

Issue 3

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

President's Message

Dear Rocky Mountain Region members of ASPRS,

The 28th annual GIS in the Rockies (GISITR) occurred on September 23-24 at the Cable Center in Denver, Colorado. This event went off without a single hitch. This was due to the fact that several people on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Region devoted a great deal of time and effort to this event. Of course many other people from local chapters of other professional societies also participated in the planning process. This working together toward a common goal, both within our own professional society and with other professional societies, is an important aspect of the ASPRS-RMR.

This year at GISITR the ASPRS track featured Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), a hot topic. This "relatively" new technology has been strongly embraced by geospatial scientists in the Rocky Mountain Region. Also at GISITR the Student Breakfast was well attended and there was a strong interest in students becoming members of our professional society. Moreover, students were very interested in the ASPRS professional certifications, particularly the new LiDAR category.

The ASPRS professional certification, I believe, is an important metric for the Geospatial sciences as a whole. That is, the professional certification has been functioning for some time and people are being certified each and every month of the year. The ASPRS certification has rigorous prerequisites and is coupled with a comprehensive exam. Perhaps in the future, more Geospatial professionals will recognize the importance of this high-caliber professional certification.

This year we announced our student scholarship applications early. The RMR of ASPRS always

receives excellent scholarship applications from students in the region. This makes our job of assigning awards difficult. Nevertheless, it brings me great pleasure that there are so many well educated geospatial scientists vying for an ASPRS-RMR student scholarship.

We have a technical tour slated for 10:00 AM – 12:00 on November, 13, 2015 at Exelis VIS (Harris) in Boulder, Colorado. Please RSVP to Mike Tuffly mtuffly@eriaconsultants.com if you would like to attend.

In closing, I would also like to announce that this year (2015) has been an excellent one for the RMR. I am confident that 2016 will be even better. In 2016 we will announce our student scholarship winners, install a new Board of Directors, and plan new and exciting technical tours and networking events.

Thank you,

Dr. Michael Tuffly, CMS
Rocky Mountain Region President

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National Director's Report

Rocky Mountain Region members,

I am a member of the ASPRS Value Proposition Task Force led by Vice President-Elect Becky Morton. I was recently asked to draft a Value Proposition Statement for The Imaging & Geospatial Information Society, ASPRS. This will, no doubt, go through several iterations before the next Spring meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. ***I would appreciate your comments.***

Working Draft --- Value Proposition Statement for The Imaging & Geospatial Information Society, ASPRS

Geospatial Profession Mandates

As geospatial technologies expand into almost all facets of human existence there is a need for standards, professional certifications, procurement guidelines, exchanges of best practices and innovations achieved through regular interactions and agreements of peer professionals. ASPRS: The Imaging & Geospatial Information Society has been and is a world class foundry for global geospatial innovation. Precise and accurate definition of position, representative descriptions of locations and robust characterizations of places are at the core of our skill set.

Meeting Our Community's Expectations

ASPRS provides members with unique networking opportunities for service providers, technical experts, vendors, peer professionals, end clients and competitors. Why? .. Because we facilitate members staying connected.

Research Contributions – We foster best of class investigations, technology R&D, proof of concept test beds and techniques, and methods refinement. Why? ... Because we encourage pure research which eventually leads to expansion of practical technology.

Business Endeavors -- We provide businesses access to customers and prospects. Why? ... To maintain current customer relationships and acquire new customers.

Government – We provide tools, techniques, procedures, methods, standards and metrics for effective land and resource management by the

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government sector. Why? ... To sustain a quality environment for our citizens and the natural worlds.

Education – We sponsor scholarships for students and programs for young professionals – Why? ... Because we wish to nurture future professionals.

Community Contributions – We publish Standards, Best Practices and Procurement Guidelines. Why? ... We wish to maintain our role as geospatial standards thought leaders.

Professional Development – We cultivate geospatial professional development – Why? ... We transform peer best practices into individual skills, techniques, methodologies, workflows and, as applicable, certifications for practitioners.

ASPRS is a thought leader in everything geospatial. We serve the needs of our individual and sustaining members by being persistent innovators and advocates of the ethical application of geospatial technologies.

