution. LLM will charge PLSO a flat rate of \$4,000 per issue, with no advertising reimbursement.

MOTION: Perkins moved that the Board accept Option 3 from LLM. Erickson seconded.

Discussion was held on the three options. Motion passed.

Board survey results—Marker went briefly through the results. People think that the number and length of the meetings is okay. Of those surveyed, 21% didn't believe that board members understand their roles and mission of the organization. The board appeared open to trying other meeting styles, such as webinar.

Good of the Order

Ferguson thanked Gary Anderson for stepping forward and taking the leadership position in 2011 without the experience of being Chair-Elect in 2010. Anderson accepted the thanks and expressed his pride in leadership.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn approved.
Meeting adjourned 2:31 pm. ◉

Extra-Ordinary Meeting Minutes

Elect 2012 Chair-elect Mason Marker and Incoming Board

Attendees Gary Anderson (non-voting), Mason Marker, Mike Erickson, Dave Williams, Nathan Magness, Fred Franz, Stephen Barrott, Mike Dado, Lee Spurgeon (non-voting), David Edwards, John Thatcher, Ron Rice, Jamey Montoya, Mary Louise VanNatta (non-voting)

The meeting was called to order at 2:33 pm.

MOTION: Montoya moved that PLSO elect Lee Spurgeon as Chair-Elect. Magness seconded. Motion passed.

MOTION: Edwards moved the Extra-Ordinary meeting be adjourned. Franz seconded. Motion passed.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm. ◉

—Mary Louise VanNatta, Executive Secretary

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Join us on Facebook: Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

Linked in

Join the PLSO group: www.linkedin.com

twitter

Follow us at: www.twitter.com/ORLandSurveyors



Auction Activities Planned for the 2012 PLSO Conference

PLSO's annual auction will be held the evening of March 15 at the 2012 conference in Portland. A few scheduling changes should allow an early conclusion to this event.

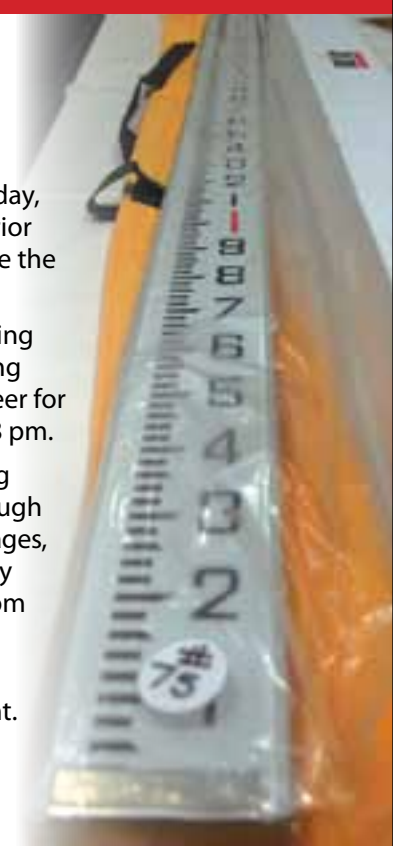
Auction items will be accepted throughout the day on Wednesday, March 14 in a room reserved for securing and displaying the contributions. After items are received and catalogued, they will be displayed until the room is closed early that evening. On Thursday, March 15, registrants can bid on silent auction items. The silent auction will conclude prior to dinner that evening. Successful bidders will be able to purchase their winnings before the oral auction begins.

The PLSO auction dinner will start at 5:45 pm. Light entertainment will be provided during dinner. The oral auction will begin as dinner concludes—about 6:30 pm. The entertaining oral auction for a limited number of special items will begin then. Paul Schultz, auctioneer for the past two years, will conduct the auction. The oral auction should conclude around 8 pm.

PLSO members are encouraged to bring donations to this event. Large or small, all bring support to this important fundraising effort. Items can be provided individually, or through the combined efforts of a group. Examples of popular items include vacation/travel packages, art, quilts, woodcrafts, gift baskets, sporting goods, kids games, electronics items, survey supplies, maps and historic survey equipment. Some of the best contributions result from their unique or creative character.

Everyone should plan on attending dinner and participating in the auction. Dinner is included with conference registration, and this will be the only scheduled evening event.

Start looking for unique items that you or your chapter can offer to this year's auction. Help make this a memorable event to support PLSO's outreach efforts.





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Glen Skurka

Project Engineer for Site Resources, LLC

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ACTION ALERT

LightSquared Pressuring the FCC to Affirm its License and Let it Begin Work

As you may have heard, LightSquared recently petitioned the FCC to affirm its license and allow it to begin work—even though independent tests showed that interference with high-precision GPS will occur if LightSquared goes forward with its plan.

The FCC Needs to Hear from You!

The FCC will ultimately decide if, when and how LightSquared can proceed with its plan. If the FCC only hears from LightSquared, it will grant their request. We need to make it clear that LightSquared should not be allowed to go forward until it is shown that their plan will not interfere with high-precision GPS. We need to tell the FCC that not only the surveying industry will be harmed, but so will the hundreds of thousands of people who use the data surveyors produce. “We need you to send a letter to the FCC telling them that as a user of high-precision GPS, you **oppose** LightSquared’s request (which ignores the recent independent test results) to affirm its license and its request to go forward with its plan.”



