

## THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~

Issue 1 Spring 2004 Issued Quarterly

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, serving Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico

## 17th Annual GIS in the Rockies

Planning for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual GIS in the Rockies Conference is currently underway. The new Board of Directors selected the theme "Worlds of Opportunity" to convey the excitement this industry offers and the range of topics it includes. The Conference will be October 6-8, 2004 at the Plaza at the Mart, a facility at the Denver Merchandise Mart. The program will include workshops and seminars, technical sessions and the exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday events will include technical tours and a golf outing.

This year's sponsoring societies are:

- Colorado Section of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM),
- Rocky Mountain Region of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS)
- Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Geospatial Information Technology Association (GITA)
- Professional Land Surveyors of Colorado (PLSC)
- Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA)
- GIS Colorado

For more information, visit the web site at <a href="https://www.GlSintheRockies.org">www.GlSintheRockies.org</a> or contact Karen Brandt, Chair, at <a href="mailto:Chair@GlSintheRockies.org">Chair@GlSintheRockies.org</a>.

## GIS in the Rockies Call for Papers

We invite you to submit an abstract for a technical session, seminar, workshop, forum, vendor showcase, field trip or poster at this year's GIS in the Rockies conference. Come share, experience and explore the Worlds of Opportunity this exciting industry has to offer.

2004 GIS in the Rockies Program tracks include:

- Surveying
- Cartography & Geodesy
- Introduction to GIS
- Cooperative Efforts
- Frontiers of Technology
- Public Policy; Emerging Standards
- Imagery and Remote Sensing
- Resource Conflict Management
- GPS, Surveying & Field Data
- Professional Development
- Enterprise GIS
- Vendor Showcase

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The five sponsoring societies are each developing a program track to ensure the conference offers value to all segments of the geotechnology community. "Our societies are all dedicated to education and outreach," said **Karen Brandt**, Chair of the GIS in the Rockies Board of Directors. "The enthusiasm and commitment Board members have for that mission give me confidence that the program this year will provide more learning opportunities for more people than ever before."

Don't be caught off guard by this year's early deadline!! **Deadline for submission of abstracts** is **April 16**, **2004**.

Abstracts should be sent to <a href="http://www.tracks@gisintherockies.org">http://www.tracks@gisintherockies.org</a> or mailed to GISITR, P. O. Box 6365, Broomfield, CO 80021.

For more detailed track information and suggested session topics, or to submit an abstract or register for the conference, visit the website at <a href="https://www.gisintherockies.org">www.gisintherockies.org</a>

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#### **Volunteers Needed!**

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region welcomes volunteers for the May 2004 Convention! Contact any Board Member (see page 8) for more information. Some positions involve more time than others; all involve having fun and working with a great bunch of your peers. Isn't it time you got involved??

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# 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Annual ASPRS Conference

ASPRS will celebrate its 70th anniversary at the 2004 Annual Conference, May 23-28 in Denver, Colorado. This year's conference, "Mountains of Data → Peak Decisions," opens with a keynote address on Tuesday May 25 by **Dr. Ahmed K. Noor**, Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Old Dominion University.

A range of workshops will be offered on topics such as:

- Close Range Techniques for the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Cultural Heritage
- The National Map Hazards Data Distribution System
- Performance, Accuracy, and Economics of Imaging Sensors, Lidar and IFSAR for Surface DEM Generation
- Preparation for ASPRS Certification (two workshops planned)

This conference will provide educational opportunities to all in the industry. Over 400

technical papers will be presented, covering many diverse topics, including:

- Urban Applications of the Geospatial Sciences Remote Sensing and Urban Sprawl
- Agricultural Applications of Remote Sensing and GIS – Techniques Used in Countries Throughout the World
- NIMA Academic Research
- Lidar Sensors and Applications in Forestry
- Career Development Current Trends and Activity in the Geospatial Technology Arena

An Exhibit Hall of more than 100 booths will showcase the latest in products and services of suppliers worldwide. User group meetings are also being planned by PCI Geomatics, DigitalGlobe, ESRI, Z/I Imaging Corporation and INPHO.

This year, each conference day will open with a general session. The first plenary session, on Wednesday, May 26 will lead off with incoming ASPRS President **Dr. Russell Congalton**, followed by **Keith Lenard** of The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Thursday plenary features **Lynne Sherrod** of the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Arvada, Colorado.

A Classified Symposium consistent with the overall conference theme will take place on Friday, May 28 at Northrop Grumman, in Aurora, Colorado and will provide an innovative perspective on integration and analysis of satellite imagery and geospatial data.

