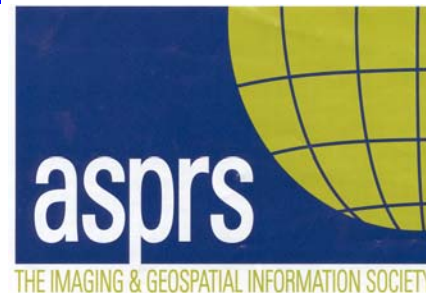


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# Wavelengths

## Columbia River Region

<http://www.asprs.org/ColumbiaRiver>



**Volume 2005:4 — December 2005**

### President's Letter:

By Anne Hillyer

Dear ASPRS Members and friends,

This is my last President's letter because we will have a new CRR president by the time our next newsletter comes out. I will still be involved with the newsletter though, since our current newsletter editor, Ralph Kiefer is moving on to the position of Chair of the Student Chapter Liaison Committee, and I will be taking over the newsletter editor position.

The topic of my final President's Letter is Professional Ethics. The Compact Oxford English Dictionary defines ethics as: "the moral principles governing or influencing conduct." Why do professional societies have codes of ethics? I think it is to protect the reputation of the profession as a whole, which benefits everyone who practices that profession. Having a published standard of ethics provides a means to resolve conflicts objectively because parties can refer to the rules. On an individual level, adhering to a code of ethics prevents an individual from engaging in unprofessional behavior, which could result in loss of personal opportunities in the long term.

I have been curious about cultural differences among the various disciplines that form the geospatial community, so I looked up the codes of ethics for a few of them. These were the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO)<sup>1</sup>, the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS)<sup>2</sup>, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)<sup>3</sup>, and the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)<sup>4</sup> and compared them to the ASPRS<sup>5</sup> code of ethics. The Association of American Geographers (AAG)<sup>6</sup> has a statement on ethics, but advises that since geographers come from many different professional backgrounds they must adhere to the codes of ethics of their particular professions.

I found that all of the above-mentioned organizations' codes of ethics require their practitioners to: perform services only in the areas of their competence; avoid

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conflicts of interest; issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner; hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public; and avoid improper solicitation of professional employment.

The ASPRS code of ethics specifies that members should work to strengthen the profession of mapping sciences by (among other things) interchange of information and experience with other persons interested in and using a mapping science, with other professions, and with students and the public.

The URISA code of ethics contains the same standards as the others but has additional provisions. It has a section on community involvement, which says:

Contribute to the Community to the Extent Possible, Feasible, and Advisable.

Make data and findings widely available.

Strive for broad citizen involvement in problem definition, data identification, analysis, and decision-making.

Donate services to the community.  
Speak Out About Issues.

Call attention to emerging public issues and identify appropriate responses based on personal expertise.

Call attention to the unprofessional work of others. First take concerns to those persons; if satisfaction is not gained and the problems warrant, then additional people and organizations should be notified.

Admit when a mistake has been made and make corrections where possible.

Document work so that others can use it. This includes metadata and program documentation.

(Continued from previous page.)

The codes of ethics for the different disciplines do imply cultural differences. Of course, it is not a good idea to stereotype the members of any discipline by suggesting that their personal characteristics are determined by their professions. That will only lead to misunderstandings and disrespect. However, it is fair to say that different disciplines have different values and motivations that influence the code of ethics. For example, the survey and engineering disciplines are concerned with accuracy and public safety because of the nature of their work, taking accurate measurements and building sound structures. The photogrammetry, remote sensing and GIS disciplines tend to promote sharing data with other professions, students and the public because the technology they use is designed to facilitate data transfer and make information available in accessible formats.

Regardless of what can or cannot be read into the codes of ethics of various professions, the fact that the codes exist makes it possible for professionals to expect certain standards of conduct when working with professionals from related fields. This engenders a positive work environment in which people can be comfortable and efficient and learn by listening to each other. It encourages synergy—the interaction or cooperation of two or more agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects. Isn't this what we want?

The ASPRS 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Exchange that was held November 10 this year was a good example of interdisciplinary cooperation and synergy. There was a wide range of topics presented, from GIS web applications to close-range photogrammetry for accident reconstruction. I think everyone learned something. The more we know about what concepts and technologies are available the more we can apply them in our work and move the profession forward as a whole.

Before I hand the ASPRS torch over to our next president, I would like to express my appreciation for the support of the CRR members over the past year. The year has gone by quickly. I was able to get started on some new projects, namely the Student Chapter Liaison Committee and the informal gathering series. I recognize that we need to provide more opportunities for the general membership to get involved and I will continue to work on that effort as past president. I welcome members' suggestions as always. Everyone is welcome to the Annual Business Meeting/Celebration, which will be held on January 20, 2006 at the Kennedy School McMenamin's in Portland. I hope to see you there.