Address your letter to:

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: LightSquared Subsidiary, LLC
Ex Parte Communication. IB Docket No. 11-109
IBSF File No. SAT-MOD-20101118-00239

To submit a letter regarding the LightSquared Subsidiary LLC modification request being processed by the International Bureau, follow these steps:

1. Go to the FCC International Bureau Electronic Filing System (IBFS): <http://licensing.fcc.gov/myibfs/pleading.do> and fill in the requested information. Pleading type is a drop down menu. The selection of “letter” is most likely the correct one; “ex parte presentation notification letter” is used to report a prior oral ex parte meeting, and would not be correct here. Keep “no” checked on the “confidential information” line. Please note that there is no need to have or use an FCC Registration Number (FRN). The sender should fill out the information fields; there is no need to fill out the “Contact Information” field if the sender is posting directly.
2. When this form is complete, hit “Next Step” and you will be directed to a page requesting the FCC file number for the LightSquared modification (SAT-MOD-20101118-00239). Copy and paste the complete file number in the box. Click “Add File Numbers to Pleading List” and then check the box in the row that appears with the file number. Click “Next Step.”
3. The next step is to upload your letter. Click the icon under “Replace/Attach” and proceed to fill out the description of the letter and follow the upload instructions. The letter should be in pdf format.
4. Click “Submit” after the letter is uploaded. You will receive an electronic confirmation that you can print and retain for your files.

Thank you for your help! It is vital that we do everything we can to prevent LightSquared from convincing the FCC to ignore the latest test results and allow LightSquared to go forward—even if it hinders nationwide GPS. ☉

Join our discussion on the PLSO forum at:

<http://plsoforum.com/index.php?mode=thread&id=117371>

Further reading:

Check out the articles written by the Coalition to Save Our GPS at:
www.saveourgps.org/related-articles.aspx

SAVE THE DATE!

March 13–16, 2012

2012 PLSO and GIS in Action Joint Conference

Red Lion Hotel on the River — Jantzen Beach

From Points to Polygons—Bridging the Gap

1, 2, 3 or 4 Day packages available!

Sponsored by



Conference Highlights

GIS and Surveying technical tracks on all four days • Special plenary session with national industry leaders on “Bridging the Gap” • Exhibit hall featuring GIS and Surveying vendors with a Wednesday evening social • PLSO scholarship auction on Thursday evening • Survey map contest with great prizes • Survey Olympics

SURVEY MAPS CONTEST

**COME ONE, COME ALL!
SUBMIT YOUR MAPS
FOR A FRIENDLY
CONTEST!**

Let's see if we can match GIS in Action's efforts and have a large display of maps and presentation boards.

Prizes awarded to the top three (3) entries in each contest.

(Last year's winner not eligible)

FIRST PRIZE One free admission to the 2013 Annual PLSO Conference
SECOND PRIZE \$100 • **THIRD PRIZE** \$75

New Categories!

- Record of surveys
- ALTA land title surveys
- Exhibit/presentation boards
- Subdivision and condominium plats
- Topographic surveys
- Public lands maps

Please submit one rolled paper copy (24" x 36") maximum (without your stamp and firm name). Limit 3 maps (4 sheet max) per firm.

Maps must be submitted by Monday, March 11 at 5 pm to be considered.

For entry forms, please see the PLSO website at www.plso.org or contact **Kenneth Cochran**, ken.cochran@hotmail.com, 503-256-6877.

Tuesday, March 13

Preliminary Schedule—Subject to change

Highlights!

Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon
Thursday, March 15

Scholarship Auction
Thursday, March 15

NSPS Student Competition

Survey Olympics

Featured Speakers

Jennie Bricker
Mano Marks
Dennis Moulard
John Stahl
Curt Sumner

| Room and Time | Multnomah | Clackamas | Clark | Washington | Salon 1 & 4 East | Salon 2 & 3 West | Timberline | Hayden | Pendleton |
|---------------|--|--|-------------------|---|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 7:00 AM | REGISTRATION 7 AM to 4 PM | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM | The Pacific Northwest: The New Frontier for Open Source Software and Open Data | Photogrammetry and LiDAR for High Accuracy Mapping | Real-world GIS | ESRI Applications for Local Government | Map Competition Display | EXHIBITOR SETUP | NSPS Student Competition | PLSO Board Meeting (with breaks and lunch recess) | Conference Office |
| 9:30 AM | BREAK | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Open Source Smackdown | Automation and Feature Extraction | Community Mapping | 2010 Census, American Community Survey Workshop | | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | LUNCH / LIGHTNING TALKS | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | Mobile GIS at the University of Oregon | GIS for Fisheries and Natural Resources | GIS Management | Open Source Synergy: The NASA WorldWind—Pacific NW Hydro Framework pilot case study | | | | | |
| 2:30 PM | BREAK | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00–4:30 PM | GIS for Transportation Planning and Maintenance | GIS for Fisheries and Natural Resources | Addressing | Open Source & ESRI Integration | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | Women in GIS Sponsored Social, Salon 1 & 4 East | | | | | | | | |

Wednesday, March 14

Map Competition & Auction Item viewing all day

| Room and Time | Multnomah | Clackamas | Clark | Washington | Salon 1 & 4 East | Salon 2 & 3 West | Timberline | Glisan | Overton | Petty Grove | Hayden | Pendleton | |
|---------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| 7:00 AM | REGISTRATION 7 AM to 4 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM | OSGEO Live-DVD demo | GIS Maturity Modelling | Datums and Coordinate Systems | Imagery and LiDAR | | EXHIBITOR SET-UP | Understanding Area and GIS Parcels | GIS Workflow | Mobile GIS, by U of O | Short Subject | Auction Item Viewing | Conference Office | |
| 9:30 AM | BREAK | | | | | Exhibits & Survey Olympics OPEN | BREAK | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | | | | | Bridging the Gap Plenary Session* | | | | | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | BOX LUNCH with Exhibitors & NSPS Student Competition Awards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | OR Coord Ref System, by Cy Smith | Imagery and LiDAR, by Aldridge and Smith | BLM GCDB, by Orrin Frederick | FS Automated Lands Program, by Bill Drummond | | | Maps in the Cloud, by ESRI | SIRE and Latitude Geographics, PSU Session | PLSO Session | Vendor Rodeo | | | |
| 2:30 PM | BREAK | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | Thought Leader Panel Session,** with Mano Marks | | | | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | Food and Drinks with Exhibitors, Salon 1 & 4 East | | | | | | | | | | | | |

* The Plenary Session features national industry leaders from the various disciplines discussing ways to "Bridge the Gap" in the professional areas we all work in.

