



the witness corner

Digital Issue No. 93, November 2011

CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
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CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

NOVEMBER DINNER MEETING REMINDER

TUESDAY NIGHT – NOVEMBER 15, 2011
SOCIAL 6:00 PM DINNER 7 :00 PM

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT



LOCATION: JT SCHMID'S

2610 E. KATELLA BLVD., ANAHEIM, CA 92806
ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE ANAHEIM POND
JUST EAST OF THE 57 FREEWAY

This month's meeting is all about opportunity! This is our annual Student Scholarship Night where we will be awarding scholarships to worthy Land Surveying students throughout the state. This is a great opportunity to come out and meet some talented students, the professors that instruct them, and do some recruiting. So bring plenty of business cards and we hope to see you there!

And as always, you do not have to be a member to attend!

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: JENNIFER PALMER (949) 474-1960
OR E-MAIL RESERVATIONS: jpalmer@fuscoe.com
COST: \$30.00 PER PERSON
\$20.00 STUDENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Members:

Our Chapter president, Tony Cuomo, is on holiday this week. As the incoming president I have the opportunity to write this month's president's message.

Tony's agenda was to have the Orange County Chapter of CLSA focus on practice issues including continuing education (currently termed professional development hours-PDH) and monument preservation (currently termed monument conservation). There has been an on-going effort toward continuing education (more than 40 years) which reached a crescendo last month when Governor Brown vetoed a continuing education bill. Governor Brown stated that professionals do not need to be mandated to continue their education because, as professionals, they will seek continuing education on their own. Governor Brown went on to say he did not want to support those people that provide continuing education through such legislation.

The Governor's message is simple, continuing education is dead. Continuing education will remain dead for the balance of his term - 3 years or 7 years upon reelection. I have asked Central Office to publish the Governor's letter in the CalSurveyor.

Monument Conservation under California Business and Professions Code § 8771 has been a much talked about topic in recent months. I could write for days on the perceptions, opinions and the mechanics of last Saturday's meeting, but I won't. Suffice it to say, not everyone in the State shares our enthusiasm for preserving monuments. We did our best but it was not good enough this time around, maybe another Chapter will find the spunk to give it the college try.

Orange County Chapter's focus will continue to be practice issues throughout 2012. We saw spikes in attendance and some new-old faces this year. It seems as though our membership is interested in

practice issues. We have lost the battle for continuing education, personally I have given up the on the effort to seek a legal opinion on strengths or weaknesses of Section 8771.

Looking ahead to 2012 on a positive note, we have a clean slate to address new issues. I have a few ideas such as:

- Have you ever wondered why minimum requirements for land title surveys require us to show improvements?
- Aren't land title surveys boundary surveys?
- Why do all of our reference textbooks state that the surveyor must show improvements, particularly encroachments, in relation to boundaries, yet very few of the filed records of survey show improvements? Why is that?
- When the improvements are not shown, does that mean the improvements onsite agree with the boundaries established? If so, why isn't there a note stating that fact?
- As Orange County continues to be built out and projects become redevelopment sites, rather than construction on vacant land, we will see more adjoining owner conflicts. What are our obligations to note these conflicts on our maps? Is there a written standard that states a surveyor should not show such information?
- We are all aware of several standards which state encroachments must be noted. If a surveyor does not note the conflicts, could this be collusion to assist the owner in avoiding disclosure issues?

In the upcoming year, our Chapter needs to springboard off of 2011's practice issue focus. In the upcoming year we will have a couple of seminars by some nationally recognized figures, we will initiate debate and discourse, we will have offensive language and hard feelings and, at the end of the day, our success or failure will be measured by the direction and distance we have moved our profession forward.

We are not a supper club or a social outlet. How could we be, most of us don't really like each other.

Best,

Dave Woolley
Vice-President

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER SCHEDULE OF 2011 MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

As a general rule, the board meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and the general meeting is the following week. Below is our tentative schedule of events for the coming year. Please note that things change, and this is only tentative.

