

## Issue 2

Summer 2017

Issued Quarterly

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 **GIS in the Rockies Conference** will be held at the Hilton Denver Inverness, Denver Tech Center, Englewood, CO, September 20-21, 2016. This is the premier meeting for geospatial students and professionals in the Rocky Mountain West and offers workshops, presentations, exhibits, social events, and more. We are particularly excited about the ASPRS track on "Big Data."

This is an exciting time to be a member of ASPRS! Geographic information science and technology is a vibrant and growing field, and our leaders in the national office are developing and implementing many strategies for better serving its increasingly diverse membership. Among other things, ASPRS recently launched a completely overhauled website, approved new bylaws that reflect the Society's restructured organization, and took a number of measures for adding value to the Society (e.g., new certifications, trainings, and professional development opportunities). In the Rocky Mountain Region of ASPRS, we are working on strengthening the Society in similar ways. We will keep you posted on our progress in the coming months. In the meantime, please let us know how we can better serve you — we value your input and appreciate your feedback. We'd like to hear from you. Please email us (asprs.rmr@gmail.com) your thoughts!

With best wishes,  
**Dr. Michaela Buenemann**  
**ASPRS Rocky Mountain Region President**

### National Director's Report

Functioning as an open Society, our Region membership should be aware of a recent action of the National leadership regarding the current financial condition of National ASPRS. Headquarters continues to be fiscally challenged, and as a result, has received financial assistance from the Pacific Southwest Region. Other Regions may follow suit to cover an estimated budget gap of \$60,000 over the next few months. Below is a copy of the agreement between Pacific Southwest Region and National concerning their loan of \$10,000 to National.

Prior to the Rocky Mountain Region even considering a loan to National, I suggest we encourage them to evaluate other financing options such as selling or leasing out a portion of the Headquarters offices, and/or merging with another geospatial-oriented professional society. Our Society is at risk and we need to consider a variety of options to remain solvent and to continue being a vital contributor to all things geospatial, nationally and globally.

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June 1, 2017

ASPRS

Attn: Jesse Winch, Acting Executive Director  
425 Barlow Place, Suite 210  
Bethesda, MD 20814-2160

On behalf of the Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS, please find the enclosed check for \$10,000.00 as funds towards ASPRS national and to be repaid following the terms of the loan.

**Terms of loan:** Loan is for 6 months from date of deposit with no payments, then pay back monthly over next 6 months. No interest shall be charged. If national goes to another region for additional funds, then we get paid back first. \$10,000 plus any direct costs associated with the loan.

Please sign below as your agreement to these terms.

Lorraine B. Amenda, PLS, CP  
President, ASPRS Pacific Southwest Region

Jesse Winch  
Acting Executive Director, ASPRS

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the financial circumstances of National.

Jeffrey M. Young  
ASPRS-RMR National Director  
[jyoung@lizardtech.com](mailto:jyoung@lizardtech.com)

## National ASPRS Student Scholarship Program 2017-2018

Get Ready! Prepare to apply for one or more ASPRS scholarships beginning September 1. Read the instructions to apply and begin preparing your application and contacting prospective recommenders.

ASPRS is pleased to offer twelve scholarship awards totaling more than \$50,000 in value! Available to both undergraduate and graduate student-members of ASPRS, these resources have been generated with the intention of advancing academic and professional goals in the geospatial sciences. ASPRS recognizes that students are the future of these rapidly evolving fields and encourages all who are qualified to take advantage of these unique opportunities.

## Rocky Mountain Compiler

- Student Application Window: Sept. 1 - October 4
- Recommendation Submission: Sept. 1 - October 8
- Anticipated Award Announcements: Early December 2017
- Award winners will be honored at the ASPRS 2018 Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony on February 6, 2018 in Denver

## Rocky Mountain Region Student Scholarship Program 2017-2018

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 2017-2018. 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 time of scholarship award. Awards will be presented sometime in early 2018. 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. Applications should be submitted by the December 1, 2017 deadline. Be sure to follow submittal instructions on the bottom of the application.

## GIS in the Rockies Conference

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017** – Workshops  
**Wednesday, Sept. 20** – Main Conference (Day 1)  
**Thursday, Sept. 21** – Main Conference (Day 2)  
**Friday, Sept. 22** – Post-Conference Tours

In addition to outstanding technical sessions, the conference will also feature two keynote speakers, a poster session, the [Career Development Academy](#), an evening social, and more.

*GIS in the Rockies is pleased to announce keynote speakers for the 2017 conference: Peter Batty and Dr. Aileen Buckley!*

### **PETER BATTY – Wednesday, September 20 8:30 AM- 10:00 AM**

Peter Batty is a co-founder and CTO of the geospatial division at Ubisense. He has worked in the geospatial industry for 30 years and played a leading role in creating multiple industry changing products. Peter has served as CTO for Intergraph and Smallworld. He served on the board of OSGeo from 2011 to 2013 and chaired the FOSS4G 2011 conference in Denver.