Footnotes:

1. <http://www.plso.org/codeofethics.htm>
2. <http://www.acsm.net/nsps/creed.html>
3. <http://www.asce.org/inside/codeofethics.cfm>
4. [http://www.urisa.org/ethics/code\\_of\\_ethics.htm](http://www.urisa.org/ethics/code_of_ethics.htm)
5. [http://www.asprs.org/membership/certification/appendix\\_a.html](http://www.asprs.org/membership/certification/appendix_a.html)
6. <http://www.aag.org/Publications/EthicsStatement.html>

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## National Directors Report: Fourth Quarter of 2005 By Chris Aldridge

Seasons Greetings, fellow members! As we approach the end of another year, we can look back at 2005 and feel happy about the advancements that ASPRS has made within the region and country.

The Society Executive Committee and Board of Directors met on October 22, 2005 and October 24, 2005 respectively. Division and Committee meetings were held on Sunday, October 23, 2005. The meetings coincided with The William T. Pecora Memorial Symposium (Pecora 16), held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Pecora is a semi-annual meeting co-organized by ASPRS and the Pecora Steering Committee which emphasizes remote sensing and is heavily sponsored by U. S. Government Agencies (USGS, NASA, DOE, NOAA, and others).

This year's symposium was held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. The facility was an excellent venue, attached to the conference hotel. Reasonably well attended for a fall meeting (400+), response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. The exhibit hall left a little to be desired, with only 28 exhibitors attending. The sessions and presentations were the mixed quality that you would expect at a significant meeting, ranging from exceptional to barely topic related. In short, this was a successful technical meeting for practitioners in our related professions, perhaps less so for the erstwhile exhibitors who were willing to make the trip.

The social highlight of the symposium was the USGS EROS Data Center open house. The facility is truly something to behold. We were able to view the antennae and computer labs where the majority of the nation's civilian satellite data are downloaded and processed. The archive room where 70 years of film and digital imagery are stored is an impressive real life scene from "Raiders of the Lost Ark." We were provided with demonstrations of stereo satellite data, large area coverages on multiple monitors, and drill downs to high resolution data sets that are all available through the USGS.

The committee meetings were fairly well attended despite the smaller total attendance. As an observation from the several meetings I attended, the slightly smaller groups accomplished a great deal. Recommendations and action plans came from nearly every division and committee to be addressed at the directors meeting.

(Continued on next page.)

## The Directors Meeting in Summary.

Our organization remains financially healthy. The society executive director, Jim Plasker, presented a clear and concise accounting of the 2004 year end audit report, the financial statement from August 2005, the cash flow report, the status of our Reserve Investment Accounts, and the proposed 2006 budget. In all cases the society remains on a firm financial footing. The 2006 budget was presented and approved by the board. This budget includes a dues increase to \$120.00 annually for active membership. This is the first increase in dues since 2002 and was considered a bargain by the marketing agency hired to review our membership status. ASPRS provides more “bang for the buck” than any other professional organization in our industry.

Recent achievements of the society include the ASPRS 10 year industry forecast, which is in its fourth year of operation, with the goal of presentation of results at the Reno meeting in the Spring of 2006. The ASPRS completed the Blue Ribbon Panel Study of the USGS National Digital Orthophoto Program. This report (available online) was prepared under contract to the USGS, and resoundingly supports the continued funding and development of the NDOP. Unfortunately, financial cuts to the federal budget have severely hampered this program and many others that are overseen by the USGS. The ASPRS still maintains a voice on the committees related to the LANDSAT data continuity issues. ASPRS still supports the IAEGS program at Ole Miss. This program has developed a series of online professional education courses for the geospatial sciences. NASA cut the funding for this excellent program several months ago, and ASPRS has been instrumental in getting funding re-established. The certification program continued to evolve into the highly recognized program that it is today.

The Membership drum was beaten with overwhelming regularity and our organization has seen a national increase of 2% in 2005. There is still a long way to go. The board approved a motion to tie a region’s annual rebate to the existence and filling of a membership chair for every region. Our membership numbers continue to be of concern and efforts are being made at all levels to solve this most critical of issues.

The Publications Committee presented the current status of publications in process and in production. The *ASPRS Manual of Photogrammetry, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* continues to sell well. Year to date, 248 copies have been sold. Combined with 2004 sales, we are only \$10,900.00 from the breakeven point of publishing. Volume 5 and 6 of the manual of remote sensing are completed and delivered to the printer. Proposed publications include the *ASPRS Manual of GIS, The DEM Manual, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, the Radar Interpretation Guidebook, and the 3-D Global Spatial Data Model.*

The Meetings and Conventions Committee presented the proposed schedule and location of meetings as follows:

- Annual 2006 – Reno, NV
- Fall 2006 – San Antonio, TX
- Annual 2007 – Tampa, FL
- Fall 2007 – Ottawa, Canada
- Annual 2008 – **PORTLAND, OR (feel free to volunteer to help with this)**
- Fall 2008 – Denver, Co (proposed)
- Annual 2009 – Baltimore, MD (75<sup>th</sup> anniversary)

Each region presented their activities report as well. Some regions are heavily engaged and others are less so. One of note is the Rocky Mountain Region, who have developed a membership recruitment plan that I intend to present to the Columbia River Region Executive Committee.