As of this writing, the board meetings will be held at the offices of Johnson-frank & associates, 5150 east hunter avenue, Anaheim, ca, 92807. Board meetings commence at 5:00 with dinner, and generally run from 5:30 to 7:00 or 7:30. Any member is encouraged to attend, but seating is somewhat limited. If you have a matter that you believe should be brought to the board, please contact Tony Cuomo (tonycuomo@johnson-frank.com) with your intent.

November 8 - Board meeting
November 15 – Scholarship Night

December – No Board meeting
December 2 – Casino Night

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 11, 2011

Location: Johnson-Frank, Anaheim

Meeting called to order: 5:30PM

Attendees:

Tony Cuomo – President
Dave Woolley – Vice-President
Jim Faser - Treasurer
Greg Sebourn – Secretary/Chapter Rep.
Peter Fitzpatrick – Imm. Past President
Jerry Uselton – Alt. Rep.
Joshua Tatman – Secretary-Elect
Tom Propst – Treasurer-Elect
Kurt Hoen – Past President

Motion made and passed to suspend Rules in order for all to vote.

- Motion accepted.

Sept. minutes: Unanimously approved.

President's Report: (Tony Cuomo)

- Review and discussion of letter from Central Office. Cuomo to brief general chapter membership at October Dinner Meeting on his efforts to meet with and inform other chapters. See newsletter for President's Letter for more information.
- Tony brought up and gave a brief overview of what appears to be a new internal policy at the Orange County Surveyor's Office regarding the submission of records of survey and the use of DRAFT or PRELIMINARY on those documents. May be a good topic for discussion at the next JPPC meeting.
- Tony shared a request from the Desert Chapter seeking help laying out 5,000 flags at the 6th Annual Healing Fields, A Tribute to Our Fallen Heroes in Cathedral City. If you would like to help, contact Christopher Alberts at CALberts@rbf.com.

Vice President's Report: (Dave Woolley)

- No Report / No Raffle Sponsor

Treasurer's Report:

- Abbreviated Report by Pres. Cuomo reflects \$18,344 in checking account. Includes \$6,375 for Ray Mercado Scholarship but NOT Paul Cuomo Scholarship.

Secretary's Report: (Greg Sebourn)

- No Report

Membership Report: (Alan Frank)

- 538 on mailing list
- 176 members (34 associate, 122 corporate, 6 student, 14 sustaining)
- Several unpaid memberships due to economic hardship.

Education Report: (Lisa Gaston)

- No Report

Legislative Report: (Dave Woolley)

- CLSA Leg Com to seek definition of "ESTABLISH" to be included in the Board Rules.
- Next State Legislative Committee meeting is October 15, 2011 at RBF's Sacramento office.

Trig Star and Scouting Merit Badge: (Greg Sebourn)

- Greg is now a registered volunteer with Girl Scouts and is ready to help ALL Scouts earn their respective Survey Merit Badges, Engineering Pins, and Belt loops.

Newsletter: (Rich Lopez)

- No report.
- Board recognized and commended Rich for his stellar work on the Witness Corner. Thanks Rich!

Activities Chairman: (Joe Padilla)

- No report.

JPPC: (Roger Frank)

- No Report.

Chapter Reps Report: (Joe Padilla)

- No report.

Website (Kurt Troxell)

- No report.
- Brief discussion about maximizing the website's capabilities and the future of the site's hosting at RBF which was recently acquired by the Michael Baker Company.

Caltrans Liaison (Don Mertens)

- Report submitted.
- Board recognized and commended Don for his effort and work as the Caltrans Liaison even though Don has been retired from Caltrans for more than a year. Thanks Don!

SCC-CLSA Liaison (Tiffany Padilla)

- No report.

