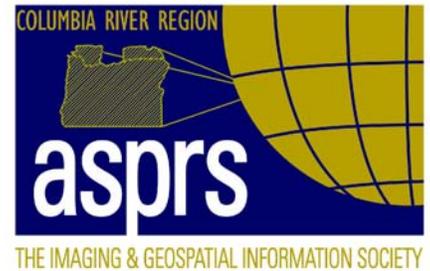


Wavelengths

Columbia River Region

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



Volume 2011:4 — December 2011

A Message from Jacob Macdonald, President, Columbia River Region

This is my last newsletter article as president of the Region. The year has sped by for me and I feel like I haven't had enough time to see the ideas I had come to reality. We've made progress however and I look forward to the opportunity to follow through over the next year as your past president to establish a positive legacy.

I'm proud of our choice to take my place as president. Matt Boyd is not only one of the most recognizable names in Remote Sensing in our Region, he's a leader in the liDAR community and has already done a lot to increase the involvement of that sector in our organization. Our membership among liDAR practitioners has increased significantly as a direct result of his involvement. I can't wait to see what Matt does for our organization once he has the reigns.

I am also proud of the events that have taken place since I've been President. We had a great technical exchange in 2010 and followed up in 2011 with even better content and attendance. I'm looking forward to seeing us build on our past success and make next year's exchange one for the books. The brownbag lunch that Matt hosted over the summer was successful and although we failed to capitalize at the time and establish that as a monthly occurrence as we had planned, I think we'll get to that point in the coming year.

I can't say yet that I'm proud of my big idea of establishing the student experience program that I've described in my previous articles. It just didn't take off like I thought it would but it still might have some life. A few months back, I pretty much gave up on it and resigned myself to the perception that it wasn't the great idea I thought it was and nobody was interested. Since then, thanks to the persistence of our amazing student committee chair Dan Craver, folks have been asking what happened to it. With the idea that even a few people might be interested, I'm ready to re-engage and spend my tenure as past president giving it another shot. If you are a professional willing to provide data or advising to a student ASPRS member on their thesis work or class project, I want to hear from you. If you're a student with a project idea but need data or advising, I want to hear from you too. If you're a professional with an unfunded research idea or a student in need of a research idea, let us know. Give us a chance to show you the membership fee you pay is worth it and ASPRS can work for you.

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In the coming months we will be unveiling a new Region website. The new site will be a more interactive experience with discussion boards and job postings. All ASPRS members will have the opportunity to provide information to their peers and shape the content of the site. We still want to hear your ideas for elements to incorporate into the new site.

It's time to elect our next Vice President. If you'd like to nominate yourself or a colleague for a 3 year term on our Regional Board, send your information to Erik Brewster, erik.brewster@kapala-it.com. We need nominations by the end of December, the election will be held in January 2012, and the successful candidate will be announced at the annual dinner meeting in early February 2012. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your President. Although it was an incredibly short year, it was a good experience for me. My work isn't done yet, I still have a fun year ahead of me supporting Matt and his vision for our Region.

ASPRS, Columbia River Region, Welcomes the following new Members:

Masoud Momeni—Student Member
Erik Fehrenbach—Student Member
Alexa Ramirez—Active Member
Brian Kidd—Active Member
Cathy Power—Active Member
Chris Miwa—Active Member
Heather Ann VanDyke—Active Member
Heather Mason—Active Member
Ian Berdie—Active Member
Jonathan Ellinger—Active Member
Josh McLaughlin—Active Member
Michael D'Agostino—Active Member
Mike Boeder—Active Member
Brian Kasper—Active Member
Eric McNeill—Active Member
William Fellers—Active Member

A word from Chris Aldridge, Director, Columbia River Region

Happy Holidays to the members of the Columbia River Region. The fourth quarter is drawing to a close and with it, the sun sets on another year in the Columbia River Region. As always, this period of the year is typified by an increase in activity. The student chapters are reactivating after summer break, vacations are long gone, the new federal year has begun, the Columbia River Region begins our annual search for candidates for the vice president, and the end of the year closeout scramble officially begins.

Congratulations to Vice President Matt Boyd and his opposite number from the Puget Sound Region for hosting an EXTREMELY well attended Joint Technical Exchange. There were over 80 attendees, which set a new attendance record for the event.

Planning for GIS in Action 2012, which will be a joint PLSO/ASPRS/URISA meeting, is in its final stages. Please save the date for this important first meeting where all of the geospatial societies will be represented over four days on March 13th -16th, 2012. The event will be held at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach.

