Wavelengths
Columbia River Region

http://www.asprs.org/ColumbiaRiver

Volume 2004:3 — September 2004

"VOTE!"
President's Letter by Bob Harmon

You've probably had enough of the campaign ads, editorials, and sound bites. It's only been made worse by the fact that we live in a "swing" state. Well, I want to remind you of a smaller, but very significant election that we hold every year in the Columbia River Region. Later this fall we will be holding an election to fill two positions on the board: Vice President and National Director.

The duties of Vice President of the region include organizing our technical programs and meetings, usually a National workshop, the technical information exchange with the Puget Sound region, and the annual dinner and business meeting. The term lasts for one year and then the person advances to President (2nd year), and then Past-President (3rd year). As Vice President and President your registration and air travel expenses are reimbursed for the (spring) ASPRS National Conference.

The National Director represents the region on the Society Board of Directors and helps to assure coordination of Region activities with Society operations and policies. The term lasts 3 years.

Take time to consider an ASPRS member that you think would serve the region well, including yourself. A call for nominations will be sent out later in October or early November with instructions on the nomination procedure. And don't forget to vote!

ASPRS Puget Sound and Columbia River Regions Information Exchange

The Puget Sound and Columbia River Regions of ASPRS are hosting their 8th Annual Joint Information Exchange October 7. This event is an informal opportunity for people who are interested in the topics of photogrammetry and remote sensing to learn more about what's going on in our own region in resource management, government, academia, and business. For further information, see pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter and also: http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/oct04reg.pdf.

Report from Portland State University Student Chapter
By Celia Cornett, President PSU ASPRS

Fall beckons as students return to Portland from research in several national parks, forests, mountain ranges, glaciers, private geospatial firms & community GIS departments across the United States.

Our faculty advisor, Mike Emch, is in New York doing a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University. We will miss him, and eagerly await wondrous stories from his research in spatial epidemiology. We welcome a new faculty advisor, Geoffrey Duh (pronounced doo, not duhhh). Geoffrey hails from the University of Michigan where he received his PhD this year. His research interests are developing theory and applications of GIS and remote sensing techniques to link landscape patterns with ecological and socioeconomic processes. Specific projects focus on applying spatial modeling, simulation, and optimization techniques to study land-use and land-cover change and its interaction with the natural environment. His work in change detection will be of great help to many ERDAS students at PSU.

ESRI ArcGIS 9 was installed in one lab this summer, and Metro's Mark Bosworth had the joyous time teaching with the software prior to the release of Service Pack 1.

(continued on next page)

We will sponsor a Colloquia series again this year, offering 4 to 5 speakers per term every other Friday at 3 pm in the Geography Department. Cramer Hall 4th floor Room 413. October 8 will feature Marc Thomas, Chief for the Geographic Coordinate Data Base, and overseer of the Public Land Survey System Adjustments in Oregon. October 22 will host Matt Deitemeyer, GIS Technician from Assessment and GIS in Clark County, Washington. His presentation will be "Applying LiDAR & Infrared Aerial Photography To Create A Land Cover Classification for Clark County, Washington." November 5th & 19th are TBA, so check with our web site in a few weeks for updated schedule listings. One of the dates will probably be reserved for a student only field trip to Spencer B Gross, Inc. offices with Chris Aldridge.

If you have a topic you would like to present, please contact us, we would love to share the knowledge. As always, many highly trained professionals are in the Geography graduate program that look for work, internship, and job shadow opportunities. If you have a special project that could benefit from student
input, give us a call.

Celia Cornett President, asprs@pdx.edu
http://geog.pdx.edu/asprs/index

Report on the Photogrammetric Technologist Certification Workshop -- July 28, 2004
By Anne Hillyer, CRR Vice President

The workshop went from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. Doug Fuller flew in from Wisconsin the day before, and Mike Renslow escorted him to the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, which is where the workshop was held. There were a total of 10 attendees, including three Bonneville Power Administration employees from Vancouver, Washington, five employees of Spencer B. Gross Photogrammetric Consulting in Beaverton, Oregon, one employee of Weyerhaeuser, Inc. in Federal Way, Washington, and one employee of Triathlon, Inc. from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Mike Renslow gave an introduction describing how the photogrammetric technologist certification was developed by the ASPRS, the application process for the test, how test proctors are located, how the test is given, how the test is scored and the policies regarding retaking the test. At the time of the workshop, one person in the United States had passed the test. The first photogrammetric technologist certification test was given this spring.

