President's Message

"GIS in the Rockies": Change and Adapt or Decline In my capacity as the "GIS in the Rockies" Conference Executive Board President, we conducted a Meetup gathering in April to frame the future of GIS in the Rockies. Genie Hays, Peggy Streicher, Darcee Killpack, Deborah Wilson, Kyoko Chenhalls and I attended the Meetup. We asked ourselves many questions. We are working hard to produce a great event, but are we working smart? In general, we need a refresh, possibly a return to our roots, and we need to be more financially prudent.

Overall options to consider for GIS in the Rockies include the following: Continue with business as usual, and suffer a decline under the current model; change the conference format; change membership -- add or reduce participating organizations; disband and disperse funds to the four societies; or some other combination of the above options. Future considerations include: revisit fees, value, discounts, etc.; change venues from hotels to institutions, schools, or public spaces; clearly understand the format building blocks from a functional decomposition standpoint; reprogram away from a single, large capacity keynote requirement with an attendance of 500 to mini keynotes; develop a Resource Guide for the Conference Planning Committee Chair; develop an Orientation Package for the Planning Committee; examine workshops and associated fees; remove any room blocks associated with the event; rethink exhibits; re-scope the Event Planner Contract -- consider a solicitation or an all-volunteer model; conduct a search for a new venue, lead by the Executive Board membership; and improve record keeping.

Currently, we have some short-term objectives: Improve the tone of governance; clarify roles across the organization; add an exhibit focus for the Planning Committee; verify society composition of the Planning Committee; finalize the Track themes; consider a Certification Workshop; consider an "Open Source" Workshop or Track, and invite the Open Geospatial Consortium to participate and/or exhibit; invite non-profit organizations to exhibit; and manage the event for a profit for society distribution. We also will be conducting a budget review, including the following: food and beverage cost details disclosed for 2017, 2108, 2019; examine the 3-year changes over time in the budget; determine past expenditures for the venue and other expenses; review venue contracts for 2017, 2018, 2019; and review the Event Planner contract. Deb Wilson has agreed to serve on the Executive Board of Directors, or at least in a supportive role. Some loose ends were raised as well: A need to review the Bylaws (and revise?); a need to reset expectations on the measure of success for future events; Scholarships – is it viable for GIS in the Rockies to offer awards in the future? Should we consider an out-of-state event in conjunction with another group? Is it time for a leadership retreat? Is it time for a new venue search by the Board under a revised selection criteria; and, finally, how can we increase our financial reserves? And remember: Let's always have fun! Your comments and contributions are welcome. Jeff Young, ASPRS-RMR President and GIS in the Rockies Executive Board President jyoung@extensis.com

National Director's Report

National ASPRS Updates (January to May):

o The ASPRS Region Officers Council met in person and via conference call on Jan 27, 2019 in Denver as part of the ASPRS Annual Conference during Geo Week.
- 2019 Region Officers Council members were introduced to the two staff members of P&N Association Management. P&N has been hired to help supplement ASPRS headquarters staff in hopes of supporting the various ASPRS Committees and Regions with communication, project tracking, and membership initiatives.

o ASPRS National website continues to undergo updates.
- Focus of updates is currently on membership directories/database to help with better engagement of the membership across all regions.

o National is continuing to make efforts to streamline the production of the PE&RS journal.

o ASPRS Region Mergers
- Revised Operating Procedures related to inactive regions has been discussed so as to improve the sustainability and management of all Regions by the National Directors.
- Cascadia Region is now official, replacing Colombia River and Puget Sound Regions with the newly merged Cascadia Region.
- The New England and Central New York Regions are also being considered for a merger by the Region Officers Council.

o Sustainability of Regions
- The Region Officers Council will monitor the activities within each of the Regions of ASPRS to determine the health and sustainability of each Region and provide assistance when needed by a Region's leadership.
- A Region will be considered inactive if one or more of the following have occurred: (1) no representative from the Region has participated in a Region Officers Council meeting or conference call in more than one year, (2) no election of Region leadership has occurred within one year, and/or (3) ASPRS is unable to contact the last known Region President or other Officer after five attempts by email or telephone.
- In the event that a Region has become inactive, the Region Officers Council will seek to identify leadership within the Region to help revitalize the Region.
- If efforts to revitalize the Region fail, the Region Officers Council will recommend that the ASPRS Board of Directors dissolve the Region and assign their territory to an adjoining Region.

o ASPRS National is exploring future participation in events that can generate funds for the individual Regions. The Society is also looking into future coordination with other Geospatial events across the US to help achieve the goal of regional growth of funding.

o All ASPRS Region Elections for 2019 have occurred and new officers have been sworn into their respective positions.

o Rocky Mountain Region submitted its 2018 Financial Reports to the National Board.
- New streamlining of annual reporting by Regions to National is in the works, so as to improve the level of participation in reporting across all Regions.

o Digital Elevation Model Technologies and Applications: The DEM Users Manual, 3rd Edition is now available in digital edition as an eBook via Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07QL3DJB7

Terry Ryan
ASPRS-RMR National Director
tryan@extensis.com

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

Region Board Members for 2019

A special thanks to all those members who voted. Congratulations to our Officers for 2019!

