

## THE IMAGING & GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SOCIETY

## ~The Rocky Mountain Compiler~

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

## 2007 ASPRS Annual Conference Abstract Extension

The deadline for 2007 ASPRS Annual Conference abstracts has been extended to **26 June 2006**. Full details and abstract guidelines may be found at <a href="http://www.asprs.org/tampa2007/call.shtml">http://www.asprs.org/tampa2007/call.shtml</a>.

#### **NEW SPEAKER REGISTRATION POLICY**

Because of the alarming dropout rate of speakers at our conferences the past few years, ASPRS has instituted a new policy with regard to speaker registration. Upon notification by the Conference Technical Program Co-chairs that an abstract is accepted, speakers will have 60 days to register for the conference at the appropriate Speaker Registration Rate. If speakers do not register within 60 days, the paper will be dropped from the program. If someone else presents the paper/poster, that person will also need to register for the conference at the appropriate registration rate and the original speaker fee will NOT be refunded.

It is important that ASPRS maintain a highquality program for conference attendees. Please help us by taking abstract acceptance seriously and committing to presenting at the conference.

DON'T WAIT – SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT TODAY.

#### **GIS** in the Rockies Conference

13-15 September 2006, Denver, Colorado

The 19th annual GIS in the Rockies Conference will be held 13–15 September 2006. This conference provides the opportunity for GIS professionals to "show their stuff" at the same venue as professional athletes and major entertainers—INVESCO Field at Mile High stadium in Denver, Colorado. The program will feature an array of user case studies, technical sessions and vendor presentations through a series of organized tracks. Presentations will be based on abstracts received through the Call for Papers.

"This year's theme – GIS: From Behind the Scene to Extreme – illustrates the emergence of GIS as not only a mainstream technology, but one that has gone well beyond its day-to-day uses," said **Mike** 

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Greer, Chair of the GIS in the Rockies Planning Committee. "From assessing and mitigating damage caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to new and innovative uses such as Google Earth, GIS is showing up in the hands of more and more people each day. No longer considered a back room technology used by scientists and map makers, GIS in the Rockies 2006 aims to showcase the varied and exciting uses of GIS across a broad array of interests and needs."

Visit the website at <a href="www.gisintherockies.org">www.gisintherockies.org</a>. For more information regarding presentations contact: **Tom Palizzi**, Program Coordinator, 303-467-2738 or <a href="mailto:tom.palizzi@gisintherockies.org">tom.palizzi@gisintherockies.org</a>

### President's Message

## Open Letter to Late Adopters Regarding Collaborative Accountability

[Editor's note: In this letter, President **Jeff Young** continues the theme of technology adoption introduced in his message in the previous newsletter. His intention is to be thought provoking. We accept Letters to the Editor and welcome your response.]

The innovators in the ASPRS community truly appreciate the opportunity to be considered as advanced technology providers to the collective geospatial sector. While considering modernizing your workflows, late adopters have provided reviews that have been fair, complete and have shown imagination. Even though our technologies have received favorable reviews and are proposed within your budget constraints we have been passed over by late adopters. We understand that you as late adopters will continue to use tried and true techniques and methodologies to support your mission.

With all of this said I suggest late adopters broaden your viewpoint to consider collaboration and mega-integration initiatives underway in the .gov, .mil, .com, .edu, .org and .net communities. Specifically, consider collaboration technologies which provide for more rapid response, pool monies across large user groups, and can enhance the value of your own geospatial holdings.

....Collaboration is no longer an option.....

We all must aggressively dismantle isolated and redundant data collection and use institutions that embrace a collaborative philosophy and the associated rewards and accountability. As the magnitude of spatial data increases on a daily basis the time is right to consider an integrated multiorganization, multi-tier approach to data collection, storage and dissemination. Outreach and sharing

are becoming the norm. So please consider geospatial data collaboration as part of your operational model without it overshadowing your core purpose.

There are some initiatives before us that will drive us as a geospatial community to collaboration. Most notable is "Imagery for the Nation" (see <a href="https://www.nsgic.org">www.nsgic.org</a> for details) spawned by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). In many respects over the last several years we as nation have been "stuck" regarding systematic image collection serving a broad range of applications. *Unstuck*, by authors Yamashita and Spataro (2004) describes a condition that might well apply to the state of affairs over the last decade with imagery collection on a national basis prior to the notion of "Imagery for the Nation" being conceived.

