

THE ALASKAN SURVEYOR

The Newsletter of the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors

AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SURVEYING AND MAPPING
MEMBER OF WESTERN FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS
AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS

JUNE 1996

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Chapter Reports

ANCHORAGE CHAPTER

Quarterly Report

April 30, 1996

The Anchorage Chapter has continued meeting on a regular basis, although the meeting time and location has changed. The meeting date is still the third Tuesday of each month, the time is now 12 noon, and the location is Peggy's Cafe on 5th Avenue. An open invitation to join our meetings is extended to any that wish to attend.

In January the Chapter held an informal social gathering and dinner. Jeff Yates presented a slide show on the GPS height determination of Mt. McKinley. Results of the Chapter elections were announced with Mike Olson being elected to President-elect and Doug Graether elected to Secretary-Treasurer. Mike Schoder was presented a plaque for his service as Chapter President during 1995.

The Chapter is staying involved in the Seward Initial Point Rehabilitation Project. Mike Olson is attending the meetings for the Anchorage Chapter. The Project is still evolving and more information is available from Mike.

The Chapter sponsored the Trig-Star Program at six Anchorage High Schools in March. Approximately 139 students took part this year, which is a significant increase from last year. The teachers were very enthusiastic about the program this year. Trig-Star is a great way to inform students about surveying as a career and is only possible with the commitment of our members to make it happen. Ryan Young from Dimond High School won the State competition on April 12. Ryan will compete against the rest of the nation in June and we wish him well.

The Chapter has been somewhat successful in soliciting speakers for our meetings. In March Howard Hancock of Stewart Title discussed Title issues and Certificates to plat and Mike Fretwell of the Alaska Railroad Real Estate Department is scheduled to speak in May.

The UAA Student Chapter is trying to organize a seminar with Walt Robillard in September. Steve Buchanan was appointed Committee Chair and Joe Burch volunteered to help. This seminar will be an opportunity to work in concert with our Student Chapter, provide a service to our members and raise funds for the Geomatics program.

-submitted by

Kenneth W. Ayers, P.L.S

Anchorage Chapter President

FAIRBANKS CHAPTER

Semi-Annual Report

May 24, 1996

The Fairbanks Chapter of ASPLS has been meeting regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Peking Garden Restaurant for lunch to conduct business. This year's officers are *Tom Scarborough*, President, *Pat Kalen*, President Elect, and *Martin Gutoski*, Secretary/Treasurer.

This year's annual Surveyor's Banquet was held March 29th at the Castle Inn with 30 attendees for the Friday night dinner. The after dinner entertainment featured a multimedia presentation by Bruce Gordon, a retired UAF instructor who took up scuba diving and underwater photography after his retirement. His presentation of beautiful coral reefs and tropical water life kept even the most overstuffed chicken or beefeater from nodding off during the show. A raffle

was held after the show with the premier door prize being a weekend retreat for two at the Chena Hot Springs Resort outside of Fairbanks.

The Chapter is involved in working with the Fairbanks North Star Borough on a revision to the current 10 year old Subdivision Ordinance, Title 17. A committee has been formed comprising Pete Schnarrs of FPE/ROEN, Neal Eklund of Stutzmann Engineering, Chris Bedsaul of Bedsaul Consulting and Martin Gutoski of Alaska Survey Innovations to look at modifications to the FNSB regulation to allow surveys of illegal subdivisions to be submitted for recording by the local platting authority. Currently the FNSB has no way of accepting those lot splits which were created before the current regulation became effective in 1985, and has on file 86 cases of subdivisions in violation of their ordinance.

Balance in Bank account as of 4/29/96: \$2368.04

STUDENT CHAPTER

May 11, 1996

The Student Chapter has been somewhat busy in the last few months since the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Con-

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1996 TRIG-STAR COMPETITION

The 1996 Trig-Star Competition was held in March and April and was a huge success. Three Chapters, Anchorage, Mat-Su and Kenai, sponsored the program at eleven High Schools with 191 students participating. Anchorage had six schools and 139 students participating. Mat-Su had three schools and 22 students participating. Kenai had two schools and 30 students participating. Participation levels more than doubled from last year.