New Business

- Tony acting as Joe Padilla's proxy made a motion to raise student dinner price from \$15 to \$20. Currently, the Chapter loses \$15 for each student dinner. Now the Chapter will lose about \$10. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. New price will take affect in November.
- Up-coming events around So Cal include:
 - ESRI Workshop, contact Ryan Versteeg at rversteeg@deainc.com
 - Subdivision Map Act Seminars, go to www.LandUseNavigators.com
 - GPS vs GIS Webinar with Gary Kent at Santiago Canyon College, Tuesday October 18 in room U-89 from noon to 2PM. See Newsletter for details or contact Tiffany Padilla at tmbrocks88@yahoo.com.
- Next board meeting at Johnson-Frank, Anaheim, Nov. 8, 2011; 5:30 p.m.

➤ ***All Board Meetings are open to the public. RSVP to Chapter President not necessary but very appreciated.***

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:
Greg Sebourn, Secretary
CLSA Orange County Chapter

ARE SURVEYORS IN DECLINE – OR HAS PRECISION TAKEN A NEW DIRECTION.

Hello Members, following is an article that was sent to me by one of my readers; yes someone actually reads my newsletter!

The article was written by Jeff Thurston and reprinted from www.asmmag.com, copyright 2010 ASM. ASM – Asian Surveying & Mapping is an internet magazine that provides news on GIS, GNSS, spatial information, remote sensing, mapping and surveying technologies for Asia.

There are quite a few interesting articles in this internet magazine and I suggest if you have the time, take a look and see what else is happening in our profession around the world.

Is the need for professional surveying descending or are other factors contributing toward a decline in the numbers? There is evidence that the number of qualified surveyors with professional credentials is declining. No doubt difficulties in the housing markets globally are impacting surveyors, quasi-salaried employment through consultancy are also problematic. However, other factors may be driving the declining surveyor perceptions and these ought to be considered.

A recent Mortgage Finance Gazette article suggests that surveying and surveyors are in decline. "The future of the surveying profession has been a cause for concern for many years. Some surveyors contend that the surveying profession, in its current form, could be heading towards extinction," the article said.

The evidence to support this observation is the average age of a surveyor (greater than 55). "Their reasons include a gradual decline in the number of qualified and licensed professionals, absence of the other traditional training route of the multi-disciplinary general

surveying practice, impact of emerging technologies, sophisticated and more capable equipment, and a decline in the number of new graduates into the profession," indicates the article.

Within those last few sentences is a clue to part of the problem. If we look around today we can find many non-professionals are employing high-accuracy positioning technologies. Total stations are robotic, thus able to make needed surveys in automated fashion.

Much of the survey technology related data finds its way into CAD-based programs as compared to geographic information systems (GIS) - along with limitations and integration issues with other spatial data. It can be disturbing to accept that surveyors are in decline, however, there is considerable evidence pointing toward high accuracy and precision adding value throughout architecture, utility, planning and development work flow chains.

The perception of what a surveyor does in 2011 is not well understood outside of the surveying community. While surveyors may understand the value and importance of their work (and I agree), non-surveyors do not understand the value of this work in easily identifiable and useful ways. To complicate matters more, some agricultural producers argue that they are being asked to buy surveying technologies, when they are agricultural professionals. Do we articulate the value of high quality accuracy and precision on the basis of agricultural values enough?

'Facing the Challenge of the Shrinking, Aging Surveying Profession' - a report from the International Federation of Surveyors says, "the traditional surveying academic programs of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s are not sustainable with the current numbers of students seeking entry into the surveying profession."

From my perspective, those surveyors who can deliver the value of accuracy and precision across work flows involving CAD, GIS, building design, housing, underground measurement within a wholly integrated framework will embrace all that industry and society ask for today.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Greetings Members,

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and healthy and preparing for the upcoming Holidays.

Speaking of Holidays, November 11th is Veterans Day. As you know, Veterans Day is an annual Holiday in the United States dedicated to honoring our military veterans, but did you know how this Holiday came about?



Veterans Day originated from “Armistice Day” or “Remembrance Day”, as it is celebrated in other parts of the world, which marks the first anniversary of the end of World War I.

Most hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the “Armistice”.

On November 11, 1919 President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for the United States.

Years later Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and on November 11, 1938, “Armistice Day” became a national Holiday; a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace.



On May 26, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law that “Armistice Day” would turn into Veterans Day, celebrating all veterans, not just those who died in World War I.