"..... People are busy but not necessarily effective. Everyone is obsessed with their to-do list, yet there is no big picture to guide their actions. Decisions are made with little regard for the context of the day - let alone what tomorrow might bring..... It may seem like there's a lot of good action taking place but...(participants often) are unable to connect their work to the larger context of what must be done....(if the situation is left untreated. participants) mav arrive somewhere, but it is not likely to be the correct destination...."

Consider this. Let's get unstuck and align the ASPRS membership culture, metrics, processes, purpose and strategy with initiatives like "Imagery for the Nation." Remember, "The founders of ...the Society...accorded the highest significance to the collection and dissemination of scientific and technical information." (Joe E. Steakley, President of the American Society of Photogrammetry, as quoted in the "Foreword" by Volume Editor Leonard W. Bowden to the 1975 edition of the *Manual of Remote Sensing*, Volume II).

Collaboration is our legacy and our future.

Jeff Young

**ASPRS-RMR** President

## **National Director's Report**

In preparing to write my report for this newsletter, I referred back to the ASPRS materials from last May's Board of Director's meeting at the Annual Conference in Reno. In reading just the agenda, I was reminded of the breadth, depth and level of detail that goes into running a professional society

like ASPRS. The agenda itself covers three pages, representing a full-day meeting that is the culmination of many meetings of committees, divisions, and of course, the EXCOM group that meets for a full day before the Conference begins.

All those meetings are the accumulation of activity that happens during the intervening six months, between formal gatherings of the Society. That is when we learn what has been accomplished by a whole lot of folks, and provide direction for the next period. And make no mistake, those folks are YOU, the members of the society, going about your daily business in our profession, and representing ASPRS along the way. From authoring new publications, influencing professional licensure legislation, developing a new workshop or managing our financial status, whether educating or producing or selling, we are all involved in the success of our society—and fulfilling a broad range of roles.

ASPRS has never been more active, and it has earned a well-deserved reputation across the country as an unbiased advocate for our profession. This benefits all ASPRS members. So, if you find you have a few unused "cycles" in your day, let me know. I'm sure we can find a committee that needs you!

I'll provide a more traditional report in the next newsletter. Thanks for reading—and thanks for your support!

#### **Allen Cook**

**ASPRS-RMR National Director** 

### **Invitation to New Student Chapters**

In a continuing effort to expand our outreach and meet the main objectives of the ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region (RMR), the current board of directors would like to take this opportunity to invite educational institutions and their faculty advisors to consider creating and building ASPRS Student Chapters at their respective schools. This invitation is open to all institutions with new and/or existing Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and GIS programs. This is an ideal opportunity for students who wish to be more active in their educational and professional lives to do so by participating in ASPRS.

By starting a student chapter with the RMR, students and educators alike will have access to technical presentations, job fairs, discounts on ASPRS publications, networking opportunities, and over \$20,000 in national and regional awards, scholarships, and fellowships.

If you'd like to inquire about existing student chapters within the RMR, or to obtain a Petition Form in order to begin the process of establishing a chapter at your institution please contact:

Terry Ryan, ASPRS-RMR Vice-President 303-903-3604 or tryan@lizardtech.com

# ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference – A Great Event!

The ASPRS 2006 Annual Conference was held 1–5 May at the Reno Hilton Hotel, Reno, Nevada, with nearly 1,400 attendees. This year's conference, *Prospecting for Geospatial Information,* was opened with a keynote address delivered jointly by **Stephen K. Robinson**, PhD and NASA Astronaut, and **Donn Liddle**, Muniz Engineering. Their presentation, "Inspecting the Space Shuttle in Flight using Photogrammetric and Remote Sensing Technology," captivated the audience as they described how photogrammetry played a crucial role in determining the severity of damage to the thermal tiles on the last Space Shuttle mission.