Technical Tours to Spectrum Mapping, BP Center for Visualization, Digital Globe and Jeppesen are planned for Friday, May 28. Please read below for more tour details.

The ASPRS tradition of honoring members who have made significant contributions to the field and to the Society continues this year with Memorial Addresses for **Tamsin Barnes** and **Amron Katz**. ASPRS Executive Director **James Plasker** and ASPRS Fellow **Ronald J. Ondrejka**, respectively, will give these presentations.

In addition, ASPRS will celebrate the retirement of the mortgage on the Society's National Headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. The remarkable accomplishment of retiring a debt of over \$726,000 in only 15 years was accomplished through the generous support of ASPRS individual and Sustaining Members.

Several social events will round out this premier conference for 2004, including a 70th anniversary party in the Exhibit Hall, an Exhibitors' Reception, and an evening at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We look forward to seeing everyone!

#### **ASPRS 2004 Technical Tours**

Technical tours will be offered on the final day of the conference, Friday, May 28, 2004. Don't miss this great opportunity to visit a few of Colorado's premier geospatial facilities! These tours provide an insider's look at how leading GIS and remote sensing organizations operate and offer an excellent way to network and meet others in the industry. Please visit <a href="https://www.asprs.org/denver2004">www.asprs.org/denver2004</a> for more details

#### **BP Center for Visualization**

The highlight of the tour will be the Center's "immersive visualization" room that allows scientists to transform data into life-size pictures that are easy to understand and manipulate. The virtual-reality chamber consists of three 12-foot screens that can project images of anything from an oil field to the inner workings of human cells. The 3-D image changes as users wearing special virtual-reality glasses walk around the space. The virtual reality simulations are powered by two supercomputers.

#### DigitalGlobe

The tour will cover the entire facility, following the process of a QuickBird order from first contact with the customer, through acquisition and processing to delivery. One highlight of the tour will be the Space Operations Department or "Mission Control."

Note: Attendees must provide their full name, citizenship, and country of origin by e-mail to Becky Dunkin at <a href="mailto:bdunkin@digitalglobe.com">bdunkin@digitalglobe.com</a> by May 14 for security checking in advance of the tour.

#### Jeppesen (Jeppesen Sanderson, Inc.)

The tour will examine how the company is applying GIS in support of several areas of the business. Jeppesen will discuss the development of synthetic vision products for use in the cockpit in conjunction with several NASA-funded research projects, and will also describe the use of satellite imagery in the development of geo-referenced airport mapping databases. These airport maps are being developed for 300 airports worldwide and will be used in the cockpit and in other airport GIS applications. Visit <a href="http://www.Jeppesen.com">http://www.Jeppesen.com</a> for more information.

#### **Spectrum Mapping**

This tour will be within walking distance of the Adam's Mark Hotel. An overview of the latest innovations in aerial mapping technology will be provided. The tour will include live demonstrations of LIDAR Digital Elevation Model (DEM) data, 3D visualization and classification using Spectrum's SILC process, as well as digital camera image data processing. For more information visit http://www.spectrummapping.com.

### **Incoming President's Message**

The Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS has 376 members. Out of this group of professionals less than 10% are active within the society and only 5% participated in our annual meeting/dinner in January. What are the reasons for a lack of involvement by our RMR members? With the amount of geospatial organizations in the RMR, this should be the most active of ASPRS' 17 regions. The 2004 RMR Board of Directors is involved in developing technical programs and other activities to try and generate additional interest in your participation at the regional level. We would welcome any input from the membership on what type of value we can help provide to your membership in the ASPRS professional organization. Feel free to contact any of the RMR Board with any input/ideas at http://www.asprs-rmr.org/officers.html.

I would like to thank the board members who served their last term in 2003: John Parker (Past President), Leanne Hanson (Treasurer), Richard Vincent (Regional Director), Andrew Shepherd (Secretary), Ken Turnbull (Regional Director) and Stella Todd (Regional Director). We all appreciate your dedication and hard work over the past several years and wish you the best. I would also like to welcome the new faces on our board as well, including; Terrell Williams (Treasurer), Bryan McFadden (Secretary), Jeff Young (Regional Director-General), Craig Erikson (Regional Director-GIS-Rockies), Steve Hick (Regional Director-At Large) and Jennifer Whitacre (Regional Director-Communications/Newsletter). Additionally, we are always looking for other interested members that would like to work with the Board on various projects, so step up and participate.

This should be another exciting year for the RMR. I'm proud of the work the past board has accomplished the last few years together and see positive improvements over the next few years. Our current board certainly has a major task in front of them in supporting the ASPRS national conference in May.