** The Thought Leader Panel Session will be a question and answer session with the audience. Closing remarks by Mano Marks from Google Earth.

Register online at www.plso.org

Great room rates at the Red Lion Inn

2012 PLSO and GIS in Action Joint Conference

Thursday, March 15

Preliminary Schedule—Subject to change

| Room and Time | Multnomah | Clackamas | Clark | Washington | Salon 2 & 3 West | Timberline | Gilsan | Overton | PettyGrove | Hayden | Pendleton | | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|--|------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| 7:00 AM | REGISTRATION 7 AM to 4 PM | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM | Charm School for Professional Surveyors, by Dennis Mouland | | Remedies to Resolve Property Line Problems, by John Stahl | | Exhibits & Survey Olympics OPEN | GIS & Google Earth, by Mano Marks | Certified Surveying Technician Program, by Curt Sumner | Perspectives on the Future of the Surveying Profession, by Rich Vannozzi | Vendor Rodeo | Auction Item Viewing | Conference Office | | | |
| 9:30 AM | BREAK | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Charm School for Professional Surveyors, by Dennis Mouland (cont.) | | Remedies to Resolve Property Line Problems, by John Stahl (cont.) | | | Scanning Projects, by Doug Devine | Survey USA, by Deb Anderson | Perspectives on the Future of the Surveying Profession, by Rich Vannozzi (cont.) | | | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | LUNCH w/ PLSO Annual Meeting & Awards | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | NO CLASSES—EXHIBITS OPEN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2:30 PM | BREAK | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00–4:30 PM | Light ² Update, by Curt Sumner | | The 2011 David Thompson Columbia Brigade and the Evolution of the Oregon Territory, by Denny DeMeyer | | Exhibits Closed | Fraud/ Embezzlement & IRS Updates, by Michael Gordon | Machine Control, by Randy Stuart | Error Propagation, by Jack Walker | Scanning Projects, by Doug Devine (repeat) | | | | | |
| 4:45 PM | COCKTAILS, Salon 1 & 4 East | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5:45 PM | DINNER and Scholarship Auction, Salon 1 & 4 East | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Friday, March 16

| Room and Time | Multnomah | Clackamas | Clark | Washington | Salon 1&4 East | Timberline | Gilsan | Overton | PettyGrove | Hayden | Pendleton | | |
|---------------|--|-----------|---|------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| 7:00 AM | PLSO Past President's Breakfast | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 AM | Basic Logic for the Land Surveyor, by Dennis Mouland | | The Surveyor's Role in Conflict Resolution, by John Stahl | | High School Student Program and Survey Olympics | BLM Records, by Mary Hartel | Robert's Rules for Associations, by Pat Beehler | GIS for the Surveyor, by Jim Luke | PLSO Web Google Apps, by Wendell Harness | OGUG Meeting, with Dan Hoekstra | Conference Office | | |
| 9:30 AM | BREAK | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 AM | Basic Logic for the Land Surveyor, by Dennis Mouland (cont.) | | The Surveyor's Role in Conflict Resolution, by John Stahl (cont.) | | | Taming the Wild Loxodrome, by Richard Diechmann | Fraud/ Embezzlement & IRS Updates, by Michael Gordon (repeat) | GIS Tools for Surveyors, by Mason Marker | Marketing for Surveyors, by David Souza | OGUG Meeting, with Dan Hoekstra (cont.) | | | |
| 11:30 AM | Lunch w/ College Presentations and Survey Olympic and Map Competition Awards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | Water Ways & Water Boundaries, by Jennie Bricker | | Survey Narratives, by Sue Newstetter | | | BLM Records, by Mary Hartel (repeat) | 2012 NGS Products & Services Update, by Mark Armstrong | GIS Tools for Surveyors, by Mason Marker (repeat) | PLSO Web Google Apps, by Wendell Harness (repeat) | Mobile Mapping, by Ron Singh & Michael Olsen | | | |
| 2:30 PM | BREAK | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | Water Ways & Water Boundaries, by Jennie Bricker (cont.) | | OSBEELS Update, by Mari Lopez (repeat) | | | Growing Surveying Industry Needs to Stay Competitive, by Bill Hazelton | Taming the Wild Loxodrome, by Richard Diechmann (repeat) | Error Propagation, by Jack Walker (repeat) | GIS for the Surveyor, by Jim Luke (repeat) | Marketing for Surveyors, by David Souza (repeat) | Oregon Real-time GPS Network, by Ken Bays | | |



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Origins of

THE OREGON SURVEYOR

■ Paul Galli, PLS

As most of you know, PLSO recently lost one of its founding fathers, Bert Mason, Jr., who along with a few others, formed the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon in 1959. Not only was Bert there at the beginning, but he soon became the voice of PLSO. I believe that most everyone in PLSO is aware of Bert's recent achievements and articles, especially through "The Life and Times of Bert Mason, Jr." I'm not so sure how much everyone is aware of his early work with PLSO, specifically, *The Oregon Surveyor*, which is what I'll focus on.