Thirteen workshops, many filled to capacity, were offered on the two days preceding the conference. They covered a wide array of topics including:

- Professional Airborne Digital Mapping Systems – an Overview
- Assessing the Accuracy of GIS Information Created from Remotely Sensed Data: Principles and Practices
- Remote Sensing of Vegetation
- Advanced Topics in Orthophoto Production
- Emerging Technologies in Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
- A specially designed workshop for those seeking ASPRS certification

User group meetings were also held on Monday and Tuesday by DIMAC, Eagle Mapping, E. Coyote Enterprises/IGI, ESRI, INPHO, Intergraph, GeoCue Corporation (NIIRS10, Inc.), PCI Geomatics, E. Coyote/Jena-Optronic, and RSI.

A plenary session that addressed the *New Direction* for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission opened the conference on Thursday, 4 May. This was presented collaboratively by **Darrel Williams**, a NASA Landsat 7-Project Scientist, and **R. J. Thompson**, Chief of the USGS National Center for EROS.

More than 300 technical papers covered many diverse topics including:

- Accuracy Assessments
- Wetlands and Forests

- LIDAR and 3D Studies
- Photogrammetry
- Feature Extraction
- K-12 Education for the Geospatial Sciences
- Techniques for Studying Urban Growth
- Mapping Invasive Species
- Geohazard Monitoring

Panel discussions included Re-engineering the National Geospatial Programs within the USGS and Developing a Better Fit with the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and Geospatial One-Stop; Licensure & Certification Past, Present and Future; and What is the Future for Remote Sensors?

A new format for open discussion of selected topics was introduced at this year's conference. This was held in an open area of the hotel that allowed for participation on an as-desired basis by permitting attendees to join any or all of the six "Hot Topic" areas. The topics discussed were Certification – What's in it for me?; State Licensure; Professional Development and Getting a Job; LIDAR-Guidelines, Applications & More; Data Acquisition in Times of Disaster and The Future of Landsat. The participants were encouraged to exchange ideas, problems and solutions they have experienced. This new format was very well received by those attending. It provided for good networking and an opportunity for informative dialogue.

Also introduced at the 2006 conference was the formation of a Student Advisory Council (SAC). Through the SAC, students will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and discuss ways the Society can serve them best. Student input can include topics such as development of a technical session career track for upcoming annual conferences, what books the ASPRS Bookstore should carry, book and software reviews, and a student blog on the ASPRS website.

An Exhibit Hall of more than 80 booths showcased the latest in products and services of suppliers worldwide. Exhibit Hall traffic was brisk during the entire conference. Sales of exhibit space for the 2007 Annual Conference in Tampa were vigorous on the last day of the conference, indicating the success of this year's event.

The ASPRS tradition of honoring members who have contributed greatly to the field and to the Society continued this year with a Memorial Address for **David S. Simonett.** Dr. Simonett achieved prominence in the field as Chairman of the Geography Department at the University of

California, Santa Barbara. **Dr. Stanley Morain** presented the highlights of his life.

Numerous awards were made throughout the conference to many deserving recipients, including two new Honorary Members, three ASPRS Fellows, student scholarships, and ASPRS Region awards. Several social events rounded out this stellar conference for 2006, including the Exhibitors' Reception on 3 May and An Evening at the National Automobile Museum on 4 May.

The keynote and plenary presentations are now available for download:

http://www.asprs.org/conference-archive/reno2006/plenary.htm.

The presentations are provided as audio in MP3 format and as Windows movie files with synchronized audio/slides/video. You will need multimedia software such as Windows Media Player to play these files.

## **2007 Scholarship Announcement**

In its continuing efforts to support and build awareness for the Remote Sensing & GIS sciences, The Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS is proud to announce its academic scholarships for 2006–2007. If you'd like to obtain additional information or details please visit <a href="https://www.asprs-rmr.org">www.asprs-rmr.org</a> to learn more about the Scholarship Program.

The Rocky Mountain Region (RMR) of ASPRS offers scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students every year. The scholarships are intended for students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region (Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming) who demonstrate excellence while pursuing careers in the fields of Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or related disciplines. Both undergraduate and graduate students of any third-level educational institution within the four-state region who are pursuing careers in these disciplines are eligible for the awards.

The deadline to submit your application is in the fall every year and winners will be chosen in early to mid-December. Awards are presented at the ASPRS-RMR Annual Dinner Meeting in January. We've consistently offered thousands of dollars in annual scholarships and this year will be no different!