On the local front, we will be reviewing and altering the region bylaws soon. This was voted on and approved by the Region Executive Committee to facilitate the creation of the Student Chapter Liaison position, to be filled by Ralph Kiefer.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual dinner in January.

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## Officer Elections

In December and January the CRR will be holding an online election for the position of Vice President. The deadline for candidate selection is December 10. We will send out an email ballot in the week of December 12. Votes will be accepted until January 6. The installation of new officers will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on January 20.

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## Editor’s Note

As mentioned by Anne and Chris, in January I’ll be taking the position of Chair of the Student Chapter Liaison Committee. Anne will become Newsletter Editor. I’ve been Newsletter Editor for four years, following in the footsteps of Jackie Olson and Tom Pagh, both of whom did an excellent job. I’m sure Anne will also do an excellent job and I look forward to seeing the newsletter as edited by Anne.

As Chair of the Student Chapter Liaison Committee, I’m looking forward to working with our existing Student Chapters at Oregon State University and Portland State University, and look forward to the likely establishment of a Student Chapter at the University of Oregon. I expect to visit all three campuses in Spring 2006.

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**ASPRS-CRR  
Annual Meeting and Dinner 2006  
Mark your calendars!**

The Columbia River Region's Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held at the McMenamins Kennedy School on **Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 pm until 11:00 pm. The featured event will be a brief presentation on "*Mapping the Grand Canyon Today*" by Mike Renslow, followed by the showing of the historic documentary film: "The 1923 Surveying expedition of the Colorado River in Arizona." All members and nonmembers are invited to attend. The newly elected Vice President will be installed, the current Vice President advances to President, and the current President advances to Past President. An invitation with prices and reservation forms will be mailed out shortly. McMenamins Kennedy School is located in Portland at 5736 NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

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**Ninth Annual ASPRS Puget Sound and  
Columbia River Regions  
Technical Information Exchange  
By James E. Meacham  
Vice President, ASPRS-CRR**

On November 10<sup>th</sup> the Puget Sound and Columbia River Regions held the ninth annual Joint Technical Information Exchange meeting in Vancouver, Washington. Paul Mabry, Vice President of the Puget Sound Region, helped facilitate the meeting.

The event drew 38 attendees from the two regions including 14 non-members. The program included eleven presentations given on a wide range of topics. Below is a list of the presentations and authors:

An Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change on the Upper Clackamas River Basin with a Distributed Hydrologic Model. *David Graves, PSU*

Spatially enabling Microsoft Access using free ESRI ArcReader software: Mapping West Nile Virus in Lane County. *Will Jensen, Lane Council of Governments.*

Metric Digital Cameras and the Impact on Photogrammetry. *Mike Renslow, Spencer B. Gross, Inc.*

*Krispy Kreme donuts were served.*

Combining Satellite Imagery with Historic Cartography: The 1748 Nolli Map of Rome. *Erik B. Steiner, University of Oregon, Department of Geography, InfoGraphics Lab.*

Columbia River Avian Predation Project Photogrammetry. *Eric Stone III, BPA/Ciber and Jessica Adkins, OSU.*

Development and use of the BCIT digital camera calibration array. *Mark Hird-Rutter, C.P., British Columbia Institute of Technology*

Using False-Color Near-Infrared Film for Aerial Mapping of Intertidal Eelgrass in Pacific Northwest Estuaries. *David R. Young, US EPA, Patrick J. Clinton, Indus Corp, and David T. Specht, US EPA.*

Applications for 2nd Generation Orthophotography. *David Brown, C.P.*

Close-Range Photogrammetry Applications in Accident Reconstruction. *J Rolly Kinney, Kinney Engineering Inc.*

Street Trees in Portland's Urban Forest Canopy. *Joseph Poracsky, PSU, David Banis, CSAR.*

Image processing to load Imagery into ESRI's SDE: Case study

GIS Development of the City of Seattle Public Utilities Isopluvial Application

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**Report from Portland State University  
Student Chapter  
By Celia Cornett, Past President**

Happy Winter,

We have several events planned for Winter Term—January 2006 to March 2006—including a career day and our ongoing speaker colloquia. Check with our website for updates.

<http://www.psuasprs.groups.pdx.edu>.