The program would not have been such a success without the volunteer efforts of those ASPLS members that procured the competitions and the teachers at the individual schools that help coordinate the event. Special thanks goes to all those individuals and businesses that sponsored savings bond awards and to The Surveyor's Exchange, Lewis & Lewis Computers and Arctic Surveyor's Instruments for donating HP-48GX calculators as prizes.

The 1996 Trig-Stars are as follows:

ANCHORAGE
WEST ANCHORAGE HIGH
Owen Aftreth

EAST ANCHORAGE HIGH
EGON OZER
Ryan Young

DIMOND HIGH
Mike Schwaiger

SERVICE HIGH
Alex Armstrong

BARTLETT HIGH
Brandi Boyle

CHUGIAK HIGH
MAT-SU
Mike Jarvis

COLONY HIGH
Jeremiah Knuth

PALMER HIGH
JJ Remus

WASILLA HIGH
KENAI PENINSULA
Milica McDowell

SKYVIEW
Jeff Chaussee

SOLDOTNA HIGH

The 1996 Alaska Trig-Star Champion is Ryan Young. Egon Ozer is first runner-up and Owen Aftreth is second runner-up. Congratulations goes to all participants for a job well done. Ryan will participate in the National Trig-Star Competition to be held in June...good luck!



Tryck Nyman Hayes land surveyor, Paul Price, stands by as a Korean Air Cargo 747 prepares to take off. TNH crews conducted a topographic survey of Runway 24L-6R at Anchorage International Airport in May.
Photo: Jim Robar

Sustaining Members Directory

Geotronics of North America, 911 Hawthorne Dr., Itasca IL 60143
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Education
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Elections
Tony Hoffman, PLS (see above)

Alaska Professional Design Council Delegates

Paul Whipple, PLS (see above)

Michael B. Fretwell, PLS (O) 907 265-2478
8730 Kathleen Dr. (F) 907 265-2439
Anchorage, AK 99502

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ference. This time of year always seems the busiest for students, myself included. Our primary accomplishments were conducting Officer elections and ratifying changes to our organizational constitution and by-laws.

Brief Descriptions of Activities:

Constitution Changes:

- 1.) Add to Article I, “ ; an affiliate Student Chapter of the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS).
- 2.) Article II b, change “Land Surveying as a career” to “Geomatics careers” to encompass the greater variety within Geomatics.
- 3.) Add Article II d, “To assist and participate in ASPLS activities.”
- 4.) Change Article III, Section 3 to read, “Students shall become, or will remain, members in good standing upon payment of annual dues.”
- 5.) Add Article III, Section 3a, “ A co-requisite of SMSA membership shall be concurrent student membership in the ASPLS.”
- 6.) Change Article III, Section 4 to read, “ Annual dues shall be \$10 plus the \$5 ASPLS student membership dues.”

As you can see, I wanted to make it clear that we are a student chapter that should be actively involved with the ASPLS. These changes were approved by the general membership of SMSA and we are now waiting for formal approval from the UAA Club Council, which governs student clubs. We expect approval sometime after the summer session commences (June).

Officer Elections:

- For the 1996/97 school year
- President--Steve Buchanan
- Vice-President--David Phillips
- Treasurer--Kitty Brotherton
- Secretary--John Wilson

We were host to guest speaker Anne Pasch of the UAA Geology Dept., curator of the SouthCentral Museum of Natural History who gave a presentation about a rare archeological find (dinosaur fossils) in the Talkeetna Mtns. We have been discussing the possibility of conducting a survey of the site as our Community Service Project for next year. At this time it looks like we will proceed with a GPS control survey and topo survey of the site (5-10 acres), in late August or early September. We will

probably be looking for support from the professional community in the form of advice and GPS equipment use.

The Web page project had a good start but stalled towards the end of the semester, I'm hoping we can get this finished this summer. Students have been visiting the ASPLS page and are quite impressed--many have found it to be a useful resource page, with its many links. I have no new information at this time concerning the plan to bring Walt Robillard up. I hope to have something soon.