Preference is given to students who apply sound scientific principles to practical applications and/or to those presenting their work at an ASPRS sponsored conference. Award of both the undergraduate and the graduate scholarships is based on academic merit (i.e., the application form does not request any personal financial data).

For more information, please contact: **Terry Ryan**, ASPRS-RMR Vice-President 303-903-3604 or <a href="mailto:tryan@lizardtech.com">tryan@lizardtech.com</a>

#### **Best of the WEST Series**

The ASPRS RMR Board of Directors is pleased to announce The Best of the WEST (WebEx Exchange Series Technologies) Speakers Series. These presentations follow each Rocky Mountain Board Meeting. To date we have had two very successful presentations and hope to have many more to come.

The Best of the WEST series format is a 30-minute live presentation with PowerPoint and/or software demonstrations including voice-over delivered via a WebEx/teleconference line. The series objective is to highlight both private and government organizations. A Q-&-A session follows each presentation. For access codes to the presentations or information on becoming a future presenter, please contact:

**Jeff Young,** ASPRS-RMR President 303-815-2266 or jyoung@sanz.com

#### **Welcome New Members**

Elthron Anderson \* Crystal Krause \*
Jody Bramel Evans Ralston \*
Dwight Colburn Jeff Simley
Stephen Dee Christine Sommers-Austin
Kim Edlund Kenneth Spratlin
Rachel Hixson \*
Jennifer Stefanacci

Kimberly Hould \* Elisabeth Stone \*
Todd Kennaway \* Michael Watsy

#### **RIO GRANDE ASPRS CHAPTER NEWS**

#### **Image Classification Workshop**

The Rio Grande Chapter hosted a remote sensing workshop for members recently, in conjunction with the RGC Chapter's Spring Meeting. Director **Andrea Laliberte** was the workshop instructor. Attendees were introduced to the use of eCognition (Definiens AG) software to perform object-based image classification. The workshop was held at the Central New Mexico Community College (formerly Albuquerque TVI) GIT Lab. Participants included both regular and student ASPRS members.



Andrea instructs at the Image Classification workshop.

### **Rio Grande Chapter Social**

The Rio Grande Chapter hosted a post-NMGIC (New Mexico Geographic Information Council) Spring Meeting Social at Kelley's in Albuquerque. Board members and local ASPRS members attended this festive event.

## Rio Grande Chapter News from the ASPRS Annual Meeting, Reno

A number of Rio Grand Chapter members traveled to the ASPRS National Meeting, held 1–5 May 2006 in Reno, Nevada.

Past Chapter Director **Heather Richards** received the ASPRS 2006 Ta Liang Memorial Award in the amount of \$500 to support research-related travel, and was recognized *in absentia* at an awards luncheon. Heather has been instrumental locally in organizing the UNM student ASPRS chapter.

Chapter Directors Andrea Laliberte, Amy Ballard, and past Director Judith Van der Elst presented papers during technical sessions.

Ballard was attending the conference with a group of new student ASPRS members including **Anjanette Hawk**, **Kris Key** and **Jason Mariano** from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) Community College. Local ASPRS member and National Board Member **Dan Paulsen** was also in attendance; he was kept quite busy by all of his National duties.

## "Defining and Communicating Geospatial Technology Industry Workforce Demand" Reviewers Needed for Report

ASPRS is supporting an effort funded by a Department of Labor grant concerned with the geospatial industry workforce by soliciting responses from our membership on the first phase of this

<sup>\*</sup> denotes student member

project. As background, several members of the ASPRS leadership team recently participated in a geospatial-community-wide effort designed to provide input into Phase I of a US Department of "Defining and Communicating grant. Geospatial Technology Industry Workforce Demand," being executed by our sister societies the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) and The Association of American Geographers (AAG).

Phase I was focused on defining industry components, characteristics, and skills required to fill geospatial occupations. The major work efforts involved in this phase were two thought-leader roundtables held in Washington, D.C., in October 2005 and January 2006; development of an online feedback mechanism to gather responses to critical issues in defining the industry; and analysis of those responses. A detailed report on the findings of Phase I of the grant can be found at <a href="http://www.aag.org/giwis/">http://www.aag.org/giwis/</a>. Appendices documenting some of the more detailed analyses can also be accessed at that site.