Veterans Day has evolved into also honoring living military veterans with parades and speeches across this great nation of ours with a national ceremony that takes place at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.



American Veterans by the numbers as of 2010:

- 21.8 million veterans in the United States.
- 1.6 million female veterans.
- 9 million veterans 65 and older in 2010. At the other end of the age spectrum, 1.7 million were younger than 35.
- 7.6 million Vietnam-era veterans. Thirty-five percent of all living veterans served during this time (1964-1975). In addition, 4.8 million served during the Gulf War (representing service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present); 2.1 million in World War II (1941-1945); 2.6 million in the Korean War (1950-1953); and 5.5 million in peacetime only.
- 49,500 of living veterans who served during the Vietnam era and both Gulf War eras and no other period.
- 54,000 living veterans who served during three wars: WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam era.
- 837, 000 living veterans who served during both Gulf War eras.
- 211,000 living veterans who served both the Korean War and the Vietnam era.
- 147,000 living veterans who served both WWII and the Korean War.

Our military brothers and sisters are not selfish; they live their lives to serve the people of the United States and live the values they are taught. They are disciplined, physically, and mentally tough and always ready to deploy to confront the enemies of the United States of America. They are the guardians of freedom and the American way of life.



So as Veterans Day approaches, take a moment to think about the military personnel who have risked their lives or have died protecting the very freedoms that we enjoy today.



If it were up to me, everyday would be Veterans Day! God Bless our military brothers and sisters who protect us.

Until next time, be safe, healthy, and happy!

Rich Lopez – Witness Corner Editor
CLSA Orange County Chapter
rjlopez@fuscoe.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As we struggle with the economy, we as professionals must find ways to make ourselves more marketable to potential employers. Times are tough and there are more than just a few people out of work at this time.

So what can you do to make yourself stand out in front of the pack; why not go back to school and beef up your knowledge on the profession you love?

Currently the UCR Extension program, www.extension.ucr.edu, is offering two courses that are a part of the Global Positioning System Technology Certificate, <http://www.extension.ucr.edu/academics/certificates/global.html>

Check out the program description of the GPS Technology Certificate at <http://www.extension.ucr.edu/academics/certificates/pdf/gps.pdf>

The following courses are currently open for enrollment:

Map Projections https://www.extension.ucr.edu/enroll/catalog/olr_course_details.php?crsid=3264

Explores the general characteristics of map projections such as the projection families, tangency and case, aspects and perspectives, and the principles and mathematical calculations involved in transforming latitude and longitude into the State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS). The three map projections are examined during this course:

- The Transverse Mercator
- The Lambert Conformal Conic
- The Universal Transverse Mercator

{Instructor: Kevin Kelly is a Geodesist with ESRI with 33 years of experience}

GPS Techniques: RTK, CORS, and DGPS

https://www.extension.ucr.edu/enroll/catalog/olr_course_details.php?crsid=3258

How the various GPS positioning techniques work, and their applications and limitations. Topics include:

- Point positioning
- Differential positioning
- Precise relative positioning
- Including CORS
- Real-time kinematic (RTK) positioning

{Instructor Derek Main works for Caltrans and has extensive experience using and teaching GPS. He has taught many classes on post processed and RTK techniques.}

So if you have the time, please consider looking at the GPS program at UCR Extension. It may be exactly what you need to strengthen your resume for the future!



(SCC Program Facilitator Greg Sebourn, PLS, leads the discussion)

As advertised in last month's newsletter, on October 18 the SCC survey programming in conjunction with the student chapter of CLSA presented Gary Kent's webinar "GPS and GIS, can they solve our boundary problems and put surveyors out of business?"

We had a good representation of the local surveying and GIS communities including persons from local government, engineering firms, surveying firms, independent surveyors, students, and a few GIS professionals.

In the discussion beforehand it was interesting to hear of Mike Ijams' experiments comparing the accuracy of various devices of obtaining geographic coordinates of points, and Greg Sebourn's vision of surveying and GIS merging over time.