Mr. Fuller conducted the remainder of the workshop. There were sample questions from the fields of photogrammetry, surveying/geodesy, remote sensing and GIS. The majority of the questions on the photogrammetric technologist certification test are on photogrammetry but there are also a handful of questions on the related fields listed above, and math and physics. Recommended study materials were given for each field.

Mr. Fuller has a wealth of experience, which he willingly shared during the workshop. The workshop was useful in that it gave an overview of the test process, it gave samples of the level of knowledge required to answer the questions correctly, it gave answers to the sample questions, and it was an opportunity to meet other people working in the field of photogrammetry.

Mr. Fuller will be giving more of these workshops at ASPRS conferences and special events.

Editor's Note

It has been a struggle to keep our e-mail list current. Four times a year, I download ASPRS's membership spreadsheets. They are up-to-date only if members notify ASPRS when their e-mail addresses change.

So . . . If your e-mail address changes, and you wish to continue to receive this newsletter, please send your e-mail address change to: rwkiefer@aol.com

Many thanks!

Ralph W. Kiefer, Editor

INFORMATION EXCHANGE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT
ASPRS Puget Sound and Columbia River Regions Information Exchange

Date: Thursday, Oct. 7, 2004
Time: 9:00-3:00 (Setup time available for presenters: 8:30-9:00 a.m.)
Place: Vancouver Water Resource Education Center 4600 SE Columbia Way Vancouver, Washington (360) 696-8478

Registration / Abstract Deadline: September 30, 2004
Registration Fee: $25 (members) $35 (non-members)
(full registration includes box lunch and copy of abstracts)
Students: Free for ASPRS members, $10 Non-members (includes only copy of abstracts, lunch for an additional $10)
Parking: Ample FREE parking available at the meeting site
See: http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/oct04reg.pdf for Registration Forms.

WHAT: The Puget Sound and Columbia River Regions of ASPRS are hosting their 8th Annual Joint Information Exchange October 7. This event is an informal opportunity for people who are interested in the topics of photogrammetry and remote sensing to learn more about what's going on in our own region in resource management, government, academia, and business. The information exchange is a day-long event in which local practitioners may present a 15-25 minute talk on one of their current or recent projects. This is also an opportunity to learn new techniques, meet new contacts, and refresh old ones. Projectors (overhead, conventional, and multi-media) will be available, but presenters must be concise with their presentations and keep them under 10 minutes to allow for questions and timely proceedings.

Speaker slots will be limited to 18 due to the single-day schedule, so get your requests in early to insure your slot.

In addition to the visual presentations, each speaker will submit a 1-page description of the project and a 1-page profile of their organization (forms can be downloaded from the meeting website). The 1-page write-ups must be submitted before the meeting and compiled into a notebook for distribution at the meeting. Lunch and the notebook will be included in the registration fee.

WHO: ASPRS membership is not required. Anyone who wishes to share information about an interesting or unusual project in the areas of photogrammetry and remote sensing are welcome; we also encourage presentations on the increasing integration of these technologies with GIS applications. So please, extend this invitation to your colleagues who work in the areas of photogrammetry and remote sensing. No commercial presentations or endorsements are allowed.

Of course, non-presenters and students are certainly welcome to come learn more about what's going on around our extended region. We particularly want to encourage non-members to come find out more about ASPRS. As an encouragement, Student attendees who wish to join ASPRS the day of the session will have the **registration fee waived.** In addition, any person or company can sponsor a student by covering the $10 registration fee, so please consider sending them to this session to learn more about our industry and society.

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WHERE: The meeting will be held at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center: *4600 S.E. Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA. 360.696.8478*

From I-5 north- or south-bound:
Take the Camas Highway Hwy 14 exit. Within ¼ mile, take Hwy Exit #1.
Turn right, (south) at foot of off-ramp. Travel under the railroad berm.
At the traffic light, turn left (east) onto Columbia Way.