This year, our primary focus will be the continued preparation for the National ASPRS Conference to be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, May 23-28, 2004. The Denver 2004 Subcommittee, being led by **Allen Cook**, has been meeting on a regular basis (including some Saturday work days) and has been diligent about their responsibilities in helping ASPRS organize a stellar event in our region. As an ASPRS member, your participation in this event is expected, so we look forward to seeing a large turnout from the RMR. We are still seeking additional volunteers to help during the conference. If you would like to volunteer some of your time and

receive free registration for the conference, please contact Stella Todd at <a href="mailto:toddst@mscd.edu">toddst@mscd.edu</a> or visit the conference website at <a href="mailto:www.asprs.org/denver2004">www.asprs.org/denver2004</a>. In recognition for our local region support of this National Conference, the RMR will receive a small percentage of revenue received that will be used for awarding more scholarships to students within our own region.

The RMR Board of Directors is also focused on membership outreach and membership development at the local level. The Rio Grande Chapter of the RMR is hitting full stride and the RMR launched a new student chapter at Metro State College of Denver this past fall. Our other goals for the RMR in 2004 are to continue to try and find key supporters in Montana, Wyoming and the Western Slope of Colorado to help us establish regional chapters, increase our scholarship awards, increase our regional membership, and help contribute to another successful GIS in the Rockies conference.

Again, I encourage all members to get more involved in your local chapter this year. This can be accomplished in many ways, such as: attend board meetings, volunteer to help out for various local conferences, attend holiday party get-togethers, attend/sponsor technical tours, help organize student or sub-region chapters, submit articles for newsletter/ website, and/or simply call or send email with any comments/suggestions/questions to any of the current board members. If you haven't joined your fellow ASPRS-RMR members in one of the recent Rogues Night Out events, you are definitely missing some fun. These informal gettogethers are designed for geospatial professionals (and others) to meet each other, chat, share industry information, and network. If you are not on the email list for these events, please send your e-mail address to Ken Turnbull at

kenturnbull@earthlink.net. If you are on the list and haven't made it to one of the events, you owe it to yourself and your professional development to attend. I hope our paths cross sometime in the near term. As always, feel free to e-mail or call me at any time.

Pass It On,

Brian L. Soliday
President ASPRS-RMR 2004
bsoliday@lizardtech.com

#### **Welcome New Members:**

Emily E. Clary\* Jacqlyn Jae Ducharme Craig Erikson Joe Gregson Steve Jennings Kristen Kent\*
Jorge Manuel Sanchez
John William Shramek\*
Alexandria Megan Sinclair
Chandler C. Smith
Dean D. Turner

## **National Director's Report**

Wearing two hats is interesting, and VERY busy! Since I am both Rocky Mountain Region National Director, and 2004 Convention Planning Committee Chair, there has been considerable overlap between the two jobs. While they are closely linked, sometimes I wish my "day job" was optional! From the National perspective, the main topics of interest these days are:

- The upcoming Annual Convention
- Retiring the mortgage on National Headquarters
- Membership
- Professional Certification

The Rocky Mountain Region has been a major influence in 3 of these areas, since we are hosting the Convention in May, the mortgage will be burned in a ceremony at the Convention, and our own efforts to increase membership have been among the best of all the regions. Currently, I am not aware of any state-level efforts to certify professionals in the geospatial sciences (photgrammetry, remote sensing or GIS), but we need to be alert to these when they come up. ASPRS has been successful in shaping proposed legislation in other states to ensure it is well designed, but we need our members to alert us early in the process so we can influence the course of legislative development.

Of course, my major emphasis for the last (many) months has been planning for the 2004 Convention. I have had a great committee of folks who have worked hard to make this convention one of the best ever. The preliminary programs are in the mail now, and the full committee is listed in the program, with the exception of **Matt Bobo**, who joined us just after the program went to press. It has been several years since ASPRS has had the Annual Convention in Denver, but they have always been very successful, and May of 2004 should be no exception. Plan to come!

Allen Cook (ASPRS–RMR National Director)

## **Rio Grande Chapter News**

#### **ASPRS Conference Grant**

In an effort to help promote geospatial technologies in New Mexico education, Dr. Stan Morain, the director of Earth Data Analysis Center and the current department chair for Geography at the University of New Mexico, has made a very generous grant to the ASPRS Rio Grande Chapter (RGC). This grant will allow several student members to attend the ASPRS 2004 Annual Conference. The grant will provide up to nine

<sup>\*</sup>student member

#### **Rocky Mountain Compiler**

ASPRS Student Members with a stipend of up to \$1000 to attend this year's Conference. This stipend can be used for conference registration, hotel, transportation, and meals.