First, a little background: During the preparation for the 2009 PLSO Conference, I was asked to research PLSO history. One of my avenues of research was a pile of old *The Oregon Surveyor* magazines loaned to me by Oran Abbott, the current editor. This collection went back to about 1972, when (as I learned later) *The Oregon Surveyor* changed from a multi-page newsletter to an actual magazine. I had no idea that they really went much further back. Fortunately (due to the foresight and efforts of Bert Mason—that guy really was everywhere), there exists a public collection of most of the early PLSO magazines (located at the Oregon Historical Society), which also has the only collection of the original Bert Mason Letters that I am aware of. Luckily for me, I stumbled onto this archive during my research, and was able to use it to finish my project. Prior to that, I was unaware (as I'm sure many of you are) of the true history of *The Oregon Surveyor* and how it began.

Following is my best attempt to highlight the early activities of Bert Mason and his letter.

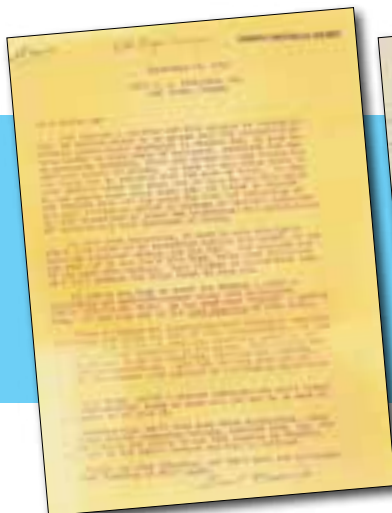
In 1960, when Bert was a local surveyor, he started sending a letter to fellow land surveyors at his own expense. It was typically two to three pages, on legal size, blue-line paper. In it, Bert related survey news of the day, posted a call to arms for land surveyors in Oregon to unite and share their experiences, peddled the Curta calculators he was selling at the time, and gave freely of his wisdom through the adventures of "SI the Surveyor."

Here is a reprint of a portion of Bert's first letter, dated September 24, 1960:

Our purpose in sending out this missive is threefold: 1st, we believe there is an urgent need for communication between professional surveyors in Oregon; 2nd, we have become loaded up with items of equipment, purchased for use on extensive, which are excess baggage during the ordinary course of events. We hope to help these items to pay their way by offering them for rent or lease. We also have certain items for sale; and we hope to use this means to let people know about them; 3rd, we intend to support and promote with all our power the aims and activities of the only collective effort in history of Oregon's surveyors to lift themselves by their own bootstraps—the organization of Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon.

In this last connection, it must be made absolutely clear that there is no connection between this sheet, or any opinions

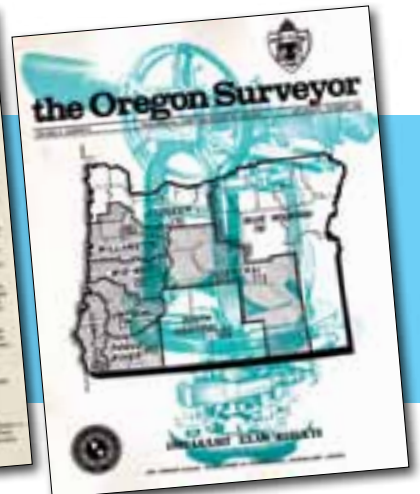
The Oregon Surveyor through the years



1960



1965



1982

expressed herein, and the PLSO. Our opinions are our own; and if you don't like them, bring your objections to the next PLSO meeting. Only illness or out-of-town business will prevent our being there to face you.

If you're too busy to spend one evening a month in fellowship and self-advancement among your colleagues, YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD! No one need ever "forget" a meeting date. It has been set at the last Thursday of each month.

There is always the possibility that financial considerations may cut short the life of this communication. We hope not—we'd like to see it grow into something useful to all professional land surveyors in the state. We'd like to see others use its pages for want ads, for-sale ads, notices, or other communications. We'd like to hear from you and to have you express your opinions or interesting experiences.

In a sense, you're a captive audience—you can't cancel your subscription; there is none—all you can do is read it or consign it to file 13...

As you can see, Bert left no question as to what he meant to do or how he was going to do it. Nor did he leave out the opportunity for others to disagree with him. Clearly, this Bert Mason believed in his cause.

From his letter of March 27, 1961:

As you can see, we've adopted a name, even though we have no fancy masthead. We hope we can keep it going, even though with each succeeding month the creative effort becomes more difficult and the burdens of production more onerous. Perhaps we should acquaint new victims with the staff: Publisher, Bert Mason Jr.; Editor, B. Mason Jr.; Reporter, same; Compositor, Yours Truly; Mailing Clerk, you know it. Our purpose is still the same—to communicate with other surveyors, to promote the PLSO, and to sell CURTA calculators and rent excess equipment. And don't forget—we'll be overjoyed to pass on communications you may have to the profession, including ads, opinions, comments, news.

Bert kept his letter going on pretty much a monthly basis for the next four years. More urging of others to join PLSO:

If you have an acquaintance who's a fence straddler about joining PLSO, ask him where else he could get such expert word on a variety of subjects as the PLSO has presented. In spite of the heavy discussions last year in getting organized, we heard from Paul Christerson, Secretary of the PEO, Ron Scott on Errors and Omissions insurance, Mr. Barnett on functions and relationships of the various planning commissions in the metropolitan area, most of the local candidates for seats in the state legislature, and Mr. Panissidi on riparian law.

Ask him where else he can obtain a free supply of handsomely printed rate schedules to supply to clients, title companies, planning commissions and real estate people to back up his charges. Ask him where else he can obtain a spokesman who will command attention before legislative committees, planning groups, and so on.

In addition, we've had exhibitions of modern surveying equipment, and an exclusive preview of Dick Pfeifer's outstanding motion picture on waterfowl in the Malheur Lake area. But perhaps more important than anything else has been getting together over coffee after the meetings and talking shop.