### **DR. AILEEN BUCKLEY – Thursday, September 21 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

Dr. Aileen Buckley has been making maps for over 25 years. She has a Ph.D. in geography from Oregon State University, a Masters in Geography from Indiana University, and a Bachelors in Geography and Spanish from Valparaiso University. Since 2013, she has been a research cartographer at Esri where she focuses on the development of best practices for mapping. While she publishes and presents world-wide on many aspects of mapping and GIS, much of her research relates to space-time mapping, terrain representation, map use, and historical maps. She is a co-author of Map Use: Reading, Analysis, Interpretation and of the Atlas of Oregon. Aileen is a former president of CaGIS (the U.S. cartographic association) and is active in the International Cartographic Association.

For more information, visit <http://gisintherockies.org/> ***You can receive certification points for participation in this conference!***

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## Rocky Mountain Compiler

## Rocky Mountain Region Annual Meeting Slated for Nov. 3 - 5

Plans are being made for a Friday evening through Sunday noon weekend meeting with workshops and social/networking events and a Saturday evening dinner, all to be held at The Trails Recreation Center in Centennial, Colorado. Stay tuned for more details as plans are finalized. If you would like to give a workshop, please contact us.

***Check for more information on the Rocky Mountain Region [Website](#) ...***

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## **Pecora 20: Observing a Changing Earth**

Pecora 20 will be held November 14-16, 2017 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. [Here is a link to the conference website.](#)

With emphasis on recent significant developments in remote sensing, the theme of Pecora 20 is "Observing a Changing Earth: Science for Decisions...Monitoring, Assessment, and Projection." This conference will offer a program on applications of satellite and other Earth observations to monitor, assess, and perform projections of future land and water resources, as well as big data and other analytical technologies to improve decision making utilizing satellite data.

The Pecora Symposium series was established by the USGS and NASA in the 1970s as a forum to:

- 1) foster the exchange of scientific information and results derived from applications of Earth observing data to a broad range of land-based resources; and
  - 2) discuss ideas, policies, and strategies concerning land remote sensing.
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## ASPRS Conference 2018 + International LiDAR Mapping Forum

February 5 - 7, 2018 in Denver, CO - [Conference Website](#)

### BETTER TOGETHER!

#### 2 Conferences + 1 Exhibit Floor

*More education, networking, and technology than ever before!*

FROM FEBRUARY 5-7, 2018, THE INDUSTRY WILL DESCEND ON DENVER for what's certain to be *The single largest gathering of geospatial professionals in North America — ever.* For mapping professionals, there's no better place for technical education, networking and sourcing geospatial solutions all in one place than at ILMF-ASPRS 2018! They'll be comparing and qualifying solutions. The only way to be sure yours are being considered is by exhibiting or presenting.

BETTER TOGETHER. The combined event will feature a single exhibit hall and inclusive social activities. The event will maintain the unique technical programs, including ILMF product previews and ASPRS workshops, awards, and committee meetings. Attendees will be able to purchase a conference pass that allows entry to programs of their choice, or they may choose a universal pass that allows entry to all programs.

For more information, check out our informational flyer at [www.asprs.org](http://www.asprs.org)

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## 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 Student Chapters page). Here's the best part: ***This offer from the Region is good for every year you are a full-time student!***

## Rocky Mountain Compiler

## Welcome New Members!

Teresa L. Barber  
 Jim Blakely  
 Brian Brill  
 Melissa Crocker  
 Matthew Cuneo  
 Christina Dill  
 Gustavo Hernandez  
 Jason Isherwood  
 Drew Jurkofsky  
 Tom LaRitz  
 McCain McMurray  
 Krist Nelson  
 Brent M. Newman  
 T. Kyoko Oyama  
 John Richard Sulsona  
 Derek Watson

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## 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!

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## GeoBytes

In addition to the ASPRS Webinars, our organization also offers free online seminars presented by ASPRS and sponsored by the ASPRS GIS Division, in cooperation with AAGS and CaGIS.

Attention those seeking ASPRS Certification: ASPRS Online Seminars are a great way to gain Professional Development Hours! [Click here to learn more](#)

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## Contact Us!

All ASPRS Regions now have our own ASPRS.ORG email addresses. Should you ever want to reach out to the Rocky Mountain Region, send an email to [rockymountainregion@asprs.org](mailto:rockymountainregion@asprs.org) We welcome

suggestions for content and stories for our quarterly newsletter!

## Review of the Proposed Amendments to National ASPRS Bylaws

The Corporate Members Council voted to request a Bylaws change that would rename the Corporate Members Council as the Sustaining Members Council. Council members were concerned that "Corporate" was not sufficiently inclusive of its diverse membership. They recommend the Bylaws change to encourage industry, government, academic, and other non-government organizations, like professional and non-profit groups to advance their professional involvement in the future of a flourishing ASPRS.

