



PARALLAX

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

Volume 5, Issue 4

April 2001

METRIC – Where In the World Are We?

by Bob Fredricks L.S.

History:

The push for the United States to go metric began with the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. This began a national policy encouraging the use of the metric system. At this point it was a voluntary program and it was hoped that it would catch on in business and product sectors. Support for this change was limited. Then in 1988 the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act was passed by congress. This amended the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 to make the metric system the preferred system of weights and measures for America's trade and commerce. What this did was force all federal agencies to adopt a metric system. The effect on engineers and surveyors was felt by the 5-year plan for metric conversion by the Federal Highway Administration, which was approved by the Secretary of Transportation in 1991. This set the requirement and deadline of October 1996 for all states to be metric. This was later amended by the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 to a conversion date of October 2000. It was later removed altogether.

Status:

Presently the Federal Highway Administration policy is to remain metric internally. Dual units are being used with metric first and imperial in parentheses on external publications. Caltrans, in August of 1998, told local agencies they must use metric on projects on the state highway system but could use either on projects off the system. This was later amended in October 1999 to the use of dual units on projects up to \$1 million within the state right-of-way. Many of the local agencies that have gone metric have adopted the Caltrans standards and specifications. It has also created boilerplate contract documents to help local agencies with Federal-aid projects. Caltrans has begun to produce fewer projects with imperial units and will grant metric exceptions on a case by case basis.

It's worth noting that presently the United States and Myanmar (formerly Burma) are the only nations still using imperial units as a primary system of measure.

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APRIL MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2001	Location: Busis on the Park
Time:..... 6:30pm.....no-host cocktails	1122 Pine Street
.....7:00pm.....business meeting	Paso Robles
.....7:15pm.....dinner	Dinner: Beef / Chicken / Salmon
.....8:00pm.....Program & Speaker	Cost : \$25.00 includes tax & tip

Program:

Mr. John W. Belsher, Esq. - "The Coastal Commission and Lot Line Adjustments".

RSVP by Tuesday, April 10th to:

Rochelle Vierra549-3461 or 461-3360 or email Rochelle_Vierra@dot.ca.gov



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March Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2001

Meeting held at A.J. Spurs in San Luis Obispo

I. Call to Order 7:08 by Mark Lewis

II. Introductions

III. Approval of February 2001. Motion to approve by Randy Ellison, second by John Sanders. Minutes approved.

IV. Officer's Reports

- A. President's Report by Mark Lewis - No Report
- B. Vice President's Report by Rochelle Vierra - No Report
- C. Secretary / Treasurer's Report by Craig Yates

General Fund \$8309.35	Education Fund \$2093.42	Legal Fund	\$40.00
Historical Fund \$350.00	Trig Star Fund		\$20.00

V. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Education Committee - Tom Mastin, No Report.
2. Membership Committee - Craig Yates- As of 3/8/01 there are 60 local chapter members of which there are 7 Life, 27 Corporate, 3 Associate, 1 Affiliate, 1 Student and 21 with no current State Affiliation.
3. Professional Practices Committee - (Mark Lewis, Joe Morris, Linda Richardson, Dan Manion, Leonard Lenger) No Report.

B. Special Committees

1. Publications Committee - (Bryce Dilger, Mark Lewis) Mark to contact Central Office as to whereabouts of Joe Carey.
2. Trig-Star Committee - (Randy Woodjack, George Marchenko, Keith Crowe, John Sanders, Skip Touchon, Jo Ann Head, Alan Volbrecht, Mark Lewis, Randy Ellison, Tom Mastin, Geoff Villegas, Dave Carey, Burke Blake, Leonard Lenger) Testing to be done April 2nd, we will know winners by our next months meeting. The following schools will be participating: Paso Robles, Atascadero, Templeton, SLO, Morro Bay, and Mission Prep. Awards banquet to be in May.
3. Workshops/Seminar Committee - Randy Ellison, There are still approximately 7 openings for the Roy Minnick Water Boundaries all day seminar at the SLO FATCO office.
4. BBQ Committee - (Ken Fargen, Mark Lewis, Clay Margason, Bryce Dilger) Ken Fargen, No Report.
5. Nominating Committee - Mark Lewis, No Report.
6. Christmas Committee - Linda Richardson, No Report.
7. By-Laws Committee - Tom mastin, Mark Lewis said he has found copy of our current by-laws and committee will meet to review after current LS/LSIT review classes are completed.

C. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Scholarship Committee - (Bob Fredericks, Tom Mastin) Bob Fredericks passed out two letters of appreciation from Fresno State students, John Franz and George Nystrom recipients of our Chapters two \$500 scholarships given at the Annual CSUF Conference in January.
2. G.I.S. Development Committee - Victor Rasgado, No Report.
3. Historical Records Committee- (Dan Manion, Dave Carey) Randy Ellison said the Dalide Adobe is looking for some possible CE drainage design work. Mark Lewis passed out letter requesting the Chapter donate some time to provide topographic mapping. Leonard mentioned chapter had volunteered in the past for the Friends of the Adobe. Randy said it would probably take two crews one Saturday to complete. Mark Lewis, Leonard Lenger, Dave Carey and Randy Ellison volunteered to

March Meeting Minutes (Continued...)

4. Legislative Liaison Committee - Mike Stanton, Mike gave overview of California Coastal Commission changes in regards to Certificates of Compliance and Lot Line Adjustment approvals would need Commission review and approval. See article in March Parallax. Randy Ellison brought up the issue of permanent ink on mylar. Richard Cassera made motion, seconded by John Sanders that Mark Lewis talk with Dan Manion about this issue and report back. Motion carries.