From I-205 north- or south-bound:
Take the Vancouver Hwy 14 exit. Travel approx. 4 miles to Columbia House Blvd, Exit #1.
Proceed parallel to the freeway (west) to the freeway underpass intersection.
Turn left (south) onto Columbia Shores. Travel under the railroad berm.
At the traffic signal, turn left (east) onto Columbia Way.

From Downtown Vancouver:
Travel toward the river on Columbia Blvd. Proceed under the I-5 bridge and continue on.
Travel through the Columbia Shores traffic intersection. Continue past the Dead End sign.
Turn left (north) at traffic circle and follow the Drive. Parking is available to left and right.

For people looking for a local place to spend the night you could try:

Homewood Suites by Hilton
701 SE Columbia Shores Boulevard, Vancouver, WA 98661 Tel: 360-750-1100 Fax: 360-750-4899 Website

(They provide a discount for Government employees so be sure to mention this when booking)

Students: Students can participate at a discounted rate by presenting a valid student ID at the meeting. Rates are as follows; free if currently an ASPRS member or sign up to become a member at the meeting ($45 annual dues). $10 for students who are not ASPRS members.

Student registration does **not** include the box lunch which can be purchased when registering for $10. Please indicate when you send in your registration if you would like the box lunch so that we can make sure we have enough available. There are no food facilities in the vicinity of the conference so if you are not going to buy the lunch we suggest you bring your own lunch.

For Immediate Release
Contact: Anna Marie Kinerney, Meetings/Marketing Manager
301-493-0290 ext.106;
akinerney@asprs.org
August 19, 2004

ASPRS Releases Guidelines on Vertical Accuracy Reporting Requirements for Lidar-Derived Elevation Data

Adoption of the "ASPRS Lidar Guidelines – Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data V1.0" was approved by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) Board of Directors in May 2004. This is the first in a series of guidelines to be published by ASPRS covering the emerging technology of lidar and its use in the mapping sciences. Created by the ASPRS Lidar Committee's Working Group on lidar guidelines and standards, the guidelines have undergone a public review process and represent the best practices and reporting methods endorsed by ASPRS when working with lidar-derived elevation data.

ASPRS recommends that all mapping professionals adhere to and follow these guidelines when generating or contracting for mapping products derived from lidar data. As part of the Lidar Committee's Working Group efforts, the ASPRS guidelines were harmonized with the relevant sections of the Guidelines for Digital Elevation Data (Version 1.0) released by the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP).

The Guidelines cover the recommended methods for measuring and reporting the vertical accuracy of elevation data recorded by airborne lidar mapping instruments. Essentially, they outline necessary steps to analyze the vertical accuracy of elevation data generated using airborne light detection and ranging or laser radar (lidar) technology. In addition, the Guidelines cover determining what level of accuracy can be associated with a mapping product, such as a contour map, that is generated from a given lidar data set (or conversely, what level of accuracy is required in the lidar data to support a given contour interval map). Finally, they also include recommendations for the proper planning and implementation of appropriate ground checkpoints to support a lidar data set, including how to handle different land cover classes across a project site.

"A strategic goal of ASPRS is to proactively develop standards and guidelines for emerging technologies," said Russell G. Congalton, ASPRS president. "The ASPRS guidelines and reports were developed through input from private companies; public comment; federal, state, and local agencies; as well as individual experts. ASPRS has been diligent in including the Federal Geographic Data Committee process into our work, and included the science of surveying and sound mapping principals. ASPRS is committed to 'standards', which require consensus and a long time to complete the process. By maintaining a leadership role in the development of these lidar guidelines, ASPRS is fulfilling its obligations to its members and all imaging and geospatial information professionals."

ASPRS strongly encourages all lidar stakeholders to incorporate these guidelines into their lidar mapping projects. A copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from the Lidar Committee section at www.asprs.org (under the Photogrammetric Applications Division) or requested from lidar_committee@asprs.org . Other lidar guidelines currently under development by ASPRS for release in 2004 and 2005 include "Horizontal Accuracy Reporting," "Sensor Calibration," and "Laser Eye Safety." Founded in 1934, ASPRS is an international professional organization of 7,000 geospatial data professionals. ASPRS is devoted to advancing knowledge and improving understanding of the mapping sciences to promote responsible application of photogrammetry, remote sensing, geographic information systems and supporting technologies.