-submitted by,
Steve Buchanan
Student Chapter President



A public dedication for the resetting of the Seward Meridian Initial Point will be held on Tuesday, July 16th at 2:00 pm in Seward at the ¼ corner, 0.5 miles west of the initial point alongside Nash Road (Mile 2). This is also the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the BLM. A press release with additional information is now available from BLM Cadastral Survey.

This is a joint effort with BLM, the Kenai Chapter, the Anchorage Chapter, and the Student Chapter at UAA. Replicas of the Seward Meridian Initial Point Brass cap are available from either George Strother at:

(907)745-9810 (office)
(907)376-3865 (home)
e-mail at:

George.Strother@MSB.co.Mat-Su.ak.us
or from Mike Olson at:
(907) 271-5210 (office)

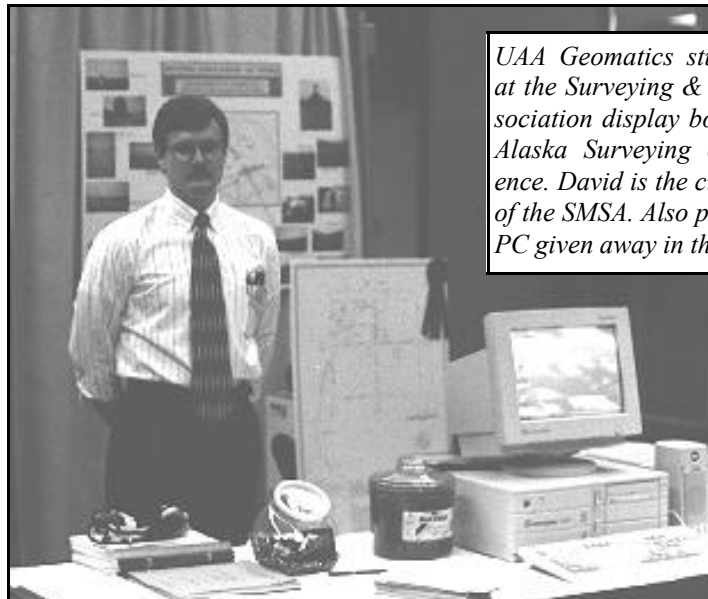
A reception will be held at the Seward Senior Center between 3:00 and 5:00 pm, following the dedication ceremony. RSVP to Pamela Eldridge, ph. 267-1429 or Danielle Allen, ph. 267-1258.

1995-96 Scholarship Announcements

The Maurice P. Oswald Scholarship Selection Committee is pleased to announce that they have selected Katherine “Kitty” Brotherton as the recipient of the 1995-96 Maurice P. Oswald Scholarship. The amount of the scholarship award was \$1,300.

The Sidney Henderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee is also pleased to announce that they have selected Steven J. Buchanan as the recipient of the 1995-96 Sidney Henderson, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The amount of the scholarship award was \$1,300.

These scholarships are supported by the ASPLS membership.



UAA Geomatics student David Phillips at the Surveying & Mapping Student Association display booth during the 1996 Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference. David is the current Vice-President of the SMSA. Also pictured is the desktop PC given away in the annual raffle.

NSPS GOVERNOR'S REPORT

June 18, 1996

The ACSM/ASPRS 1996 Conference was held from April 19th to April 24th in Baltimore, Maryland. Meetings I was able to attend included the NSPS ALTA/ACSM Committee, the NSPS Board of Governors, the NSPS Board of Directors, and the NSPS Foundation, Inc. General Membership Meeting. Following is a brief snapshot of current happenings.

ALTA/ACSM Survey Standards

The new standards have still not been finalized, due primarily to difficulties in clarifying for the laymen the concept of the error ellipse and how it applies to found monumentation. There seems to be an idea that the error in a retracement traverse when closing on a monument of record somehow brings into question the validity of the monument rather than the new survey.