Nationally, the society held the fall meeting in Herndon (Dulles), Virginia on November 12th –17th. The fall meeting is a three year cycle between a GIS focus, the DEM meeting (typically jointly held with MAPPS) and the Pecora conference with the USGS. This year was the 18th Pecora meeting, focused primarily on satellite and remote sensing. The conference itself was sparsely attended, particularly given the proximity to the home of so many geospatial agencies. The program itself was shorter (30 Technical Sessions with an average of three presentations per session), however the content was of high quality.

The Board of Directors met on Monday, the 14th. Following are the highlights of that meeting:

Financial Overview: Financially the Society remains strong, with total assest near \$3 million. The bottom line is down a bit from 2010 due to a combination of reduced revenues (advertising, conference) and increased expenses (HQ Infrastructure). It would not be erroneous to say that we have been “treading water” this year. Our investments remain very near the level they were at the beginning of the year owing primarily to market volatility. Bottom line is that we continue to enjoy strong financial stewardship from headquarters which has held the society in a positive place for the last several years.

Headquarters Report: The HQ building is in good condition (we own this condo, and it is part of our assets) and staff moral continues to be high. All of the IT initiatives have been completed. We have replaced the servers, established a back up plan for power outages, continue to tweak the new website at www.asprs.org , and for the first time, handled on line registration for the conference through the HQ portal.

The Certification Program has nearly completed the requirements necessary for Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards (CESB) accreditation of our Certification Program. The remaining element is to convert our continuing education criteria from “points” to professional development hours. This process should be completed by the Sacramento Meeting.

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Steps continue to be taken by the Webinar Series coordinators to provide a Certification Workshop that will be timed to coincide with the academic year end in May-June. This proposal was put forth by PSU Alum Bethany Pratt, and while it has been long in coming, the desired end is in sight.

External Affairs: The National Land Imaging Program (NLIP) and Landsats' (LDCM) future is once again in jeopardy. While Landsat 8 is scheduled for a 2013 launch, the continuation of the program to Landsat 9 and beyond is murky, owing primarily to economic and budget questions with in the federal government. Stay tuned.

The Guidelines for Photogrammetric Products was thought to be near complete, but another round of comments arrived and are currently being addressed. It is anticipated that the final draft will be republished in the 1st quarter and ready for board review and acceptance in Sacramento, along with a "bridge" document to tie this to the previously published Guidelines for Photogrammetric Services.

Membership: Membership has continued its decline in regular members while we are making advancements in student membership. The mission now is to convert the student members to associate members, once they graduate. The "Branding Committee," which was assigned the task of reviewing the society and recommending changes to improve our relevance has nearly completed the first phase of information gathering.

New Activity of Note: Three bylaws changes were approved, clarifying the definition of an associate member, defining a "Council" and in effect creating the Young Professionals Council, and establishing a statute of limitations on receiving region rebates.

LAS 1.4 was approved by the board. This is considered a minor change to the specification and work will now resume on LAS 2.0, which will be a considerably broader sweeping revision. LAS 1.4 primarily address the addition of more classes to accommodate the current electrical line work.

The Student Advisory Council was given approval to pursue a "summer school" program to be held at George Mason University in June. Watch the website for more information.

Further information can be found on the website and I am open to any questions that you may have or if you are interested in greater details of the information summarized above. You can email me at caldridge@contientalmapping.com.

LAS 1.4 Specification Approved by ASPRS Board

The American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) is pleased to announce LAS 1.4, a new release of the open file format for lidar data storage and delivery. ASPRS has been maintaining and updating this widely used specification since its inception in 2001.

The most significant of the new features include:

- Expansion of the Class field from 32 to 256 classes
- Well Known Text (WKT) encoding for coordinate reference system designation
- Support for scanner designation for multiple sensor laser systems such as mobile mappers
- Support for up to 15 return pulses for discrete pulse systems (waveform support was added at release 1.3)
- Maximum file size increased from 4 GB to a theoretical file size of 18 Exabytes

“ASPRS has been very proactive in accommodating the needs of the lidar community,” said James Plasker, ASPRS Executive Director. “This latest update addresses the rapidly changing capabilities of lidar hardware as well as recognizing the needs of the data processing side of the technology.”

The adoption of WKT as the standard method of representing coordinate reference systems brings LAS in line with evolving GIS standards and ensures a method of accurately representing both horizontal and vertical references. The expansion to 256 classes will allow more robust representation of complex collection environments such as electric transmission line modeling.”

