

# SUMMER BBQ!



## Parallax

Newsletter of the Central Coast Chapter of the  
California Land Surveyors Association

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# CCC CLSA SUMMER BBQ

*Join us for the Famous Fargen Santa Maria Style BBQ.  
Annual Horse Shoe Tournament. Door Prizes, Raffle  
and fun for all ages.*

*August 15, 2015 at 11:00 am*

**Cuesta Park, San Luis Obispo  
NO RSVP Needed**



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# AN EYE TO THE NEXT GENERATION

By Shaheed Smith, PLS



The best part about being a land surveyor is the number of hats that we wear during the course of any given day or through the life of a project.

For instance, we are scientists in the fact that we use scientific principles as a means of achieving true measurement.

We sometimes get to play the role of a lawyer when we need to review legal documentation in light of property rights. In fact, Eminent Domain, Adverse Possession, and Prescriptive Rights are legal principles that fall under our purview to interpret as surveyors.

We often get to be a historian as we delve into a property chain of title in hopes of establishing property rights and original intent. In doing so, there are those rare occasions when we need to trace our property back to original land grants that existed well before the Declaration of Independence was in place by our forefathers.

While all of these factors are important to who we are as surveyors, the greatest role that we play is that of teacher and recruiter. As we look at what our future may hold, it is incumbent upon us as the practicing

professionals to search out, vet, and mentor that next generation of surveyors. And with the aging and attrition challenges slowly becoming full-fledged problems, playing the role of educator can go a long way to equalizing the rate of incoming surveyors with those exiting the profession. The debate has been raging for quite some time, and perhaps the answer was always right in front of us.

We tend to view the dwindling number of surveyors as a national problem, far away from where we are. But if you recently tried to hire a survey manager or an experienced field manager you probably sensed how close this issue is. It's a problem that won't be solved in its entirety by NSPS or state societies with their public relations plans, but it will require a consorted effort on the part of industry to educate those who will someday carry on the torch.

## Build a Solid Foundation

How do we do this? In a host of ways, but the essential idea is that you take that knowledge stored up in your head or tucked away in the forgotten files and place where others can learn from it. Remember how you learned to survey? Most likely someone with more experience took the time to guide you through the early steps and communicate to you those principles, as mentioned earlier, that make this such as well-rounded field.

## Promote Formal Education

It's going to take us realizing that

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2015

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## An Eye to the Next Generation

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what we can teach the next generation is limited at best and can only be enhanced through the formal education process. Not to mention that a professional license without four-year degree is becoming a thing of the past.

### Wow with technology

Show them the toys that we have: the animation and 3D videos that can be created and the UAV technology that is on the verge of exploding. Once people can see that there is much more to us than being the guys looking through the camera on the side of the road, then they will also see that being a surveyor is not that bad.

Remember the famous line for

the movie Field of Dreams: "If you build, he will come"? We've built a technology base that will rival most of today's industries. Now with a little more work, we can watch the next generation of surveyors take advantage of it for years to come.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### FROM NSPS

NGS is still requesting Input on the NGS Reference Frame 2022. You can view a Power Point presentation at [http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nsps/2022\\_Reference\\_Frames.pdf](http://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nsps/2022_Reference_Frames.pdf) and take brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72YMSYL> (It took about 3 minutes).

Surveyors Historical Society is meeting in Bellingham Washington from September 9-13. For more information go to <http://surveyorshistoricalsociety.com/Rendez.php>

Senate Committee approves modified Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR Act) which calls for a Federal land cadastre. However the House version of the bill does not include the Federal land cadastre, but still has a number of committees to go through. The senate version can be found at <http://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=legislation&id=87D9E1CF-1B96-4815-9D05-387798EFAEA7> and the house version at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3121?q={>

### FROM CLSA

Railroad workshop is being offered August 7 in Sonoma County and August 14 in Ontario. More information can be found at <http://www.californiasurveyors.org/pdfs/events/2015%20Railroad.pdf>

Historic Photos available to benefit the CLSA Education Foundation. Go to <http://clsaphotos.smugmug.com/> for details



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# EDITOR'S CORNER

By: Tom Mastin

## OUT OF THE LOOP



Usually, my editorial is either me whining about me being so old or complaining about everyone else being so young. This month I am going to take a slight change in tack. I am going to moan about being away from being a practicing professional for so long. I am sure many of you would say I need quite a bit more practice before I actually survey, but that won't happen. I have

been teaching (yes I know that saying about those that teach) full time for 13 years. I really enjoy my work, as I really enjoyed actual surveying before I became a full time instructor. What is apparent, however, is that I am not aware of the current "work-flow" practices.

I just returned from this year's ESRI User's conference in San Diego. ESRI is the producer of ArcGIS the dominant GIS software on the market; far more dominant than say Autodesk is in the CAD market. There were approximately 15,000 people at the conference which would run about 50 concurrent sessions for each of the 4 session periods each day. I was only there 2 1/2 days so I was mostly in sessions during that time, most of

them quite interesting to me. None of that is what I want to talk about. During the breaks I would walk down to the exhibits showroom, which was massive, covering everything from defense industry to the health industry. Most of the big players in surveying technology were there including Trimble, Topcon, Leica, Carlson and others.