The following information has been provided to ASPRS by Jim Irons of NASA.

To Those Interested in the Landsat Program:

Yesterday NASA released a Request for Information (RFI) on the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM). The RFI consists of a cover letter, a draft solicitation, a draft instrument specification, a draft statement of work, and several additional draft requirements documents. The cover letter is available at http://intranet.asprs.org/RFIcoverletter.pdf Key excerpts from the letter can be found below.

All of the RFI documents can be found at the NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS) at web address http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/eps/sol.cgi?acqid=111775#Other%2001.

The documents can also be found at the LDCM web site: http://www.ldcm.nasa.gov/

The Executive Office of the President approved the release of this RFI following eight months of discussion with an interagency working group. The working group included representation from NASA, USGS, NOAA, NGA, NRO, and the NPOESS Integrated Program Office.

Please note the following:

- One of the options the Government is considering is to migrate the Landsat measurements to the NPOESS as an operational measurement. This option would necessitate flying future Landsat sensors in the 828Km-altitude orbit of the NPOESS satellites with a 17-day ground track repeat period. This would be a change from the 705 Km, 16-day repeat period, orbit of Landsats 4, 5, and 7.

- The instrument specification does not require thermal spectral bands consistent with the LDCM Data Specification attached to the earlier, cancelled data procurement request for proposals.

- This RFI explicitly solicits your comments (see excerpts below). Comments are due by August 26 to:

Patricia Dombrowski
Contracting Officer
e-mail: Patricia.M.Dombrowski@nasa.gov
Fax: (301) 286-0383

Please allow me to encourage your comments and response. This RFI represents the first opportunity to inform and receive feedback from the Landsat data user community, as well as industry, in many months. Your response to the options and strategies described in the RFI are critical to the future of the Landsat program.

Please forgive me if you receive multiple copies of this e-mail. I am using several e-mail address lists for the sake of expediency and I know the lists overlap. Also, please share this message with any and all of your colleagues working with Landsat data.

Regards,

Jim Irons
LDCM Project Scientist
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

(continued on next page)

RFI excerpts follow:

* Although a final decision on continuity options has not been made, one of the options the Government is considering as a long-term solution to ensuring Landsat data continuity is to migrate the Landsat measurement to the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) as an operational measurement. This would necessitate the measurement to be migrated to an 828km mid-morning orbit, with the earliest launch predicted with a Landsat imager to be at the end of calendar year 2009.

* The government may also consider an earlier stand-alone mission to minimize any risk to Landsat data continuity.

* Taking these factors into consideration, NASA is hereby soliciting innovative approaches for development and incorporation of a new Operational Land Imager (which the government has currently labeled OLI) for the NPOESS in the event the government decides to procure OLI instrument(s) for flight on NPOESS.

* NASA is also soliciting inventive approaches for a potential stand-alone mission solution to minimize risk to Landsat data continuity.

* The government is also interested in potential source's perspectives on the benefits of, or alternatives to, utilization of the Advanced Landsat Imager (ALI) technology developed by NASA/GSFC for Earth Observer-1 mission recognizing the timeliness requirements associated with this mission.

* Data specifications describing characteristics of Landsat data, a potential OLI specification and a potential Statement of Work (SOW) are attached for reference purposes only.

* NASA welcomes comments on the information in this call including attached documentation.

* If NASA proceeds with a solicitation for either or both solutions, there may not be a draft RFP release and this will be the only opportunity to comment on the documentation listed above

* All other inquires shall be submitted no later than 8/26/04 to the same point of contact. Please reference Solicitation Number NNG04064128L in any response.

Point of Contact

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Title: Contracting Officer
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For Immediate Release
Contact: Anna Marie Kinerney, Meetings/Marketing Manager
301-493-0290 ext.106; **akinerney@asprs.org**
July 9, 2004

ASPRS ANNOUNCES THE KENNETH J. OSBORN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Friends and colleagues of Kenneth J. Osborn (1952-2004) have helped establish the Kenneth J. Osborn Memorial Scholarship as a tribute to him from donated funds administered by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS).