Value Statement to our Community

ASPRS provides a forum for as well as a platform from which to share ideas in a highly interactive environment, taking advantage of various communications mechanisms and at a reduced cost for members. Perpetual geospatial innovation and persuasive advocacy imperative serves as ASPRS' heartbeat and truly differentiates ASPRS from other geospatial member organizations. We collect and manage massive data sets and comprehensively model landscapes to address local to global natural hazards and human-induced problems facing our earth and those who inhabit its surface. As a professional society, we shed passé methods and techniques with keen eyes on the horizon for continued refinement of current best practices and early adoption of geospatial technological innovations. Our stated purpose challenges our membership to promote "... accurately described and widely available imaging and geospatial information that is broadly applied to improve the analyses and decisions necessary to sustain and enhance the global quality of life" (see www.asprs.org).

Geospatial Community Response

ASPRS nurtures, develops, reviews and finalizes standards in a collaborative environment. That purpose must be balanced with our strategy for a prosperous future; our membership culture—current and future; our contemporary and ever improving

professional interactions; our passionate refinement of geospatial standards and practices and our effective administration and growth. We do have a strong foundation and tradition to build upon with members and leadership from government, academia and the private sector. The door is wide open for a new and diverse membership with our educational and young professional outreach and professional geo-collaboration leading the way. Let's join together to mark our place in the geospatial community with enthusiasm and apply our broad and in-depth domain expertise to measure, monitor and model the earth, oceans, biosphere and atmosphere. We are only bounded by our collective geo-collaborative imagination in the Geospatial Golden Age.

Jeffrey M. Young, RMR National Director
jyoung@lizardtech.com

Technical Tour

Our next Technical Tour will be at Exelis Visual Information Solutions (VIS) in Boulder, Colorado on Friday, November 13, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

Exelis VIS (now owned by Harris Corporation) are the creators of ENVI software and the IDL programming language. Come and see what they are up to lately, including "Jagwire."

Participation is limited -- advance registration required. RSVP to mtuffly@eriaconsultants.com to participate in this tour. Optional lunch and networking outing after the tour, location TBD. Those who RSVP will receive directions.

- ENVI products create the premier geospatial software foundation to process and analyze all types of imagery and data such as multispectral, hyperspectral, LiDAR, and SAR.
- IDL is the trusted scientific programming language used across disciplines to extract meaningful visualizations out of complex numerical data.
- Jagwire is web-based geospatial data management software that helps quickly discover data, transform it into information, and put it in the hands of the people who need it most, regardless of location.
- The Exelis VIS Professional Services Group provides solutions that exploit your existing data and incorporate new data sources to improve discovery and production.
- Learn more at <http://www.exelisvis.com/>

Networking Event a Success!

Six RMR members gathered on Friday evening, October 23rd at the Perfect Landing Restaurant at Centennial Airport in Englewood, CO to watch the planes come and go and share stories from the past and present. Longtime member Linda Meyer shared the news that she has started her own business, **Harmony Geospatial Services, LLC**, providing Consulting, Research, Technical Writing, and Client Training. You can reach her at 303-817-2295 or Linda.Meyer@HarmonyGeospatial.com or visit her new website at www.HarmonyGeospatial.com

*Why not organize a networking social in your area??
 Just let us know and we'll help you promote it!*

Stay tuned for upcoming Technical Tours and Social Events! Check out new professional opportunities and upcoming events on the Rocky Mountain Region [Website](#) ...

Upcoming ASPRS Webinars

Registration and additional information can be found on the [ASPRS website](#). For those seeking ASPRS Certification: ASPRS Training Webinars are a great way to gain Professional Development Hours!

Student Rebate Offer

ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region will reimburse \$25 of the \$50 cost of student membership, so your net cost is only \$25 for all the benefits of membership in the Society!

Download the Student Membership Rebate Form at <http://www.asprs-rmr.org> (on the News & Events page). Here's the best part: ***This offer from the Region is good for every year you are a full-time student!***

HxGN Live 2015

Riding the winds of victory, PhD student and Hexagon Geospatial U.S. Education Award winner Su Zhang (RMR Region Scholarship Winner / President of the University of NM ASPRS Student Chapter) and his advising Professor Christopher Lippitt (RMR Board Member) traveled to Las Vegas for [HxGN LIVE 2015](#). Both enjoyed an all-expenses paid trip courtesy of Hexagon Geospatial. They received their awards, and Zhang showed us exactly how cool his research project is.