And this is only the beginning! On February 23, John Keeley, Clackamas County Surveyor, will exhibit the county's new Electro-Tape electronic distance measuring equipment. He will be accompanied by Admiral Frank Johnson, representative of the Cubic Corporation, manufacturers of Electro-Tape.

Then a special dinner meeting is in the works for mid-March in conjunction with the ACSM and the American Society of Photogrammetry. The technical program is to consider way and means in which photographs of photogrammetric mapping may be of aid to land surveyors. And John Carlich, Education chairman, and Gene DiLoreto, Program chairman, are readying a full year's program of interest and education for you.

Wow! What a piece of equipment an Electro-Tape must have been that it required an Admiral to oversee its use.

Continues ►



1994



1998



2003



2010

More SI the Surveyor:

SI carefully wiped his freshly filled pen and laid it aside, stubbed out his smoke and picked up the insistent phone.

'Good afternoon. SI THE SURVEYOR speaking,' he responded.

'Yeah. Say, how much'll a survey cost me?'

'Well' says SI, 'That depends somewhat on where you're located, whether we've ever worked in the vicinity, whether it's in a recorded subdivision, how the deed is written, whether there are curved lines, holly hedges, blackberries and so on; but our minimum charge is \$55.'

'FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS!!?' SI switched to the other ear. 'Just to drive four stakes in the ground!'

'Oh, no,' SI reassured the caller, 'we drive the stakes for a dollar each; or you can drive them yourself for nothing. The \$55 is for finding out where to drive them.'

And that, we feel, sums up professionalism. The craftsman charges for driving the stake, carving the wood, shaping the metal; the professional charges for deciding where to drive the stake and why to carve the wood or metal in the designated shape to best serve the client and the public.

In his letter dated January 21, 1965, Bert wrote the following about the new direction his letter (now *The Oregon Surveyor*) was heading:

Read carefully and remember well!

You are gazing upon the last issue of *The Oregon Surveyor* under its present management and in its present form. As of February, 1965, its publication will be the responsibility of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon, to whom I am only too happy to grant, bargain, sell and convey the title and name, together with all the hereditaments and appurtenances pertaining thereto.

I quote from a letter which I wrote, way back in 1963, to Wes Cochran, then president of the PLSO:

'...in the Operations Manual, the established policy of the PLSO publication has been 'to maintain a style which is consistent with the dignity of professional men, and to avoid the publication of banalities, trivial data, hearsay, inaccurate matter, or matter tending to improperly criticize individuals or groups.'

'The Oregon Surveyor, as you are well aware, is a personal letter to the writer's colleagues, which if it maintains a style at all, is banal, trivial, hearsay, inaccurate, personal, opinionated, irascible, irreconcilable, refutable, disreputable, and instigated as a means of blowing off steam and calculated to irritate its readers to the point of expressing their own opinions on the subjects discussed.'

'For a publication of such low character to act as an official organ of the PLSO, I believe, is a subject to be carefully scrutinized by the Board of Directors; for its creator to attempt to turn out a journalistically acceptable publication would surely be tragic.'

Well, Wes has taken me at my word. We hope to put out a four-page, folded sheet with masthead and photographs—a slick product of which we hope you can be proud and which we will not be ashamed to trade with other surveyors' organizations.

"I have never been aware of doing anything for PLSO that I would not have expected any other member to do if called upon..." —Bert Mason, Jr.



From there, Bert went on to be a contributor, mentor, and editor of *The Oregon Surveyor* for many years. Right up until the time of his death, Bert was active with the magazine (still writing, when his eyes would let him) and was a member of the Publications Committee. He never lost his love for the profession and interacting with his fellow surveyors.

One last article of Bert's that I'd like to share is a letter of thanks he wrote in a 2003 issue of *The Oregon Surveyor*. He was thanking the organization for honoring him at the 2003 Annual Conference. It strikes me as showing more of the same humanity, intelligence, and humor that is in all of Bert's writings:

I want to take this time to express my profound thanks to all of the members of PLSO for the privilege of serving the organization in various capacities during the past 44 years, and for the great party at Albany in March. I want to give special thanks to those persons who produced the slide show and the wonderful book that accompanied it.

My wife had cautioned me beforehand that, 'If you're going to speak, for heaven's sake talk about something you know something about.' That so severely curtailed my options that, when Greg offered me the opportunity, I regretfully declined in view of the lateness of the hour. Ellen is still thrilled with the beautiful dozen of rosebuds that she received (her first), and with the teddy bear that she purchased at the auction.

As I counted the house from the head table, it occurred to me that probably not ten percent of those present (including myself) had any idea why all this fuss was going on. I have never been aware of doing anything for PLSO that I would not have expected any other member to do if called upon...

I think the "if called upon" part of that last sentence is the biggest part of the mystery. Bert wasn't called upon to do anything, as far as I've been able to determine. Not externally, anyway. Bert's calling must have been from somewhere inside of himself. But then, so many of his generation seem to have had a similar calling.