Recognized nationally and internationally, Osborn was an outstanding practitioner of surveying, mapping, photogrammetry, and geospatial information technology, and a great friend of ASPRS. As a professional cartographer with the U.S. Geological Survey, Osborn made significant contributions to these fields. "This scholarship in Ken's name helps to keep alive the love he had for the profession - all things geospatial - by recognizing and assisting those who share that love and who are considering entering the profession," explained Alan M. Mikuni, P.E., Western Regional Geographer, U.S. Geological Survey.

The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and commend college students who display exceptional interest, desire, ability, and aptitude to enter the profession of surveying, mapping, photogrammetry, or geospatial information and technology. In addition, the Scholarship recognizes students who excel at an aspect of the profession that Osborn demonstrated so very well, that of *communications and collaboration*.

This annual Scholarship consists of a plaque and a check in the amount of $500 and a one year student membership (new or renewal) in the Society. "ASPRS is proud to be able to administer this scholarship in memory of an individual who gave so much to the profession and to the Society," commented ASPRS President Russell G. Congalton. "Ken was a technical program co-chair of two recent ASPRS specialty conferences on Digital Terrain Modeling (2001 and 2003) that were extremely well received."

The Scholarship is made to an undergraduate student currently enrolled or intending to enroll in a college or university in the United States, who is pursuing a program of study in preparation for entering the profession in the general area of surveying, mapping, photogrammetry, or geospatial information and technology.

Application requirements are outlined on the ASPRS web site (see link, below). Presentation of the Scholarship will take place at the ASPRS Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in March 2005. The recipient of the Scholarship is obligated to provide the Society with a written final report of his/her scholastic accomplishments during the period for which the Award is granted. This report must be submitted by June of the year following receipt of the Scholarship.

A complete description of the awards offered and an application (in PDF format) can be obtained at the ASPRS web site at http://www.asprs.org/asprs/membership/scholar_frame.html. For more information on the ASPRS Awards and Scholarships Program, contact scholarships@asprs.org

CALENDAR: 2004
Contributed by Jackie Olson

This is a selected group of events; for more listings and other organizations check the links at:
http://www.asprs.org/columbiariver/calendar.html

October 1 - 6, 2004:
ACSM/NSPS Fall Meeting
Marriott Gaithersburg Washingtonian Center
Gaithersburg, MD
http://www.acsm.net/conference.html

October 3-4, 2004:
GITA Pacific NW 2004 Annual Conference
Whistler, BC
http://www.gita.org/chapters/pacific/pacific.html

October 6-8, 2004:
17th annual GIS in the Rockies Conference
Plaza at the Mart, Denver, Colorado.
Topical sessions, public policy, enterprise GIS; technical sessions, workshops, exhibitions, technical tours
Sponsors are ACSM, ASPRS, GITA, PLSC and URISA and GIS Colorado.
http://www.GISintheRockies.org

October 8, 2004:
Oregon GPS User Group
General User Group Meeting
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Marion County Surveyors Office
5155 Silverton Rd. NE
Salem, Oregon 97305-3802
http://home.netcom.com/~syab/agenda_10_08_04_Salem.htm

October 19-20, 2004:
GeoTech 2004 - Multi-Resolution Solutions: Using all the Tools in the Toolbox
The Premier Mid-Atlantic (USA) Imagery and GIS Conference, ASPRS Potomac Region
Hosted by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey
Silver Spring, MD October 19-20, 2004
http://www.asprspotomac.org/

October 28, 2004:
American Water Resources Assoc. WA Section 2004 Annual Conference, The Impact of Climate Change on Pacific Northwest Water Resources
Seattle Art Museum
100 University Street
Seattle, WA 98101-2902
http://earth.golder.com/waawra/ASP/Conference.asp

November 7-10, 2004:
URISA's 42nd Annual Conference
Reno Hilton, Reno, NV
http://www.urisa.org/mtg.htm

November 7-10: Geological Society of America 2004 Annual Meeting: Geoscience in a Changing World
Colorado Convention Center
Denver, CO
http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2004/

March 7-11, 2005: ASPRS Annual Conference
Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore Maryland
http://www.asprs.org/baltimore2005/index.html

The Calendar will be updated with each issue.
Please send contributions to: jcolson@usgs.gov

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The President, Vice-President, Past President, and National Director are Elective Officers. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and National Director, and carries on the business and financial affairs of the Region.

Thanks to Our Sponsors