Gary Kent's presentation was pretty heavy on the background of the American land tenure system and GPS, but nothing that most surveyors would consider eye opening revelations. Pretty basic stuff to those of us who've had the rectangular survey system drilled into our subconscious over the years, or have been following the development of GPS from when it was still encoded, but the GIS folks got something out of that. Unlike

most of Gary's presentations this was not all about surveyors. Gary gave a brief explanation of GIS ("a collection of spatially referenced data, and any tools used to work with the spatially referenced data"). He provided some of the many reasons why establishing accurate property lines in the GIS is prohibitively expensive. As to the premise for the webinar, Gary left us with the considerable obstacles that must be overcome before GPS and GIS can put us out of business.

In the ensuing conversation there was discussion about how the GIS data is obtained and what confidence surveyors could place in it. Mike Ijams reminded us to look at the "metadata" associated with the object, as that may contain information about how the object was created and what it was based upon, for example was it obtained at a "mapping data" level of accuracy or was it to a "survey data" level?

As long as boundaries are based on rights and written intent, rather than geometry, there will be a need for surveying. Instead of thinking of GIS as putting surveyor's out of business, GIS can be thought of as an *enhancement* to the surveyor's data by adding additional capabilities, such as land title and boundary record searches, data attribution, aerial image overlays, 3D visualization, and sharing data via the web.

A new GIS class starts in the spring at SCC. Come and learn about:

- ✓ Coordinate systems – get your data to line up in Google Earth
- ✓ Represent and organize survey data
- ✓ Generate 3D surfaces
- ✓ Calculate Cut/Fill quantities

...and much more!

Submitted by:

Thomas Propst, P.L.S., CFedS

Survey & Mapping Instructor, SCC

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTE: Classified Advertising Policy

The Orange County Chapter's advertisements are \$50 per quarter, text only, full page width, limited to approximately 3 inches in height, using 12 point font. The ads will not only appear in the newsletter, but on the Orange County Chapter's website as well. To place or renew a classified advertisement, contact Richard Lopez at (949) 474-1960 x4377 or at richard@fuscoe.com



The Subdivision Map Act:

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Michael P. Durkee

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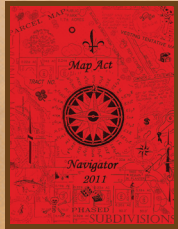
- Groups
- CLSA members

Time

9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Registration opens at
8:30 am

Includes:

Map Act Navigator 2011
a \$49.95 value



WHAT IS COVERED?

This seminar provides guidelines for effective use of the Subdivision Map Act. The instructor will discuss the responsibilities and powers of local agencies under the Act, as well as particular issues regarding when the Act applies.

SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discussion of new Legislative and Judicial developments in 2010
- Relationship of Map Act to other planning, zoning and development laws, and to CEQA
- When the Map Act applies (and when not)
- What kind of Map (tentative/final or parcel map) to use
- Certificates of Compliance, Lot Line Adjustments, Contiguity, Remainder Parcels
- Exemptions and Exceptions under the Map Act
- Life of Tentative Map
- Getting the most out of Vested Rights (including Vesting Maps, Development Agreements and Common Law Vesting)
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- Appeals/Judicial Actions

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This seminar is designed for public and private planners, surveyors, engineers, public works and utilities staff, developers, builders, environmentalists, attorneys, project managers, architects, planning commissioners, city council and board members, property managers, zoning board members, neighborhood groups, and all others involved with the land use process.

This course qualifies for 6.0 hours of California MCLE Credit.

How to Register for a seminar: Call us: 415-273-0310 web: LandUseNavigators.com or, register and pay at the door

Cities and Dates:

Burbank
October 27

Burbank Moose Lodge
1901 W. Burbank Boulevard

San Diego
November 10

San Diego Concourse
Copper Room 227
202 C Street

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE TO THE SAN DIEGO CLASS!
The San Diego Class is now scheduled for *Thursday November 10th!*
SAME PLACE, SAME TIME, DIFFERENT DATE! THANK YOU!

Thanks, Allen Instruments,

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