Whatever it was, PLSO owes Bert Mason Jr., a very large debt of gratitude for helping to found the organization, and for single-handedly creating the magazine that still bears his original title. ◊

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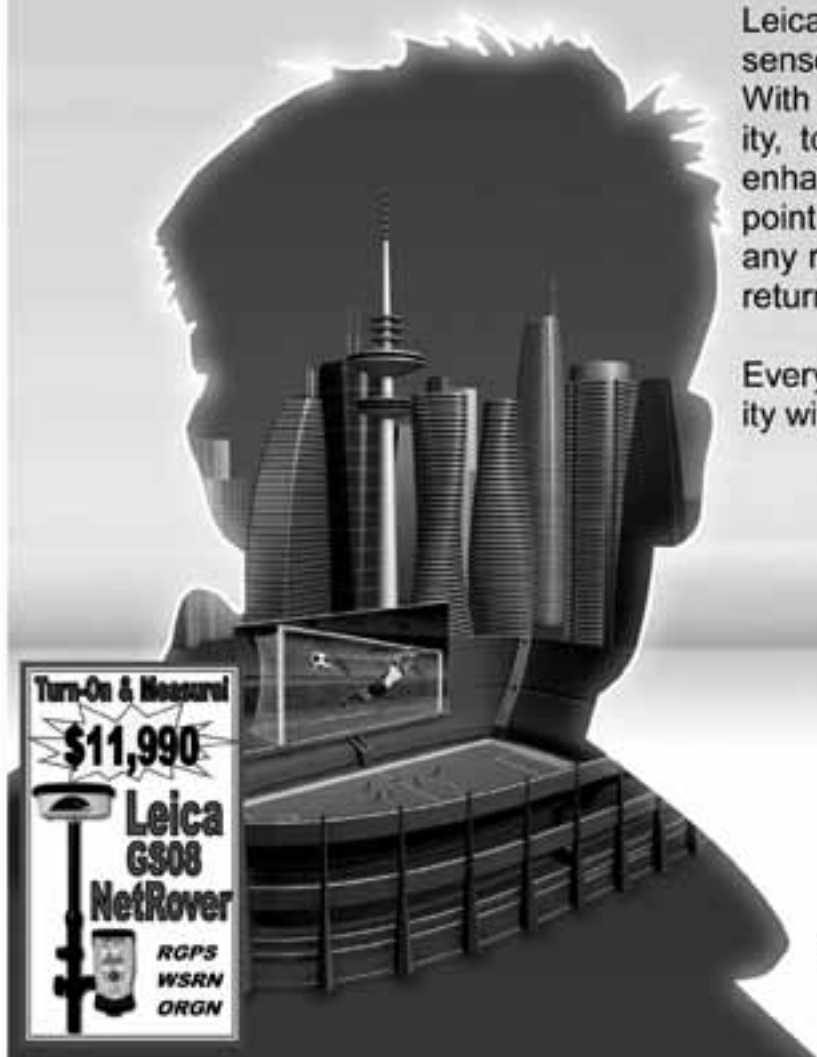
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Surveyors in the News

This article reflects a couple visits to our office by the *Oregonian* reporter Dana Tims. I am impressed by the way he took all the garbled information we provided to him and transformed it into a cohesive story. He made the mistake of asking a group of surveyors to talk about their favorite subject—restoring and maintaining government land corners. During the first visit to our office, we flooded him with facts, trivia, and war stories about our feats in the field.

Tims' second visit was a field trip to a maintenance visit on a remote corner. I believe his impression and story may have been quite different if we had taken him to recover a corner in an urban arterial roadway. Locating a monument in the middle of a travel lane on a busy street and then verifying measurements to the bearing objects can be a challenge.

Lastly, I want to assure everyone that we do furnish hammers for the field crews.

—Jim Elam

James H. Elam, PLS, CWRE | Washington County Surveyor | 155 N First Ave. Suite 350-15 | Hillsboro, OR 97124 | 503-846-3405



Washington County surveyor looks for disappearing corners on public lands

■ By Dana Tims, *The Oregonian*, December 17, 2011 © 2011 *The Oregonian*. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

There is only one place in Oregon where the corners of four counties converge at a single point. On a chilly morning in mid-December, Clint Michael, a Washington County surveyor, sets out to find it.

Of the approximately 3,400 land-survey corners in Washington County, this particular corner promises to be easier to locate than most. A road sign just off U.S. 26 past the ghost town of Cochran, after all, marks the trailhead of the aptly named Four County Point Trail.

Still, deep in a tangle of Douglas fir, red alder and vine maple, no obvious visual clues herald the granite monument placed jointly in 1982 by surveyors from Washington, Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties to commemorate the spot.

The granite monument aside, Washington County's public-land corners, established by the federal government in 1852 to encourage settlement in the Oregon Territory, are disappearing. The original stones, posts and other objects marking the corners—including carvings on trees—have been damaged or destroyed.

So while some county survey crews stick closer to urban areas, aligning new roadways and delineating property boundaries, Michael and a few others traipse the county's outer boundaries, trying to find and "remonument" old corners before they are lost forever.

Much rides, after all, on county surveyors knowing precisely where pieces of property start and stop. Residential subdivisions, for instance, get their name because they are merely smaller pieces of the 6-square-mile tiles making up the mosaic of surveyed public lands.



Photo credit: Dana Tims/The Oregonian

“In essence, in surveying, you are practicing land law without a license,” Michael says. “A lot of legal cases arise from what we do.”

The work can be painstaking and arduous. It involves everything from weeks of poring over century-old surveyor’s notes for guidance to the right spot, to clambering over downed logs and trudging through dense thickets of underbrush looking for healed-over surveyor’s scars on crumbling tree trunks.

“What it really amounts to,” county Surveyor Jim Elam says, “is a scavenger hunt.”

Elam’s office, in fact, is dotted with such treasures. Two dozen or so remnants of original corners, scribed by hand with range and township numbers in the late 1800s and hunted down before they rotted into nothing, line work cubicles and top filing cabinets.

On a nearby wall, a floor-to-ceiling map, hand-drawn in about 1875 by then-Surveyor John Withycombe, records every donation land claim awarded up to that time. Historical names neatly printed on the 640-acre claims—Cornelius, Scholl, Fanno, Denney, Hall, Graham—are familiar to anyone driving Washington County roads.

Much of that history is, literally, connected.