President:
   Jeff Young

Vice-President:
   Mike Tuffly

Treasurer:
   Peter Cornish

Secretary:
   Melissa Martin

National Director:
   Terry Ryan

Regional Director (At-large / New Mexico):
   Chris Lippitt

Regional Director (General / Wyoming):
   Ramesh Sivanpillai

Regional Director ("GIS in the Rockies" Committee):
   Kyoko Chenhalls (formerly Kyoko Oyama)

Regional Director ("GIS in the Rockies" Committee):
   Aron Langley

Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter):
   Sheila Pelczarski

Contact information for our Officers can be found on the Region website at www.asprs-rmr.org

We would like to extend a WARM WELCOME to our newest Board members, Aron Langley and Melissa Martin. Aron is a GIT Specialist – Supervisor at Michael Baker International in Lakewood, CO. Melissa is a Geospatial Tech III with Woolpert in Englewood, CO. She came forward and offered to volunteer for the open position of Secretary after our elections were in progress, and was later appointed by the Executive Committee, according to our Bylaws.

You can read the biographical sketches for Aron and Melissa below. Other bios are in the Winter 2018 issue.

We also offer HEARTFELT THANKS to our outgoing Officers for their dedicated service to the Region and the Society:

* Jason Isherwood – Regional Director ("GIS in the Rockies" Committee)
* Mike Garner – Regional Director (Communications / Newsletter.

Jason and Mike, your continued involvement in Region activities is always welcome!

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New Regional Director Aron Langley, M.A., GISP is a GIT Technical Specialist II and GIS manager in the Michael Baker International (MBI) Lakewood office. He develops, implements, and presents solutions to geospatial problems using the latest technologies. He serves as a multi-office technical resource and consistently provides leadership and project support across company offices and a variety of Michael Baker International clientele. Aron is a Certified GIS Professional. He also earned his CFR Part 107 (UAS) Remote Pilot's License in 2017 and is currently lead pilot and GIT manager for the MBI Lakewood office. Aron has served as a GIT lead and manager for multi-million-dollar transportation projects, including Michael Baker International's recent I-69 Section 5 Tier II EIS for the Indiana Department of Transportation. He has successfully deployed automated site assessment tools for multiple clients, including tools to evaluate site vulnerability to natural hazards, socio-economic risk, stream restoration site prioritization, and tools to assist communities with prioritizing transportation improvement projects. He has presented at several community project scoping meetings and multiple local and regional conferences, including GIS in the Rockies (GISITR) and the Association of Montana Flood Plain Managers conferences. Throughout his career in GIT, Aron has become an expert in geospatial analysis, LiDAR processing, terrain modeling, terrain development, raster analysis and modeling, ModelBuilder tool development, workflow modeling and automation, impact analysis and modeling, riverine and coastal flood mapping, future scenario modeling, Python scripting, development of online mapping applications and dashboards, data interoperability, database design and management, transportation plan analysis, remote sensing, natural resource management, and QA/QC processes.

Aron earned a B.S. degree in physical geography from the University of Wyoming. His deep attraction to outdoor adventure, wandering the Colorado high country, maps, and mapping were in large part what led him to Wyoming. He studied geology, weather and climate, insect biology, and natural resources before gravitating to the physical form and landscapes he loved. The University of Wyoming provided Aron with an educational foundation that would eventually lead him to his career in GIS. In 2002 Aron enrolled in graduate studies in Missoula, MT to continue his educational development. At the University of Montana, he earned a M.A. in Geography with an emphasis in GIS. He was elected Vice President of the Montana Chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon and finished his degree with a 4.0 GPA. After graduating, Aron took a job as an analyst with Michael Baker International's Lakewood office, where he used his talents and dedication to success to develop a career in GIS. Mr. Langley has been a proud member of the Colorado GIS community for 13 years and is eager to pursue new leadership roles and foster GIT growth throughout the region. He currently lives in Lakewood with his wife, Christina and two children, Lucas (age 4) and Elise (age 2).