A petition from the Corporate Member Council to amend the ASPRS Bylaws was submitted by CMC Chair, **Joe Cantz**, with the five required signatures of voting Board members, to the Acting Executive Director, **Jesse Winch**, on August 30, 2017. Jesse then requested that the Board approve publishing the proposed amendments described in the petition. Using the electronic voting process, a motion was made and seconded. (An electronic vote requires that each voting member must vote and there must be consensus for the motion to pass.) On September 2, the final vote was recorded. All votes approved the motion to publish the proposed amendments. On September 3, ASPRS President Becky Morton declared the motion passed to publish the following proposed amendments to the ASPRS Bylaws, revised January 2016.

This proposal was posted in the ASPRS e-Newsletter for comments by ASPRS members, starting September 6 until October 6, 2017. Please return all comments to Jesse Winch, [jwinch@asprs.org](mailto:jwinch@asprs.org)

Not before October 21, 2017, the National Board of Directors will vote to approve or disapprove the proposed amendment, reflecting review of all comments received.

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## UAS Certification Informational Video

Are you interested in attending the [ASPRS UAS Technical Symposium](#) at the [Commercial UAV Expo](#) in Las Vegas on October 24, 2017, but wondering how this prepares you for certification?

Did you miss the informative UAS Certification Webinar last week? You can view a recording for free by [clicking here](#).

ASPRS is also extending the deadline until September 15 for those who would like to apply to take the UAS certification exam at the Symposium venue. If you have questions, contact [certification@asprs.org](mailto:certification@asprs.org).

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## People and Pixels -- 20th Anniversary

Abstracts are wanted for "*Advances in the Use of Remote Sensing in the Social Sciences*." This conference will be held at the Fall American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting December 11-15, 2017 in New Orleans, LA. More information [can be found here](#).

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## PE&RS Digital Submissions

ASPRS is pleased to announce that paper submission to *PE&RS* just got easier. Authors can submit papers to PE&RS via the Allen Press website. The new all-digital submission method for PE&RS is hosted by Allen Press Peer-Track system. [Click here to submit a paper to PE&RS \(requires free login\)](#). Anyone interested in submitting a paper to *PE&RS* can go to the Allen Press website to learn more, and from there one can access the digital submission page.

## Geospatial Data Act of 2017

The Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) was asked by Senator Orrin Hatch's office to address concerns being heard from the geospatial community regarding the Geospatial Data Act of 2017 (S.1253). The Coalition has been considering possible solutions and will continue to do so.

COGO is a coalition of 13 national professional societies, trade associations, and membership organizations in the geospatial field, representing more than 170,000 individual geospatial practitioners. The stakeholder groups that make up COGO speak with one voice on geospatial data and policy issues whenever possible. COGO only takes public policy positions with a unanimous vote of its member organizations.

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## LIDAR Standards and Guidelines Public Review Process

### *Two New Documents are Available for Public Review and Comment*

Comment Period: September 1 - October 30, 2017

As part of its mission, ASPRS maintains a leadership role in the development of guidelines, standards, specifications, and calibration processes for those sensors and activities of primary importance to the membership by using established procedures for developing, reviewing, modifying, approving standards, and publishing them.

A joint USGS-ASPRS Work Group, operating under the aegis of the ASPRS Lidar Division and the Airborne Lidar Committee, has investigated various factors associated with the geometric quality of Lidar data. The Work Group has noted that while the quality of Lidar data has improved tremendously in the past few years, the QA/QC processes of these data are not standardized, including the semantics, processes for measurement and reporting, and Metadata. Therefore, to ensure the geometric

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quality of Lidar data required for scientific (statistical error propagation and estimation) and non-scientific purposes (including legal), the Work Group has recommended several topics for research and development in a Summary document. In addition, the Work Group created Guidelines on quantifying the relative horizontal and vertical errors observed between conjugate features in the overlapping regions of Lidar data. The effort has been supported by the USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) and the Land Remote Sensing (LRS) program.

At the ASPRS Imaging & Geospatial Technology Forum (IGTF) in Baltimore, MD in March 2017, the Standards Committee implemented the first phase of an outreach campaign by approving draft versions of two documents: "Summary of Research and Development Efforts Necessary for Assuring Geometric Quality of Lidar Data" and "Guidelines on Geometric Inter-Swath Accuracy and Quality of Lidar Data." The Standards Committee then released both documents for review by the ASPRS membership.

Industry stakeholders and the general public are now invited to participate in the approval process by downloading the draft versions, reviewing the content, and providing comments to the editors in a timely manner (ASAP) with a final deadline of October 30, 2017. The readers are requested to send their reviews and comments to [lidar-guidelines@asprs.org](mailto:lidar-guidelines@asprs.org).

[Click here to learn more and download the documents](#)

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## ASPRS Website Login Change

As of August 1, 2017, your *Username* for the [ASPRS member website](#) has been changed to the email address listed in your membership profile. Please take a moment to verify your user profile information, including email address, for accuracy.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind members that *digital access to the full content of PE&RS is included in your membership. If you wish to receive a hard copy of the printed journal, you must choose to add that option for an additional \$60/year for shipping.*