Certified Survey Technicians (CST)

The program is now in full operation, with all four levels of testing in both field and office "routes" being offered. The program has more than doubled in numbers of examinees and in certificates issued in the past two years, and is well on its way to becoming the national standard by which individual field and office techs will measure their progress on the way to professional registration.

Continuing Education Clearinghouse

Rather than maintain a separate recordkeeping effort for continuing education credits, NSPS has entered into discussions with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) to establish a joint clearinghouse to be called the Professional Development Registry for Engineers and Surveyors (PDRES). Each organization will perform its own accreditation authority and cover its own share of the costs. NSPE Board of Directors approved the Partnering agreement, and at Baltimore, the NSPS Board of Directors did the same.

FEMA

The first official meeting of the Technical Mapping Advisory Council was to be held in early May. A report will be published in the near future.

NSPS Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation is off to a solid start. Fundraising is going well, with sales of raffle tickets and memberships and individual donations. The Board of Directors has developed guidelines for disaster relief and scholarship distribution and is working on specifics of criteria for fund solicitation. The tax exempt papers were filed following the Baltimore meeting; any funds donated to the Foundation are fully tax deductible.

Government Affairs

The new Government of Affairs Director, Joe Kuchler (pronounced kooshler) is reported to be making rapid headway getting himself familiarized with our issues and organizations. I had the pleasure of lunching with him and Milt Denny my first day in Baltimore, discussing the private contracting done by the BLM in Alaska. BLM Alaska is really the only branch of the organization with a history of successful contracting of surveying and mapping services to the private sector, and will certainly serve as a model for future contracting by the government.

That history, the application of the Indian Self-Determination Act to the contracting, and the committee chairs held by Alaskans Stevens, Murkowski, and Young in Congress, put Alaska in a unique position of prominence in the coming discussions on contracting. Those discussions are likely to begin in earnest following the completion of the ongoing NAPA study.

NAFTA

Nothing much going on here; still trying to establish a liaison with a Mexican surveying delegation. Canada and the U.S. are still discussing a mission statement.

National Spatial Data Infrastructure

The NSDI Competitive Cooperative Agreement Program (CCAP) was established last September by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to help form partnerships with the non-federal sector to assist in the evolution of the NSDI by funding cooperative efforts among state and local government agencies, institutions of higher learning, and private organizations to encourage re-

source sharing through to use of technology, networking, and more efficient interagency coordination. Check on the Internet—<http://fgdc.er.usgs.gov>

Qualification Based Selection

A resolution was introduced and passed by the Board of Governors, and passed by the NSPS and ACSM Boards of Directors to direct the Government Affairs Committee of ACSM to actively pursue the education of the A/E Design industry that the use of QBS should be the standard method for soliciting and selecting surveying and mapping services and for selecting surveying firms as sub-consultants for all of their projects.

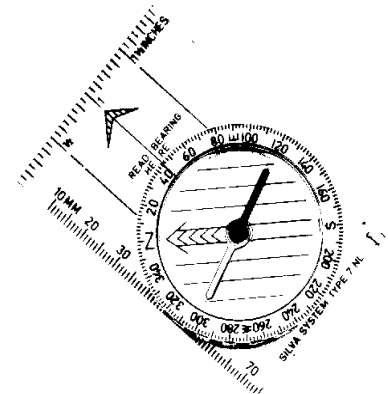
Railroad Abandonment

The issue has gone dormant for now and the NSPS committee has been disbanded, but the fact remains that hundreds of miles of private boundary monumentation is destroyed as old rail lines are removed and right of way abandoned.

Trig Star

The Trig Star program continues to progress, with greater participation this year than last. Alaska was the first to have a state winner this year, and was in fact the only one at the time of the committee report. Thanks to Ken Ayers for energizing the program over the past two years and to all who are keeping the momentum going. Everyone participating finds that it takes only a little time, minimal effort, no money, and is in fact sort of fun.