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New Board Secretary Melissa Martin, CLT is a Geospatial Technician III, specializing in processing and conducting quality control (QC) on Lidar data at Woolpert in Englewood, Colorado. Recently, Melissa became a Certified Lidar Technologist (CLT) by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing. As a Lidar technician, Melissa draws on her early career experiences operating camera and sensor systems all over North America and flight planning aerial and Lidar missions, including time-essential missions for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), right after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in September 2017. This Category 5 Hurricane is so far the worst natural disaster on record to affect Dominica and Puerto Rico.

One of the key projects Melissa collected imagery for was the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Denver Regional Aerial Photography Project, as well as other Regional Council of Governments projects, such as MRCOG in New Mexico. At Woolpert, she has enjoyed dabbling in a wider range of Lidar technologies, including working with the Mobile Mapping System data. Melissa is also working towards her Master's degree in Geographic Information Science at the University of Denver. She has lived in Colorado for 19 years and enjoys spending time outdoors with her son, Lucas.

Region Scholarship Winner

The 2018-2019 ASPRS-RMR Student Scholarship award went to Yaneev Golomek, a Ph.D. candidate in the Civil / Geospatial Engineering Program at the University of Colorado - Denver. Applications from Ph.D. candidates were assessed by a review committee in 11 areas: appropriateness of field of study, quality of narrative, communication, letter of recommendation, enthusiasm, scholastic ability, extracurricular activity, quality of research, appropriateness of research, uniqueness of research, and innovation of research. Yaneev received a $1,000 award to further his research into the use of aerial LiDAR in measuring streetscape and street trees. After completing his degree next Spring, he plans to pursue a career involving engineering applications in the mapping sciences. Yaneev is an active member of ASPRS, GIS Colorado, MAPPS, RM-URISA, and Tau Beta Pi, the Engineering Honor Society.

The Board of Directors of ASPRS-RMR wishes all the applicants the best of luck in their future academic and professional pursuits. Consider applying next year, or help us spread the word about this great program!

We are also grateful to Dr. Ramesh Sivanpillai, professor and research scientist at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, for his generous donations from the proceeds of his GIS in the Rockies Workshops which he earmarks for our Scholarship Program!

Student Rebate Offer

Rocky Mountain Region will reimburse half the $50 cost of student membership, so your net cost is only $25 for all the benefits of ASPRS membership! Join ASPRS, then download the Student Rebate Form (on the Student Chapters page).

This offer is good for every year you are a full-time student!

Upcoming Denver Regional Data Projects – You Can Get Involved!

For those of you in the Denver Region, this is a FYI about upcoming opportunities to get involved in large data acquisition projects. The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has a long history of facilitating an aerial imagery project on behalf of public entities in our 10-county area. We are now expanding our suite of products and services that we offer and looking to include other interested parties -- such as the academic and private sectors -- in our projects.

In 2020/21, DRCOG plans to acquire the following data sets, guided by the needs of our GIS community:

- High-resolution imagery
- Planimetric data
- Lidar
- Land use / land cover

In an effort to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and research in our region, most of these products will be put into the public domain. Learn more about our past projects and how to access data:

- 2018 imagery project summary
- 2016 imagery project summary and free downloads
- 2018 planimetric data project summary
- 2016 planimetric data project summary and free downloads

If you are not receiving updates on these projects and would like to, please email me at asummers@drcog.org. We have a quarterly newsletter and project-level updates to keep you in the loop on how to communicate your data needs to DRCOG and how to access the available data in the region.

Ashley Summers, PMP, GISP | Information Systems Manager | Regional Planning and Development | Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) | Direct 303-480-6746 E-mail   asummers@drcog.org main: 303-455-1000 | website: drcog.org

Geo Week: ILMF-ASPRS-MAPPS Conference Report – Jan. 2019

"In 2018 the co-location of ILMF and the ASPRS Annual Conference brought two industry events together for collaboration among geospatial professionals, which the community has been asking for for years," Karen Schuckman, Managing Director for ASPRS commented. "The launch of Geo Week and addition of MAPPS in 2019 is the next step in the evolution toward a cohesive event for the entire geospatial community."