The line running through the Four Points granite monument in an east-west direction, for instance, is known as the Willamette Baseline. Its vertical companion, the Willamette Meridian, runs from California to Canada.

The lines meet at Willamette Stone State Heritage Site off Northwest Skyline Boulevard near Barnes Road. Their intersection defines the grid system of sections and townships for all real property surveyed in Oregon and Washington.

On this day in the field, Michael picks his way along a path lined by Oregon grape, red huckleberry, swordfern and salal. Wearing an orange vest packed with the tools of his ancient trade—compass, measuring tape, maps, lumber crayon—he scans the forest floor for signs of a side trail leading to the site.

“To me, this kind of surveying is 90 percent perspiration and 5 percent inspiration,” he says. “The rest is just luck.”

Luck is along today. Michael crunches a few more steps along the frosty trail, turns left onto a small spur and arrives at his destination.

“This point was first surveyed in 1877, and those are the monument trees they used to mark it,” he says, sweeping his hand at the half-dozen rotting, moss-laden Douglas fir stumps clumped within a few yards of the 1982 marker. “There’s a lot of history out here.”

His day, however, isn’t yet over.

When surveyors “remonument” a corner, they try to create or refurbish at least one dozen reference points in the vicinity. To that end, Michael carefully measures the distance from the granite slab to each of the markers and monument trees recorded during the 1982 survey.

He also retrieves, cleans and reattaches the several yellow bearing tags nailed to trees in the area. The tags are stamped with the same range and township information scribed into surrounding bearing trees.

Finally, he uses a machete to scrape away moss from four other survey trees. Once the underlying bark is exposed, creating a blaze, he pulls out a can of special surveyor’s spray paint to create an indelible blue mark that can be seen from a hundred yards away.

“This is for the next person who comes along,” he says, packing up his gear and heading back for the trail. “It’ll all be a little easier next time around.” ◉

SURVEYING GLOSSARY

Base line: A line that extends east and west on a parallel of latitude from an initial point, and from which are initiated other lines for the Cadastral Survey of public lands within the area covered by the principal meridian that runs through the same initial point.

Bearing tree: A marked tree used as a corner accessory; its distance and direction from the corner being recorded. Identified by marks cut into their trunks; the species and sizes of the trees also recorded.

Cadastral survey: A survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces or re-establishes the boundaries and subdivisions of the public land of the United States.

Corner: A point on the surface of the earth, determined by the surveying process, that defines an extremity on a boundary of the public lands.

Meridian: A north-south line from which longitudes and angles are reckoned.

Monument: A physical structure, such as an iron post, marked stone or tree in place, that marks the location of a corner point established by a Cadastral Survey. Objects should have certain physical properties such as visibility, durability and stability, and must define location without resorting to measurements. “Monument” and “corner” are not synonymous, but the two terms are often used in the same sense.

Range: A north-south tier of townships or sections. A range of townships is described by its relationship to the principle meridian.

Remonumentation: The construction of a corner monument (iron post, rock cap or concrete monument) at the position of an original monument as determined from proper measurement from its original accessories. New accessories may be added if required.

Township: The unit of survey of public lands; normally a quadrangle approximately 6 miles on a side with boundaries conforming to meridians and parallels within established limits, containing 36 sections.

Source: Bureau of Land Management



News from the Chapters

Central #1

■ *David Williams, Secretary*

November 9, 2011

Chapter President: Parneli Perkins

Location: Bend Brewery

Called to Order: 5:45 pm **Adjourned:** 8:30 pm

Attendees: 9 members **PDH credits:** 1

Highlights

- Chapter members discussed the proposed Standards of Practice for Land Surveying. After some discussion the general contention was that the current system is working and additional rules would make the process more rigid and possibly increase surveyor liability.
- Scott Freshwaters was nominated as Surveyor of the Year by the Central Chapter.
- Dave Williams was nominated as President Elect.
- Erik Huffman was nominated as 2013 Secretary/Treasurer.
- The members present voted to support funding for OIT students to attend the ESRI conference in San Diego.
- Discussion about the Oregon Association of Realtors move to amend the State Constitution to stop fees on real estate transactions.

Presentation: Mike Berry gave a presentation on his retracement of a portion of the plat of the Laidlaw Townsite. Mike delved into a lot of local and interesting history as a prelude to his survey experiences with this project. One of the primary reasons for the survey was to determine the boundary between private land and County property. What makes this project interesting is that a large percentage of the monuments recovered were the original wooden stakes set per the 1904 plat. As it turned out, the original monumentation proved to fit the record plat data very well. Quite often, we as surveyors do not even consider the possibility of these monuments surviving to present day. This is a reminder that in the right conditions, these monuments are in existence and must be searched for. ◉

Rogue River #4

■ *Pat Barott, Secretary*

September 19, 2011

Chapter President: Joseph Bova

Location: Applebee's Restaurant, Medford

Called to Order: 6:33 pm **Adjourned:** 8:45 pm

Attendees: 11 members **PDH credits:** 1

Highlights

- The water boundary workshop was well received and well attended.
- 2012 chapter officers: Kerry Bradshaw offered to head-up a nominating committee. Daren will be moving to Salem, so we need a new president-elect. In the absence of anyone offering to volunteer as officers, Pat Barott and Joseph Bova indicated openness to serving another term as President and Secretary.
- PLSO/OSBEELS Standards of Practice for Narratives: Copies of draft language for an OAR on narratives was circulated. Bob Neathamer provided background. The primary driver for this standard is support of law enforcement in fielding complaints. Discussion ensued on the proposed requirement that records or evidence not used are described and reasons for rejection are discussed in the narrative. Comment is encouraged.
- Update on OPUS for Project Managers: Pat Barott informed us that OPUS will do free network adjustments. A two-day training is required. OPUS provides quick turnarounds, good results, and it won't accept the network if the residuals are not acceptable.
- Daren Cone circulated a list of all dues-delinquent surveyors in the state, for us to identify the status of any we knew. Some are truly delinquent, some are deceased. Apparently, there are only three possible conditions: active, delinquent, or retired. A licensee who is delinquent for five years needs to re-take the exam and garner five years worth of PDHs in order to be reinstated.