GITA and the AAG have asked that interested geospatial professionals review the report and provide comments, reactions, and supporting information, or ask questions. The grant project is attempting to obtain input from as many geospatial industry professionals as possible. In order to best support the analysis of comments, respondents are asked to provide their name, company name, address, and phone or e-mail contact information. All responses must be submitted by 30 June 2006 to Mary Ann Stewart, the GITA Project Manager for the grant, at <a href="mailto:mstewart@gita.org">mstewart@gita.org</a>.

Thanks for your continuing interest in our profession!

# Rocky Mountain Region Board Meeting Schedule for 2006

14 July 2006 - Quarterly Meeting @ Sanz and WebEx

- 11 August 2006 WebEx
- 8 September 2006 WebEx
- 13 October 2006 Quarterly Meeting @ Sanz and WebEx
- 10 November 2006 WebEx
- 8 December 2006 WebEx

Past Presidents Forum - to be determined

#### Visit the RMR Website for Latest News!

The Rocky Mountain Region website is chock full of relevant news and information for geospatial professionals.

Visit the News & Events, Chapters, Jobs, Newsletter, and Technical Reference pages for the latest industry and regional news. The JOBS page currently has 25 listings. These pages are typically updated weekly, so bookmark your web browser and visit often! http://www.asprs-rmr.org

### PE&RS Journal Survey in Progress Your Participation Is Needed

An important PE&RS readership research project is underway. Your participation will provide direction for improving the quality of the journal and delivering the content that best meets your professional needs. Your responses are completely confidential and will only be used in the aggregate. Please take five minutes to complete this survey **right now** at <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=608331871177">http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=608331871177</a>. This survey is open until 23 June 2006, 5:00 p.m. PST.

# What Would You Like To Read in the Upcoming Compilers?

This is a question I would like to put out to all of the members... what would you like to read in the *Compiler*? Every issue contains information "we" the board find important but we would like to ask our readers what you would be interested in reading. Please feel free to contact any of the board members. We are very interested in what you have to say!

#### GIS in the Rockies Volunteers Needed...

GIS in the Rockies benefits from the assistance of individuals who volunteer their time to organize the conference. Volunteers staff the registration and information desks, assist presenters in setting up, support vendors, and perform a range of other essential duties.

Volunteers who work for at least eight hours before or during the conference receive free registration for the conference. Volunteering can save money, and it is a great way to make industry contacts.

To volunteer, or for further information, contact:

Mark Eaton at Volunteers@GISintheRockies.org
303-202-4274

### **New GIS in the Rockies BLOG Site**

GIS in the Rockies is pleased to make available a weblog for discussion(s) directly related to the planning and overall operation of the "GIS in the Rockies" annual conference. This "blog site" is

monitored and all posts are subject to moderation (an administrative approval) prior to being posted.

The intention of this discussion forum is for topics to be discussed with peers in a virtual environment. Any offensive, inappropriate or otherwise nonrelated messages sent through this blog will result in the immediate de-activation of the originating account from which the message was sent.

#### **Full Text of PE&RS Available Online**

ASPRS members may now access the full text of all peer-reviewed articles that appear in Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing (PE&RS) as soon as the issue is printed and prior to the actual mailing. For more information go to <a href="http://www.asprs.org/news/archive/2005-10-pers-full-text.htm">http://www.asprs.org/news/archive/2005-10-pers-full-text.htm</a>.

# Be Sure to Attend the MAPPS/ASPRS 2006 Specialty Conference in the Fall

MAPPS and ASPRS are once again organizing a dynamic conference around the theme of *Measuring the Earth (Part II): Latest Developments with Digital Surface Modeling and Automated Feature Extraction.* 

Following the successful joint 2001 Conference on Digital Elevation Technologies and Applications and the 2003 Conference on Terrain Data: Application and Visualization — Making the Connection, this meeting will build on those experiences and focus on the evolving technology, applications, and standards that have been developed over the last two years, with emphasis on automated feature extraction.

From sensor to desktop, MAPPS and ASPRS invite you to join them in presenting the latest technologies in acquisition and applications in remote sensing, mapping, and GIS and the latest developments and implementation of automated operations with minimal human intervention. Data providers, data users, and value-added providers will have the opportunity to share their experiences using these advanced and exciting new technologies to optimize projects, analyze and solve problems, and explore new applications and technology improvements.