VI. State Board Report (Randy Woodjack, Randy Ellison, and Linda Richardson)- Linda stated that April is next meeting and they will need a Chapter report to provide as we did not provide one last meeting. VP Rochelle Vierra will put this together.

VII. Old Business - None

VIII. New Business - John Sanders brought up situation of Improvement plans being done in the City of Paso Robles, monuments being set as condition of improvement plans, no recording of survey to show how monuments were established. There was quite a bit of differing discussion. County improvement plans are filed with County Surveyor, City plans are not, should an RS be required. Perhaps City ordinances need to be reviewed and chapter needs to make recommendations if changes should be made. Mark Lewis brought up SB 1999 Prevailing Wage, Mike Stanton reminded everyone that this went into effect January 1, 2001 and affects field work and inspection on publicly funded jobs, even during the preliminary stages of projects.

IX. Announcements - Mark Lewis announced that July 21, 2001 is the Mount Diablo remonumentation.

X. Program - The speaker this evening is Sam Blakeslee of Blakeslee & Blakeslee. Sam gave an overview of Stock Market expectations, Investment Pitfalls, Types of Accounts for retirement planning and Education planning.

XI. Adjournment ±9:15 p.m.

There were 21 in attendance.
submitted, Craig Yates.

Respectfully

**JL
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LS/LSIT REVIEW CLASSES

The Central Coast Chapter is proud to sponsor a Land Surveyor and Land Surveyor in Training review classes for 2001. The classes will be a **review** of test subjects presented by local Land Surveyors. You need not be taking the test to enjoy and learn from the classes.

DATE & TIME

Wednesday nights from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM through April 4.

LOCATION

Conference Room at John L Wallace &

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From the Internet...

Keeping it all in perspective

On 18 February 2001, while racing for fame and fortune, Dale Earnhardt died in the last lap of the Daytona 500. It was surely a tragedy for his family, friends and fans. He was 49 years old with grown children, one, which was in the race. I am new to the NASCAR culture so much of what I know has come from the newspaper and TV. He was a winner and earned everything he had. This included more than "\$41 million in winnings and ten times that from endorsements and souvenir sales". He had a beautiful home and a private jet. He drove the most sophisticated cars allowed and every part was inspected and replaced as soon as there was any evidence of wear. This is normally fully funded by the car and team sponsors. Today, there is no TV station that does not constantly remind us of his tragic end and the radio already has a song of tribute to this winning driver. Nothing should be taken away from this man, he was a professional and the best in his profession. He was in a very dangerous business but the rewards were great.

Two weeks ago seven U.S. Army soldiers died in a training accident when two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters collided during night maneuvers in Hawaii. The soldiers were all in their twenties, pilots, crewchiefs and infantrymen. Most of them lived in sub-standard housing. If you add their actual duty hours (in the field, deployed) they probably earn something close to minimum wage. The aircraft they were in were between 15 and 20 years old. Many times parts were not available to keep them in good shape due to funding. They were involved in the extremely dangerous business of flying in the Kuhuku mountains at night. It only gets worse when the weather moves in as it did that night. Most times no one is there with a yellow or red flag to slow things down when it gets critical. Their children were mostly toddlers who will lose all memory of who "Daddy" was as they grow up. They died training to defend our freedom.

I take nothing away from Dale Earnhardt but ask you to perform this simple test. Ask any of your friends if they know who was the NASCAR driver killed on 18 February 2001. Then ask them if they can name one of the seven soldiers who died in Hawaii two weeks ago.

18 February 2001, Dale Earnhardt died driving for fame and glory at the Daytona 500. The nation mourns. Seven soldiers died training to protect our freedom. No one can remember their names.

James V. Torney CW4, US Army, Retired

Quick History Lesson Author Unknown

Here's a little part of US history which makes you go hmmm....
Have a history teacher explain this ---- If they can.

- Abraham Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
- John F. Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.
- Abraham Lincoln was elected President in 1860.
- John F. Kennedy was elected President in 1960.

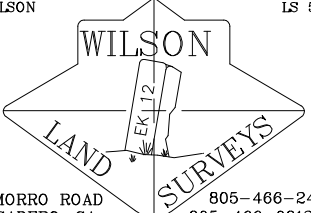
The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain seven letters.

- Both were particularly concerned with civil rights.
- Both wives lost their children while living in the White House.
- Both Presidents were shot on a Friday.
- Both Presidents were shot in the head.
- Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.
- Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln.


- Both were assassinated by Southerners.
- Both were succeeded by Southerners named Johnson.
- Andrew Johnson, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808.
- Lyndon Johnson, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908.
- John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839.
- Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939.
- Both assassins were known by their three names.
- Both names are composed of fifteen letters.
- Lincoln was shot at the theater named 'Ford.'
- Kennedy was shot in a car called 'Lincoln.'
- Booth ran from the theater and was caught in a warehouse.
- Oswald ran from a warehouse and was caught in a theater.
- Booth and Oswald were assassinated before their trials.

And here's the kicker:
A week before Lincoln was shot, he was in Monroe, Maryland.
A week before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe.

KEN WILSON LS 5571



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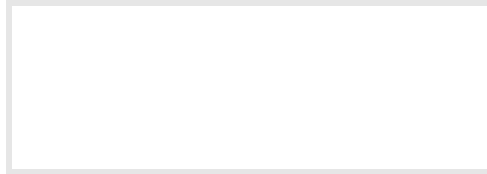
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