Presentation: Pat Barott provided a presentation on work he is doing as a CFEDS surveyor for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. ◉

Willamette #8

■ *Nathan Magness, Secretary*

October 17, 2011

Chapter President: Lee MacDonald

Called to Order: 7:05 pm

Attendees: 14 members, 3 guests

PDH credits: 1

Highlights

- Lee MacDonald is trying to get some classes aimed at surveying in the EASA school at Evergreen Aviation.
- Dave Bateman contacted Lee MacDonald about PDH credits. Dave found that a member only gets 8 credits for two years of PLSO meeting attendance. A discussion about credits and audits ensued.
- A discussion about the Lightsquared issue occurred. Lightsquared will broadcast strong signals directly adjacent to the frequency of GPS, thereby causing jamming that make survey grade GPS impossible. In the past, this has been uniformly opposed by the surveying community but a big change has happened when Javad (a manufacturer of GPS equipment) changed sides and is working with Lightsquared and claims to have prototype equipment that will use Lightsquared's data signal to get corrections via the internet and also not suffer from jamming. The success of this move could weaken the opposition of the surveying community and allow lightsquared's plan to be fully implemented.
- A discussion of the TGO software problem occurred. Apparently, Trimble updated software that has caused a major problem for users. At this point, all GPS data collected from Sept. 14, 2011 to the present [Oct. 17] will not process in TGO. TBC (the new software) will process this same data without any problems. To assist TGO users who need to process GPS data, Trimble is providing temporary licenses for Trimble Business Center (TBC) that can be downloaded and run without a dongle.
- Nominations: Pres-elect—Nathan Magness; Secretary-elect—Chris Glantz; Surveyor of the Year—Ray Wilson.

Presentation: This program focused on associate members. Associates are the future members of PLSO and the chapter discussed encouraging their participation in PLSO and the surveying profession.

Leonard Rydell gave a presentation on a survey he completed on South Third Street in Carlton, Oregon. ◉

Announcing TEAM TRIPOD

A surveyor triathlon relay team



Renee Clough on the left (of course), Steven Carper (middle) and Russ Dodge (right). Notice the "gold" medals!

SWIM • BIKE • RUN

Last year was so much fun that once again, I am looking for people in the survey industry to join me on triathlon relay teams this summer. When competing as a relay, each team member only does one of the three sports, making it much less daunting. I do not have a goal of winning, so don't feel that you have to be especially good at any of the sports to join our teams.

I don't have specific races selected yet because most triathlons have not posted their date for the upcoming season and because the selection of which triathlon will depend on the availability and location of the participants. There are many race lengths. The lengths I am thinking of are approximately: swim 1500 meters, bike 24.9 miles, and run 6.2 miles; and swim 500 meters, bike 12 miles and run 3.1 miles (although the distances vary slightly for each race).

Please contact me if you are interested in joining, even if it is a tentative interest. Be sure to note which sport(s) you are the most interested in. Feel free pass this information along to other survey industry people you know (coworkers, spouses, students, etc.). I see this as a great opportunity for us to meet other surveyors in a non-technical setting, but even more to get out and have some fun. Volunteers for a cheerleading squad are also welcome.

You can contact me at work or home. I look forward to hearing from you!

Renee Clough

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Richard Alan Chesebro

August 21, 1944 – January 9, 2012

Richard Alan Chesebro of Klamath Falls was called to help survey the heavens on January 9, 2012 at the age of 65.

Richard was born August 21, 1944 to Russell Clinton and Lucille Marie MacWilliams Chesebro in Olean, New York.

In 1955, his parents purchased a farm on the Five Mile Road in Fitch, New York. Richard helped his parents with their farm while he attended Ten Brock Academy in Franklinville. He graduated from high school in 1962, married Cheryl Lynn MacPherson, and joined the Air Force. His Air Force time took him and his family to Mississippi, Michigan, and Alaska. He left the military in 1967 and obtained his associates degree in Forestry from Paul Smith's College in Saranac Lake, New York.

In 1972, Richard began his career as a land surveyor on the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon. He married his wife and partner, Evelyn Ruth Kalb, on August 23, 1980. Richard was a registered land surveyor in Oregon, Washington and Idaho; his land surveying career took him to the Salmon, Wallowa-Whitman, and Colville National Forests.

In 1997, Richard retired from the U.S. Forest Service, received his black belt in tae-kwon-do, and opened a land surveying partnership with his wife, Evelyn.

Richard loved his family above all else, and would always phone or send emails and texts to his family about his surveying adventures. In 1997, Richard initiated the annual Chesebro Family Campout. Family, extended family and friends came from all parts of country to relax and enjoy

being together. In his spare time, Richard liked to keep up with family and friends, ride his Harley, watch NASCAR racing, or just relax with his Jack Daniels.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the PLSO Scholarship Fund. ☉



To make donations, please contact the PLSO Office or send a check to the PLSO Office with a note stating that the donation is for the Scholarship Fund and on behalf of Richard Chesebro (including the note is very important).

The Lost Surveyor

One of several ponds in a park that doesn't open until March 2012 (The ducks can't read).

Can you name the park?

Lat. 44°38'50" N

Long. 123°04'15" W

Answer on page 1



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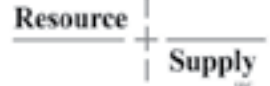
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