ASPRS President Gary Florence added “I am very pleased, not only with the outcome, but with the overall public comment and review process. The ASPRS LAS Working Group effectively resolved several contentious issues in a manner supportive of the broader community.” Florence also “commended ASPRS Lidar Division Director Lewis Graham for his excellent leadership of the overall process, as well commended the many Working Group members who devoted themselves to this effort.”

The LAS version 1.4 specification was approved by the ASPRS Board of Directors on November 14, 2011 and is available for immediate use. The full specification can be downloaded from the ASPRS website at http://www.asprs.org/LAS_Specification.



Fall quarter was a busy one for the PSU student chapter of the ASPRS. The highlight of our term was the Cartography Symposium, organized primarily by Dan Uthman, a past officer of our group, and David Banis, our faculty advisor. The free event had over 80 attendees and featured a full day of presentations and a robust map gallery. The keynote by Oregon cartographer David Imus, winner of the 2010 CaGIS Best In Show for his “Essential Geography of the United States” wall map, focused on the role maps and map design can play in battling geographic illiteracy in this country. The other eight presenters hailed from non-profits, local and state government, and geographic information companies. Attendees remarked that their topics were a diverse mix of theory and techniques, and many said that the symposium exceeded their expectations and expressed hope that it would be a recurring event. Thanks so much to the PSU OBC for providing funding!

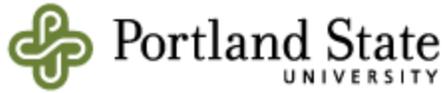
We also hosted two colloquia. The first talk was given by Janne Boone-Heinonen, a professor in the epidemiology division at OHSU, who discussed the Cardia Study. This major multiyear research project used GIS to examine the relationships between dietary quality and proximity to fast-food and grocery stores. The second colloquium featured Sergeant Greg Stewart of the Portland Police Bureau Crime Analysis Unit, who discussed how the department is using GIS to reduce crime and the fear of crime, and to improve neighborhood livability. Both events were well attended, with great audience participation. Thanks to our Vice President Allison Jones and our secretary Ray Hennings for organizing these events!

Next term, we will host three more colloquia. We have great speakers lined up, and we hope to see some of you there. We’ll also be organizing some ASPRS/GIS happy hours, which are becoming a tradition here, and which provide a great way for students and professionals to come together and share their passion for remote sensing and GIS analysis in a relaxed environment. We’ll announce details of all these events on our listserv soon.

We’re also hoping to better serve our student members by moving forward with the Student Experience Program (SEP) first suggested by Jacob McDonald. David Banis, Dan Craver and I discussed this, and we agreed that the SEP can manifest itself in three different ways: 1) Data provision with contact info, without project expectation, for students to use/explore as they wish for term projects; 2) Unpaid internships, where a student works on a defined project, and which may or may not be appropriate subjects for term projects; 3) Out-of-class student volunteer projects, where several students may contribute, and which will require coordination (e.g., by ASPRS leaders). If you have a dataset you’d like to share, or a project idea in mind, small or large, please contact us. We’re hoping to share a list of potential projects with students on our website soon.

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Portland Cartography Symposium:
Dan Coe shares the methods behind his beautiful LiDAR Illustrated calendars



Portland Cartography Symposium:
Our bustling map gallery



This is a new year for the OSU chapter with all of our officials leaving school after graduation. All of our officials are new to the Chapter this quarter. We are busy thinking of ways to get additional people involved. We are also active updating our web page, and planning our activities for the next year.

For our first event of 2012 we will host a presentation about remotely controlled aerial systems and their remote sensing applications. We plan to have this presentation in the beginning of the winter term, in mid - January in a date and time TBA. The OSU Chapter is also considering developing a low cost remotely controlled aerial system that would capture color imagery.

Our new VP is Art Fisher. Art has a B.S. in Environmental and Soil Science from UT Knoxville and is currently pursuing an M.S. in Soil Science with a minor in Water Resource at OSU. And our new President is Pablo Alvarez Tostado. Pablo has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). He is pursuing a M.S. in Environmental Science in the Water Resource track.

Pablo Alvarez Tostado
President
ASPRS OSU Student Chapter



Report from University of Oregon Student Chapter

By Adriana Martinez, President

The University of Oregon ASPRS student chapter would like to welcome new member Ingrid Nelson. We would also like to welcome a new Remote Sensing and Fluvial Geomorphology professor to the Geography Department, Mark Fonstad. Mark specializes in the remote sensing of rivers and has already been a valuable addition and supportive faculty member to the group.