For more information, contact these RGC officers:

Mike Racine, mike@blueskies.aero
Janet Greenlee, janetg@crl.nmsu.edu
Theresa Kuntz, tkuntz@edac.unm.edu

#### **RGC Student Involvement**

The Rio Grande Chapter (RGC) wishes to encourage students in disciplines that integrate mapping and geospatial technologies to become members of ASPRS. Student membership brings many opportunities, from national scholarships and conferences to local workshops and technical tours. Please check the ASPRS Web site for membership qualifications and the many benefits of being a member. Visit <a href="http://www.asprs.org">http://www.asprs.org</a> for more information.

#### **Student Dues Reimbursement**

In its efforts to promote ASPRS, RGC will reimburse ten dollars (\$10) of the ASPRS student membership dues (\$45). Students must be attending a university or college within New Mexico, and must submit a copy of the membership receipt/confirmation to the Chapter to receive the ten-dollar reimbursement.

Please send requests to: **Mike Racine**ASPRS Student Submissions
P.O. Box 1611
Belen, NM 87002.

## **Congratulations 2003 Scholarship Winners**

After a careful review and scoring of all the applications, the ASPRS-RMR Scholarship Committee has identified the winners of the annual Academic Scholarship for 2003. We are pleased to announce the following winners:

Undergraduate: James Hodge (Geography Major),
 Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado.
 Research Topic: Mapping of Geology Structures
 on the Uncompahgre Plateau, Colorado.

**Undergraduate: John Shramek** (GIS Certificate), Metropolitan State College of Denver, Denver, Colorado.

Each of the winners received a cash scholarship to advance their studies at their respective educational institutions. They were also invited to be guests of honor at our ASPRS Annual Dinner. We encourage everyone to look forward to learning more about their research at upcoming ASPRS Conferences as they work on completing their research and degrees.



Undergraduate Student **John Shramek**, center, receives his scholarship award check from **Brian Soliday**, right, while **Professor Stella Todd** of Metro State College, left, looks on.



Scholarship Chair **Brian Soliday** presents the Undergraduate Student Scholarship award to **James Hodge** of Mesa State College. After dinner, James talked to the group about his work in mapping of geologic structures on the Uncompander Plateau in Colorado.

The academic scholarships were offered to both undergraduate and graduate students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS (MT, WY, CO, and NM) who exhibited academic excellence in photogrammetry, remote sensing and/or GIS. These scholarships are being offered each fall by the RMR of ASPRS to support academic research in the geotechnologies as well as to aid in travel costs in order

to encourage student participation in ASPRS activities.

If you are a student who missed out on the opportunity this past year, then be prepared and look for the new scholarship applications being posted in the Fall term and/or contact Jaymes Pardue (jgpardue@vargis.com) for additional information. Make sure your advisor/instructor and department is on the mailing list and check www.asprs-rmr.org

regularly for more details. We had a limited number of applications this year, especially from graduate students, so please take the initiative and apply!

#### Brian L. Soliday (ASPRS-RMR President)

Note: This year the Scholarship Committee Chairperson is **Jaymes Pardue** (<u>igpardue@vargis.com</u>) 303-384-1925. Scholarship applications will be sent out early in the fall semester of 2004.

## Seminar Report: Imagery Solutions for GIS

Presented by: DigitalGlobe, Leica Geosystems GIS & Mapping, and ESRI

On January 28, 2004 more than 100 Colorado GIS users attended Imagery Solutions for GIS. The joint seminar gave GIS users the opportunity to experience imagery as it is used in the GIS world. With presentations centered on QuickBird satellite imagery, ERDAS IMAGINE® and the ArcGIS product suite, attendees walked through the steps of the Geospatial Imaging Chain™. The three presentations focused on how the experts in geospatial information can help GIS users Capture, Reference, Measure, Analyze and Present imagery as information. Using products from DigitalGlobe, Leica Geosystems GIS & Mapping and ESRI, attendees experienced how information flows from satellite acquisition to raster interpretation and vectorization as it is utilized in the GIS world. A prize package was given away, which included the following:

1":400' (1:4800 scale) orthorectified image from *DigitalGlobe*,

Image Analysis<sup>™</sup> for ArcGIS, software from *Leica* Geosystems GIS & Mapping
ArcGIS software from ESRI.

## 2004 Annual ILMF Meeting

Over 200 people attended this year's International LIDAR Mapping Forum (ILMF) in Orlando, Florida, representing almost every major LIDAR operator in North America, as well as LIDAR system and

component manufacturers, hardware and software companies, universities and end-users. All aspects of LIDAR mapping, including Airborne LIDAR Bathymetry, Aerial LIDAR Topographic Mapping and 3D Laser Scanning were addressed during this meeting. In addition to technical presentations, the two-day event also featured workshops and exhibits, as well as several networking functions that have become a hallmark of this popular meeting.