In his session presentation titled "Pavement Surface Cracks Detection and Assessment Based on Hyper-Spatial Resolution Natural Color Digital Aerial Photography," Zhang demonstrated the utility of aerial imagery acquired from a tethered weather balloon, for a "proof of concept" analysis of asphalt surface distress conditions using ERDAS IMAGINE software.



[Watch the presentation](#) and learn how hyper-spatial digital aerial imagery acquired from a low-cost unmanned remote sensing system enabled detailed pavement characterization.

And to all students out there ... stay tuned, because next year's winner could be YOU!

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If you would like more information about the Hexagon Geospatial U.S. Education Program, please contact Diane Geheber at 866-282-4325 or diane.geheber@hexagongeospatial.com with any questions.

Welcome New Members!

Deborah Barnes
 Brandon Cary
 Todd Lebov
 Kimberly Mantey
 Joel Max
 Larry Medrano
 Linda Vier

PROSE Symposium

Please join us Friday, October 16, 2015 on The University of Arizona (Tucson) campus for the 8th Annual PROSE Symposium (Phenology Research and Observations of Southwest Ecosystems).

Poster Competition with cash prizes! More information at <https://www.usanpn.org/prose2015>

IGTF 2016

[ASPRS 2016 Annual Conference - IGTF 2016](#)
 (Imaging & Geospatial Technology Forum)
 & co-located JACIE Workshop (Joint Agency Commercial Imagery Evaluation)
 Fort Worth, Texas - April 11 - 15, 2016
 Fort Worth Convention Center

As current and recent members, I am asking you for your renewed commitment and support to help us return the annual ASPRS meeting to its rightful place as one of the "must attend" events of the year for mapping, geospatial and remote sensing professionals.

As many of you know, the ASPRS is undergoing a major transformation as we streamline and revitalize our critically important organization. Obviously this process is going to take some time,

but with the renewed support of both the membership and our Sustaining Members, I am confident we will get there.

One of the milestones by which we want to measure our progress is with IGTF 2016. If you will put us in your plans for next April I will assure you that we will do our part to present you with an outstanding program, trade show, and networking opportunity. We are making a similar appeal to our Sustaining Members, as it will take the involvement of both groups to achieve success. Please let them know that you expect them to be there.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you in Fort Worth next April and thank you in advance for coming along with us on this important professional journey.

Dr. Michael Hauck, Executive Director, ASPRS
(mhauck@asprs.org)

Scholarship Announcement

In its continuing efforts to support and build awareness for the Remote Sensing and GIS / Geospatial sciences, the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS is proud to announce its academic scholarships for 2015-2016. The ASPRS-RMR offers scholarships to deserving undergraduate and graduate students every year. There will be at least one scholarship awarded (assuming sufficient applications are received) in the range of at least \$500 to \$1,000 each, depending on level of study (Bachelor's, Master's or Ph.D.). The scholarships are intended for students throughout the Rocky Mountain Region (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico) 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 encouraged to apply.

Get information and the application from the "Newsletters" page at <http://www.asprs-rmr.org>

Student membership in ASPRS is not required to apply, but if selected, membership is required at

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time of scholarship award. Awards will be presented at the ASPRS-RMR Annual Dinner Meeting in January or February 2016. The Rocky Mountain Region has consistently offered thousands of dollars in annual scholarships every year. Preference will be given to those studies that apply sound scientific principles to practical applications in the geospatial sciences (photogrammetry, remote sensing, Geographic Information Systems, etc.). Awards at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels are based on academic merit; that is, the application form does not request any personal financial data.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Dr. Michaela Buenemann, ASPRS-RMR Vice-President, at elabuen@nmsu.edu or 575-646-350.

Applications should be submitted by the December 4, 2015 deadline.

Be sure to follow submittal instructions on the bottom of the application.

ASPRS Announces LiDAR Certification

Back in August, the ASPRS certification program announced the launch of a Professional and Technologist LIDAR Certification, the Certified Mapping Scientists, Lidar (CMS, Lidar) and the Certified Lidar Technologist (CLT).

The Certified Mapping Scientist, LiDAR certification is described as: A professional involved in LiDAR systems design and/or systems application of data acquisition and computer programs that allow for the utilization of spatially referenced LiDAR point clouds for solving user needs and analysis requirements. Responsibilities of the applicant should include management and supervision leading to the integration of data needs and the development of correspondence among, and the utilization of, various spatial systems of often-different generic origins that are used to solve requirements.

Visit www.asprs.org for more information.