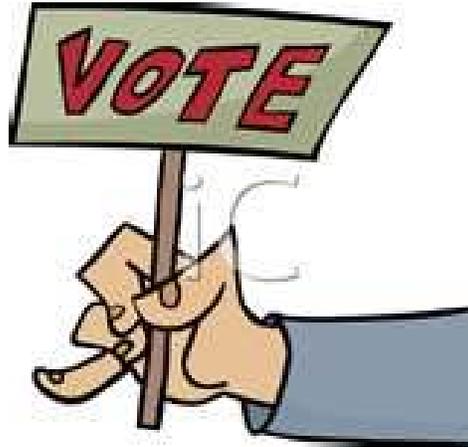
Members of our chapter spent much of the summer engaged in field work and graduate student research. Treasurer Sarah Praskievicz surveyed a reach of the Toucannon River to create a DEM for her climate modeling research. Vice President Joe Gordon attended the ISPRS Student Consortium in Fayetteville, NC. President Adriana Martinez and Secretary Amanda Reinholtz measured vegetation properties on the Sprague River in Southern Oregon to predict vegetation-river channel interactions. Member Jakeb Prickett helped survey restoration projects on the Middle Fork John Day River in Eastern Oregon.

This fall term several members of the UO ASPRS student chapter also attended the ASPRS CRR Technical Exchange. Samuel Castonguay, Jakeb Prickett, Sarah Praskievicz and Joe Gordon attended sessions on Lidar, 3D point clouds and managing large datasets. We are busy lining up speakers and activities for the fall and winter terms.



ASPRS Student Chapter Fundraiser at Track Town Pizza, November 2011

From left to right around table: Sarah Praskievicz (Treasurer), Jim Meacham (sponsor), Mark Fonstad (Geography Faculty), Megan Lawrence, Jakeb Prickett (member), Christopher Thomas (member), Joe Gordon (Vice President), Amanda Reinholtz (Secretary), James Dietrich (member).



The Columbia River Region has 2 candidates that will running for National ASPRS positions in the upcoming elections.

ASPRS National Vice President, **Mr. Chris Aldridge** will be running for that position.



ASPRS Professional Practice Division, **Mr. Eric Stone** will be running for that position.



All Columbia River Region ASPRS members will be receiving ballots in the mail soon, so please, fill out your ballot and give your support to these two individuals.

ASPRS Webinar Series

NEW – [Object-based Image Analysis](#) -- Registration Deadline: **January 10, 2012**

offered in two 2-hour segments on January 17th

Tuesday, January 17th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time
(You must attend both segments to qualify for CEUs)

[Preparation for ASPRS Certification](#) -- Registration Deadline: **January 17, 2012**

offered in four 2-hour segments on January 26 and 27

(You must attend all four segments to qualify for CEUs)

Thursday, January 26th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

Friday, January 27th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Eastern Time

If you have any problems with the registration, please contact the Meeting Registrar at
registrar@asprs.org

Please Note: It is important that you register by the registration deadline as we need time to produce and ship the webinar workbooks. If you register after the deadline, you will be required to pay an extra fee to have the workbook delivered to you by an alternate method.

For complete information and access to the online registration for this and other ASPRS Webinar Workshops, go to

<http://www.asprs.org/Webinar-Series/List-of-Webinars-Offered.html>

NOTE: ASPRS Webinars are intended for the sole use and benefit of those registered to take the Workshop. That means that Each Person who attends a Webinar is required to register. ASPRS Sustaining Member companies who have multiple employees who want to take the webinar at the same time should contact Kim Tilley at kimt@asprs.org for information on quantity discounts. Attending a webinar without registering is an ethical violation.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 13-16, 2012

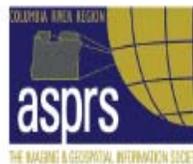
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International Lidar Mapping Forum [ILMF]
January 23-25, 2012
Denver, CO, USA
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March 2012

ASPRS 2012 Annual Conference
Sacramento Convention Center (TBD),
Sacramento, California
March 19-23, 2012

October 2012

ASPRS/MAPPS Fall Specialty Conference
Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel
Tampa, FL

ASPRS Webinars:

The following website offers more information
concerning the ASPRS Webinar Series:

[http://www.asprs.org/Webinar-Series/List-of-Webinars-
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