Holding a joint ILMF and ASPRS Conference in Denver in 2018 turned out to be a benefit for both organizations, and the addition of MAPPS in 2019 multiplied this effect even further. The inaugural Geo Week combined conference saw registration increase to almost 1,700 professionals from 34 countries, far surpassing attendance at the previous conferences held separately. The combined event, held 25-31 January, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Denver, gave attendees access to more geospatial technology and solutions, technical education, and networking opportunities than ever before. Attendees and vendors represented a wide range of applications for LiDAR, IFSAR, photogrammetry, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, geospatial information technologies, and Unmanned Aerial / Autonomous Systems (UAS/Drones), including data processing, archeology, design and construction, surveying and mapping, civil infrastructure, utilities, mining and reclamation, precision agriculture, coastal and bathymetric mapping, resource conservation, disaster response, and search & rescue operations, as well as sensor calibration, accuracy assessment, continuing accuracy standards development, data quality, and data management. Each conference maintained its own unique characteristics, with a combined exhibit hall. Together, Geo Week included four keynote addresses, plenary sessions, and dozens of technical, application-specific presentations. Keynotes covered LiDAR's growth in the age of smart cities, LiDAR as a paradigm shifter in Maya archeology, bridging the gap between geospatial mapping and autonomous vehicle perception, and disruptive technology for reality capture. Technical discussion sessions featured a wide range of technologies, cutting-edge research, and applications of many of the topics mentioned above. The combined exhibit hall was filled to capacity with over 100 vendors. Products and services on display represented the entire spectrum of the geospatial

industry, including surveying and mapping equipment/sensors, airborne data acquisition, unmanned aerial systems, and mapping software. Within the exhibit hall, the University Pavilion featured representatives from various Universities sharing their latest research, meeting with industry professionals eager to learn of the newest innovations, and finding potential collaborators. The ASPRS Annual Conference also included technical workshops, business meetings, award ceremonies, and numerous technical sessions. Another highlight was the "GeoLeague Challenge," a Jeopardy-style game show where teams of students, professionals, and professors competed for prizes by testing their knowledge on a diverse range of topics in Remote Sensing, LiDAR, GIS, GPS, and Geography.

The next Geo Week will be held 23-25 March, 2020 in Washington, DC. "I heard nothing but accolades from MAPPS members participating in Geo Week. Our member firms are excited as we continue being "Better Together" in Washington D.C. for Geo Week 2020," said **Brian Raber**, President of MAPPS.

"GIS in the Rockies" Conference

32nd Annual "GIS in the Rockies"
Premier Geospatial Conference of the Rocky Mountain West
September 17 & 18, 2019
Hilton Denver Inverness
Denver, Colorado
(Workshops will be held on September 16)

Join us September 17 & 18, 2019 in Denver, Colorado for the 32nd annual GIS IN THE ROCKIES Conference! GIS in the Rockies returns to the Hilton Denver Inverness, offering outstanding professional workshops and presentations, a Career Development Academy, exhibitors, networking opportunities, social events, and much more!

GIS in the Rockies 2019 early registration rate of $350 -- a $75 savings -- ends May 31!

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED
GIS in the Rockies is pleased to announce our 2019 Keynote Speakers:
The Opening Keynote will be delivered by Mike "Coop" Cooperstein, Weather and Avalanche Forecaster for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC). Coop is CAIC's main GIS specialist, working avalanche-related GIS projects for the CAIC and Colorado Department of Transportation. Prior to the CAIC, Coop served as a mountain guide with Andes Mountain Guides for 10 years and has had the opportunity to travel to some of the world's most remote places.
Our Closing Keynote speaker will be David Hansen, Chief Operating Officer of GEO Jobe GIS Consulting and Director of GEO Jobe's Center for Research and Engineering. David has multiple degrees in GIS and related technology, and he and GEO Jobe have received many awards for the advancement of geospatial technologies.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT
We invite you to share your professional geospatial knowledge and experience at a conference workshop or technical session. All submissions are welcome -- commercial, open source, and academic presentations. Presenters will receive discounted registration! Abstract submission applies to both speakers and poster presenters. The abstract submission deadline is July 19, 2019!
Take advantage of the DISCOUNTED RATE for speakers and poster presenters!
NOTE: Please DO NOT register for the conference until AFTER you have received your presentation and/or poster abstract acceptance.

Be sure to join us September 17 & 18 for the 32nd Annual GIS in the Rockies Conference -- the Rocky Mountain West's premier geospatial information and technology conference.
(Pre-Conference Workshops 9/16)
(Post-Conference Tours 9/19)
Submit Abstracts Here
Submit abstracts online no later than July 19. Questions about GIS in the Rockies? Email chair@gisintherockies.org

Welcome New Members!!

William Gallery
Mary Garner
Aron Langley
J. P. McGlaughlin
Barry Yu Miller
Anna B. Pavlenko, Ph.D.
Jon Rohrer