This years sponsors were Applanix Corporation, Dynamic Aviation, Fli-Map (John Chance Land Surveys), Geospatial Solutions, Leica Geosystems, Merrick, Mosaic Mapping Systems, Optech, Spectrum Mapping, Terralmaging, and Z/I Imaging.

## 2004 Annual Dinner Meeting

This year's Annual Dinner Meeting was held Saturday, January 24, 2004 at **II Fornaio** restaurant in downtown Denver. The evening festivities began with cocktails and socializing. **Scott Bennett**, outgoing region President, conducted the evening meeting and summarized the region's highlights for the past year. **Dr. Roger Hoffer** and **Dr. Tina Cary**, both former ASPRS National Presidents, inducted the new ASPRS-RMR officers.



**Dr. Tina** Cary, far right, performs the swearing-in ceremony for the 2004 region officers Allen Cook (second from left), **Jeff Young, Bryan McFadden, Brian Soliday, Terrell Williams**, and **Scott Bennett**, while **Dr. Roger Hoffer**, far left, looks on. Both **Drs. Cary and Hoffer** are former National Presidents of ASPRS, and have been active members of the Rocky Mountain Region.

Brian Soliday, outgoing VP and Scholarship Chairperson for 2003, awarded student scholarships to James Hodge and John W. Shramek. James Hodge, geography major at Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado, gave the group a fascinating summary of his remote sensing research. After James spoke, incoming President Brian Soliday addressed his hopes and plans for the coming year. This was all followed by a gourmet Italian dinner, punctuated by smiles and laughter. How wonderful it was meeting new colleagues and catching up with old friends. It was a thoroughly

enjoyable evening for all who attended. We hope to see and meet new members next year!



Photo taken at this year's ASPRS Annual Dinner. Scholarship winners (left to right) **John Shramek, James Hodge**, and Scholarship Program Coordinator for 2003 **Brian Soliday.** 



Dinner guests at the Annual Meeting included **Ken Turnbull**, 2003 RMR Board member, left, and **Allen Cook**, National Director, right.



Dinner conversation at the Annual Meeting was lively and engaging. Seated at far left is **Brian Soliday**, incoming President of the Region.

## **Transition to Postcard Mailings**

We are always looking for new ways to save costs and to become more efficient. This year we plan to transition from mailing a printed copy of the newsletter to sending a postcard notice. The postcard will alert our members who do not have an email address in the member database that a newsletter has been published. It will also include a web address where the most recent newsletter can be accessed.

For those members who have provided an email address, we will continue to send an email that contains a link to the web site where the newsletter is located. We encourage you to print the newsletter and pass it on to colleagues who are not yet members. Maybe they will decide to join!

Please help us keep the member database as current as possible by updating your contact information on-line with E-Serve at <a href="https://www.asprs.org">www.asprs.org</a>.

## Michael Renslow Named New PE&RS Technical Editor

**Michael S. Renslow** has been selected to serve as the new Technical Editor for *Photogrammetric Engineering & Remote Sensing (PE&RS*), effective March 1, 2004. Michael, an ASPRS past president (1999-2000), has served ASPRS in many capacities over his 33 years as a member of the Society. Currently he serves as ASPRS Treasurer; Chair, Evaluation for Certification Committee; Co-Editor for "Lidar Best Practices and Guidelines;" and, an ASPRS workshop instructor.

Michael succeeds Honorary Member **James B. Case** who has served as *PE&RS* Technical Editor for more than 30 years.

## Web Site - Job Listings & Events

The ASPRS-RMR web site <a href="www.asprs-rmr.org">www.asprs-rmr.org</a> continues to improve! It is a great place to get information about upcoming events, technical tours and conferences. We are always updating our job listings. To post jobs please send to <a href="mailto:sqp@denverwater.org">sqp@denverwater.org</a>

Check it out!!

#### **Thank You Contributors**

We thank the following people for their contributions to this issue:

Sheila Pelczarski, Brian Soliday, Scott Bennett, Mark Hess, Allen Cook, Janet Greenlee, and Leica Geosystems. A special thanks to Tina Cary.

If you want to contribute to the next edition of this newsletter, e-mail material to **Jen Whitacre** at <a href="mailto:jwhitacre@specmap.com">jwhitacre@specmap.com</a>.

## ASPRS – Rocky Mountain Region: 2004 Officers

This contact information is provided to make it easy for you to get involved

President **Brian Soliday** Work: 303-250-5537

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**Communications Coordinator/** 

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