This conference will once again offer a mix of general sessions, breakout technical sessions, and an applications showcase on project acquisition and applications, automated feature extraction, visualization, simulation, research and development, hazards, and more. Interested participants are encouraged to submit proposed presentations. This

conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas, 6–10 November 2006. We hope to see you there!

For more information please visit our web site at: <a href="http://www.asprs.org/fall2006/index.html">http://www.asprs.org/fall2006/index.html</a>

# Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment Recently Published by ASPRS

Remote Sensing of the Marine Environment is a comprehensive, up-to-date resource for oceanographers and marine scientists interested in applications of satellite imagery and other remote sensing techniques for studying and monitoring ocean and coastal waters. Produced by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, it is the sixth volume in the *Manual of Remote Sensing*, Third Edition, the widely accepted basic reference work in the field. It brings together contributions from an international team of scientists active in remote sensing and ocean research.

The volume is organized for quick access to topics of particular interest, with chapters on ocean productivity, circulation, pollution, wind, planetary waves, sea ice and coastal processes. The first chapter reviews the history of satellite observations of the ocean, noting the contribution from different countries and the interactions of military and civilian interests. The final chapter reviews the developing technology for in-situ measurements, including cabled observatories, which can calibrate and extend the satellite observations.

The volume editor, James F.R. Gower, PhD, is a research scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, where he has explored applications of satellites to oceanography since 1971.

This 360-page hardcover book, with Internet sources, helpful color illustrations and extensive references, is a major resource for researchers and practitioners working in marine environmental sciences. Price is discounted for ASPRS members and students. For purchase information go to <a href="https://www.asprs.org">www.asprs.org</a> – Bookstore.

## RMR Earns Top Honors for 5th Straight Year!

Your Rocky Mountain Region continues to lead all regions within the US by being recognized at National Headquarters as the Region of the Year for 2005. By taking 1st place for Region of the Year for the 5th straight year, these annual awards are affirmation for what we all already know, . that the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS is leading the way - through all our organized events and active member participation!

## **ASPRS – Rocky Mountain Region: 2006 Officers**

President	Jeff Young SANZ Geospatial Solutions Group Englewood, CO	Work: 303-495-6334 Fax: 303-814-0693 jyoung@sanz.com
Vice-President	Terry Ryan LizardTech Centennial, CO	Work: 303-903-3604 Fax: 303-703-3632 tryan@lizardtech.com
Secretary	Victoria Provenza Spatial Technologies and Analytics Centennial, CO	Work: 303-770-8251 Victoria@staaco.com
Treasurer	Mark Hess Ocean Imaging Inc. Littleton, CO	Work: 303-948-5272 Fax: 303-948-5272 mhess@oceani.com
National Director	Allen Cook Northrop Grumman Aurora, CO	Work: 720-744-7328 allen.cook@ngc.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Trent Casi Harris Image Links Golden, CO	Work: 303-215-1700 tcasi@harris.com
Regional Director (GIS in the Rockies)	Roland Mangold Spectrum Mapping, LLC Denver, CO	Work: 303-298-9847 Fax: 303-292-9279 rmangold@specmap.com
Regional Director (Communications/Newsletter)	Jennifer Whitacre Spectrum Mapping, LLC Denver, CO	Work: 303-298-9847 Fax: 303-292-9279 jwhitacre@specmap.com
Regional Director (General)	David Opitz Visual Learning Systems, Inc. Missoula, MT	Work: 406-829-3593 opitz@vis-inc.com
Regional Director (At Large)	Richard W. Cooke Research Systems, Inc. Boulder, CO	Work: 303-413-3964 Fax: 303-786-9909 rwcooke@rsinc.com
Past President & GIS in the Rockies Advisory Board	Jaymes Pardue Infotech Enterprises Arvada, CO	Work: 303-384-1925 Fax: 303-384-1926 jpardue@infotechsw.com
Communications Coordinator/Webmaster (not on the board)	Sheila Pelczarski Denver Water Denver, CO	Work: 303-628-6511 sgp@denverwater.org