First let me say, that those surveying manufactures for the most part see the surveying industry as a minor segment of their market, or at least of how I think of the surveying industry, which is how I saw it when I was practicing those many years ago. I do not know if many of you are active in Attribute collection, terrestrial photogram-

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### Central Coast Chapter CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION 2015 Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Contact<sup>2</sup>

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you: LS    LSIT    RCE    Other

State CLSA: Life    Corporate    Affiliate    Student    Associate    None

1. This is where Parallax and all other chapter correspondence is to be sent
2. Check if you should be the primary contact for the company or agency

**Chapter Dues \$20.00** per Person (Yearly Dues)

Please Make Check payable to: **Central Coast Chapter CLSA**

Send Payments to : David Karp  
543 Andrea Cir.  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

I am also contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Scholarship Fund

I am also contributing \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Trig-Star Fund



## Editor's Corner

From page 4

metry, lidar and UAS data acquisition. Ok, I know that you are not yet involved in UAS (Unmanned Aircraft System) data acquisition, at least legally in the United States. So that is my first "Out of the Loop" realization, that there are these other avenues available to the surveying industry. As I practiced surveying, I did not see those as a benefit, because I believed for the most part they added additional time to the completion of the types of projects I worked on. They certainly looked fun, and many of them provided all sorts of additional data, however I am not sure the benefit/cost ratio was on the positive side. It may be because I don't understand the appropriate work flow or the current state of the client's needs.

One of the more interesting aspect of current work-flow was on the communication side of the technology. Almost all the manufacturers had some way of real-time or near real-time transfer of field data to the office and back. This again to me appeared to be overkill for most jobs in that I am not sure most jobs warrant someone sitting in the office just waiting for the field crew to collect data. However certain jobs, especially construction jobs, I could

see where having this direct transfer could be of benefit, unless of course you are a one person operation. The sales people at the conference all acted like this is standard practice, but then again I could never get any actual cost on any piece of equipment. So I don't know if most of you use this technology.

The other fork flow process that all the sales people acted like it was standard operating procedure in all offices was some variation of a data dictionary. This is where, based on

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the descriptions entered into the field for a topographic survey, the CAD program would automatically draw most the line work. I know this concept has been around since there were data collectors and CAD, however in my time they were not used by many companies because of the belief that it cost more field time than it saved in the office. Again, if the sales people are

to be believed, this is a very common practice these days.

So I am interested in knowing if any of these workflows are in place where you work. I would like to know so I could bring standard work flows into the classroom and also just so I know what is going on. Let me know if you use any of these or if you have any stories about trying to use these work flows I would be interested.

One last thing. I discussed the surveying industry and not the surveying profession because this is how these manufactures look at this as. They are selling this equipment to anyone and everyone that they think might benefit from the technology. This after all was a GIS conference, where most of the attendees have no idea what the LS act is or what a Land Surveyor is. I am sure there are agencies and companies buying high end GPS/GNSS equipment with no land surveyor in sight. I don't see that there is any way to stop this, so again it is up to use to educate when they legally need a land surveyor and when they would benefit from a land surveyor.

I hope to see you all at the barbeque, as always it should be a great fun!

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## NGS GPS ON BENCHMARK PROGRAM

**F**or National Survey week of March 15, 2015 NGS had a volunteer effort to "GPS on Bench Marks". This data is to be used to improve the quality of the next Geoid Model. Looking at the map of benchmarks collected <http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=2753ba56ebd443ccb5cbdfc481fb0a4c&extent=-154.4432,3.1465,-36.3182,63.1471> the Central Coast Chapter collected approximately 0 benchmarks. Well we were all busy then.

The good news is they still want benchmarks collected. The process is simple if not quick. Information on this project can be found at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/GPSonBM/>



## California Land Surveyors Association Central Coast Chapter 3rd Quarterly Board of Director's Meeting Report

The CLSA Board of Directors met at the Holiday Inn in Oakland on July 25. Items of interest to the Central Coast Chapter included the following:

- President Seymour reports that his cancer is in remission and he has a clean bill of health, and is ready to continue his term as President.
- John Warren, current NSPS President spoke to the Board and expressed that groups interest in having California become as a joint-member state. Some highlights of NSPS:
  - Meets with former ACSM sister organizations under Coalition of Geo-spatial Governments (COGO): American Association of Geodetic Surveyors (AAGS), Cartographic and Geographic Information Society (CaGIS).
  - Member of International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
  - Challenged surveyors as a laborer classification.
- President Seymour created 7 new ad-hoc committees charged with making recommendations to the Board on their actions: CEO/EO/COO com., County Surveyor com., Unrecorded Maps com., Restructuring com., Student Conference com., Qualification Based Selection com., Financial QA/QC Audit com.
- Frank Lehman has stepped down as chair of the Public Awareness Committee, Casey Lynch is the new chair.
- The Board carried a motion to accept the San Francisco Chapter Bylaws.
- The Board interviewed John Wiluz, Howard Brunner, and Bill Hofferber applicants for BPLSG's LS position:
  - A Director was barred from asking questions after it was brought to the board's attention that the barred director was a candidate for the position, though not seeking CLSA's endorsement. The three applicants had provided their confidential applications, to be published in the July 25th meeting agenda, by a motion made by the same Director at the April meeting.
- **Action Item:** input from chapters is sought on how the Board should distribute it's agenda: open to all, outlined only, or confidential.
- Executive Director Dorothy Calegari notified the Board of her resignation, effective 30 days from the meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5pm, roughly half way through the written agenda. There was much turmoil at the meeting, given the day's events. Deep seeded issues within CLSA have risen to the surface and need to be dealt with. There is much work to be done and as your director I welcome all input.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Oakland on November 7th. Chapter reports are due by September 30th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian McClain