-submitted by
Craig Savage, P.L.S.
NSPS Governor



NewsClips

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- Standards Of Practice Manuals are available through Tom Knox in Anchorage and John Bennett in Fairbanks. Packed with valuable information, manuals cost \$50 each.
- The ASPLS Web page is open for business. Point your browser to "http://www.imagi.net/~aspls/ ". The homepage contains a wealth of ASPLS information, including draft minutes of Board Meetings, as well as links to Surveying related pages.
- The annual computer raffle at this year's Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference was a tremendous success, with a whopping \$2900 profit donated to the Al Talcott Memorial Fund. This is a general fund that helps support the Department of Geomatics at UAA. Thanks to Barbara Hosier, ASPLS Raffle Chair, for her efforts. The prize, a Gateway 2000 P5-75 desktop computer, was won by Guy Greer.
- ASPLS has committed to becoming a Lifetime Member of the recently formed NSPS Foundation. The Foundation will provide assistance to the surveying community in the form of scholarships, research, and humanitarian aid. Lifetime Members contribute \$5000 in a lump sum or over a period of 5 years. The first \$1000 payment was approved at the May Board Meeting and future payments will come from the first \$1000 of raffle net proceeds over the next 4 years.
- *BLM News:* As part of the BLM 50th Anniversary Celebration, the townsite plaque at 2nd and E streets will be refurbished . The plaque will provide insight to the importance of cadastral surveys to the townsite and growth of Anchorage. A ceremony is planned for July 20th at the Saturday Market, complete with a performance by BLM Oral Historian Joyce Badgely-Hunsaker, historical and current survey technology demonstrations, and photos and maps of the townsite.
- Plaques recognizing Sustaining Members will be awarded.
- The next Board Meeting will be on Saturday, August 24th, 9 a.m. at Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc..

I never really knew what ASPLS was all about and what it has and is accomplishing, until I became actively involved. The biggest reasons for my not knowing what ASPLS was doing were my lack of involvement and the lack of information I received from ASPLS. Based on the responses to John Bennett's member poll and my non-member poll, the lack of information was the most common complaint about ASPLS. Well, we are attempting to get the information out. We have a homepage on the Internet and this is the inaugural issue of what hopefully will be a successful newsletter. I hope this accessibility to information will increase everyone's involvement in the issues facing our profession and in ASPLS.

In order for us to raise the stature of our profession and keep abreast of current issues, an organization such as ASPLS is essential. Unfortunately our membership is small. Only about 20% of Alaska licensed PLSs belong to ASPLS. With so few members and an even smaller percentage of members actively involved, the many tasks required to keep ASPLS an organization Land Sur-

veyors can be proud of are accomplished by a few. I would like to thank our members who continuously contribute to the ASPLS.

I would personally like to thank, John Bennett who created our home page and serves as the Standards of Practice Chair (our Standards of Practice Manual is an excellent manual and no Alaska Land Surveyor should be without one), George Strother who serves as the Membership Chair and our WestFed Delegate "B", Craig Savage our Governor to NSPS, Steve Buchanan our Student Chapter Representative and the editor of this newsletter, Pat Kalen our Legislative Chair, and Tony Hoffman and John Kerr who stepped forward to successfully run for office.

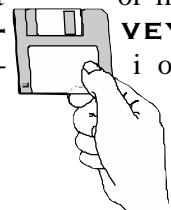
In order for this newsletter to be a success, we need input from all Alaska PLS's. If you have suggestions, information, opinions, anything you would like to see in the newsletter, let us know. We will publish the next issue in December after the November Board meeting.

-WDC-

June 11, 1996

Newsletter Submissions Requested

At this time two issues per year of **THE ALASKAN SURVEYOR** are planned, provided enough content is submitted for each issue. If results are positive from the first two issues, there is the possibility of publishing a total of four issues per year. What we need from the surveying community is constructive input regarding this first issue, ideas for future issues, and most importantly submissions for publication. We need stories, humorous bits and pieces, letters to the editor, interesting or unique survey newsworthy items, essays, or technical works. Written material should be submitted on disk in standard ASCII format or in Microsoft Word document format. **THE ALASKAN SURVEYOR** cannot guarantee the accuracy of any item or story. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the authors.



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