Part of the mission of ASPRS—as defined by the national office—is to increase education/awareness and use of geospatial technologies, and facilitate student membership. (see national website at [http://www.asprs.org/strat\\_plan.pdf](http://www.asprs.org/strat_plan.pdf).) PSU ASPRS honors these goals by hosting activities and offering scholarships that foster learning and networking. On January 20<sup>th</sup> we are holding a Career event (“Market Yourself”. A How to, Panel Program + PARTY!!) This is a wonderful opportunity to network with students and consider another ASPRS mission goal of mentoring a student. Mentoring can include meeting for lunch, discussing career options, touring work facilities, offering internships and special project collaboration.

The colloquium continues to bring professional experience to students. Upcoming speakers include:

- |       |                  |   |
|-------|------------------|---|
| Feb:  | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Anne Hillyer (2005 CRR President, BPA Photogrammetry and Mapping)         |
|       | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Michael Wing (OSU: “Mapping and analyzing crime in the National Forests”) |
| March | 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | To Be Announced   |
|       | 10 <sup>th</sup> | Back up date  |

The scholarship offering for GIS in Action 2006 continues for a second year—ASPRS will award the entrance fee for up to 6 PSU ASPRS students (\$300). In addition, many of us volunteer to help register, provide technical support and run errands. Since the CRR ASPRS co hosts this event, national mission goals are reinforced.

In October we joined the Geography Department’s celebration of Geography Awareness Week, originally begun by National Geographic. Events leading to GIS Day, November 16, 2005 included the First Annual GIS Poster Competition—won by Brian Handy—and a weeklong display at the PSU student center featuring posters on GIS usage and geospatial solutions.

For additional news, current and upcoming remote sensing class listings refer to the following links.

[http://geog.pdx.edu/GIS/grad\\_certificate.html](http://geog.pdx.edu/GIS/grad_certificate.html)

[http://geog.pdx.edu/course\\_schedules/courses.html](http://geog.pdx.edu/course_schedules/courses.html)

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**Report from Oregon State University  
Student Chapter  
By Michael Wing, Faculty Advisor**

The OSU ASPRS Student Chapter student officers for 2005-2006 will be:

Jon Michael Bosley (MS Geosciences)

Josh Halofsky (PhD Forestry)

Our first organized event winter term will be on January 17<sup>th</sup> at noon. John Sharrard of ESRI will make a presentation about the GPS Analyst. There seems to be a marked interest in GPS applications and research at OSU and we anticipate a large audience among students, staff, and faculty.

The OSU ASPRS Student Chapter will continue to host occasional speakers that have expertise in spatial applications. Please contact me should you have an interest in presenting applications that may be of interest in chapter members. One potential “outside of OSU” experience this year that has been discussed is a field trip to a agency or industrial organization that has a spatial focus in at least one of its opportunities.

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**Guide to Land Imaging Satellites**

A *Guide to Land Imaging Satellites* developed by William E. Stoney, Mitretek Systems, is available (without charge) from ASPRS in PDF format at:

<http://www.asprs.org/news/satellites>.

This informative document covers all civil land imaging satellites with resolutions equal to or better than 36 meters in orbit or currently planned to be in orbit by 2010.

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## CALENDAR:

Contributed by Jackie Olson

This is a selected group of local and regional events; for more listings and other organizations check the links at:

<http://www.asprs.org/columbiariver/calendar.html>

### December 2005

**December 9:** Geological Society of the Oregon Country Friday Evening Talk, "What is Happening to the Glaciers of the American West and Why?" Dr. Andrew Fountain, PSU Geology Dept. S17 Cramer Hall, PSU, 8:00 pm

### January-May 2006

**February 19-22:** The Tenth Annual Integrating GIS & CAMA 2006 Conference Delivering Solutions: A Decade of Integrating Dreams & Technology Disney's Coronado Springs Convention Center, Orlando, FL

[http://www.urisa.org/GIS\\_CAMA/06CAMA/06cama.htm](http://www.urisa.org/GIS_CAMA/06CAMA/06cama.htm)

**March 1- 4:** Land Surveyors' Association of Washington and Professional Land Surveyors' of Oregon — "Lewis and Clark: Mapping The Journey" Hilton Hotel and Conference Center Vancouver, WA  
Website: [www.lsaw.org](http://www.lsaw.org)

**March 7-11:** The 2006 Meeting of The AAG, Chicago, IL  
<http://www.aag.org/annualmeetings/index.cfm>

**April 21-26:** ACSM Spring Conference Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL  
<http://www.acsm.net/conference.html>

**May 1-5:** ASPRS Annual Conference Reno, NV  
<http://www.asprs.org/meetings/calendar.html>

The Calendar will be updated with each issue. Please send contributions to:  
[jcolson@usgs.gov](mailto:jcolson@usgs.gov)

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