



The Ocean State
NEWSLETTER
RHODE ISLAND SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS
PO BOX 544, EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818
WWW.RISPLS.ORG

**SPECIAL POINTS OF
INTEREST**

- Letter from the President
- 2008 RISPLS Annual Convention News
- Membership
- Professional Directory

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 5

OCTOBER 2008

From the President's Desk...

CONVENTION ISSUE



Dear Fellow Surveyors:

The Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors (RISPLS) is hosting its annual conference on Friday, November 21, 2008 at the Newport Marriott in Newport, RI. The conference will consist of an all-day affair of seminars, panel discussions and vendor displays.

At the conclusion of the day's meetings and seminars there will be the drawing of door prizes followed by a cocktail hour and benefit scholarship auction. Friday evening's awards banquet and installation of the new slate of officers for the society will cap off the conference.

The first path of the conference will have a slate of round table panel discussions made up of professionals active in their respective fields of surveying. The round table panels will consist of members of the various Boards of Directors, Boards of Registration and Colleges and Universities with a surveying curriculum continuing the discussions started at the NESS Conference this past April in Worcester.

The second path of the conference will be a series of sessions on GPS and the "Surveyor and G.I.S." In the morning Thomas Myer of UCONN will present "GPS 101: An introduction to positioning with the US NAVSTAR Global Positioning System".

The afternoon sessions will feature A. Richard Vannozzi, PLS, Brent Jones of ESRI and Neil McGaffey of MassGIS. It is time for the surveying community in Rhode Island to become more involved in doing G.I.S. projects as part of their daily business and these presentations should be very helpful to all.

The last meeting of the day will be a NESS 2009 discussion with the representatives of NHLA. NHLA will sponsor the next NESS conference as part of their annual conference in December, 2009. NHLA has offered the following for the conference. If RISPLS has its annual conference as part of NESS, they will share in the proceeds of the conference. At our last General Membership Meeting, a show of hands indicated that a majority of those in attendance thought this would be a good idea. However, we will take a new vote at the convention to affirm that this is what the members wish to do. Be prepared to ask NHLA your questions.

Another change at NESS would be in distributing the scholarship auction monies based on representation of the societies in attendance. NHLA has a great start on putting this show together and I think that it is beneficial to all the surveyors in New England to support the conference.

We are looking for nominations for Surveyor of the Year, Technician of the Year and Municipal Employee of the Year. Please Call or email Debbie with you nominations.

And of course we are looking to get auction donations from members and friends. The auction proceeds will go to our scholarship fund, a good portion of which will be awarded to CCRI surveying students.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this conference as we join together to discuss and learn more of what is taking place in our profession and take steps to strengthen it.

John Libby, President RISPLS

RISPLS

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO BOX 544,
EAST GREENWICH,
RI 02818

OFFICE LOCATION:

280 DRY BRIDGE ROAD,
N.K., RI 02852

TELEPHONE/FAX:

(401) 294-1262

WEBSITE: RISPLS.ORG

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

DEBBIE MCCORMICK

(401) 316-0387

DEB0170@HOTMAIL.COM

2008 R.I.S.P.L.S. Convention Schedule

Newport Marriott Hotel, Newport, RI

Friday, November 21, 2008

7:30	Registration Opens with Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 4:30	Exhibits Open
8:15 - 10:15	Roundtable Discussion - NE Board of Registration
8:30 - 11:30	<u>"GPS 101: An introduction to positioning with the US NAVSTAR Global Positioning System"</u> Thomas Meyer, Geodesist, University of Connecticut
10:30 - 11:30	Roundtable Discussion - NE Board of Directors
11:30 - 12:30	Lunch
12:30 - 2:30	Roundtable Discussion - NE Board of Directors
12:30 - 2:00	<u>GIS Seminar: "Utilizing Surveying Expertise to Improve the Accuracy of an Existing GIS"</u> A. Richard Vannozi, PLS
2:00 - 3:30	<u>GIS Seminar: "Developing new opportunities and Continuing opportunities for Surveyors in the GIS World"</u> Brent Jones, PE PLS
	Brent will be discussing the opportunities for surveyors for both new work, and doing their existing work more efficiently (project estimation, project planning, centralized data like control, parcels, imagery, etc.)
2:30 - 4:00	Roundtable Discussion - NE Colleges & Universities
3:00 - 3:45	<u>Seminar: "Developing Digital Submissions for Surveyors"</u> Neil McGaffey, MassGIS
4:00 - 4:30	NESS 2009 Discussion
4:30 - 5:00	50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes
5:00 - 7:00	Cocktails and Scholarship Auction
7:00 - 9:30	Awards Banquet & Installation of Officers

"Utilizing Surveying Expertise to Improve the Accuracy of an Existing GIS"

Mr. Vannozi is a graduate of the University of Maine where he earned a BS in Forestry w/ High Honors with concentrations in both Forest Management and Surveying in 1984 and an MS in Forestry (with a surveying emphasis) in 2006. Currently he is a full time doctoral student in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering (NRME) at the University of Connecticut. His current studies and research are focused on GIS Applications and Education for Land Surveyors. He is registered as a Professional Land Surveyor in Massachusetts. At the University of Connecticut he teaches Geomatics and Spatial Measurement for the Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept. and Introduction to Geomatics labs for NRME. From 2003-2007 he taught numerous land surveying courses at The Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston. Before reorienting his career to focus on surveying education in 2003, Mr. Vannozi worked in private practice for 19 years specializing in ancient boundary retracement, boundary dispute resolution and title, boundary and zoning litigation. He serves on the Massachusetts Association of Land Surveyors and Civil Engineers, Inc. (MALSCE) Board of Directors and various Association committees and has done so since 1986 and he served as President of the Association from 1996-98. He received the Llewellyn T. Schofield Excellence in Surveying Award in 1997, has received four MALSCE Presidential Citations for his educational work for the Association and was named MALSCE Surveyor of the Year in 1998. From 1999-2000 he served as the President of The Engineering Center in Boston. He is a member of ACSM, NSPS, GLIS and AAGS and the New England Section of ACSM and serves on the NSPS Board of Governors representing Massachusetts. In 2006 he was recognized as a Distinguished Member of the Francis Crowe Society in the College of Engineering at the University of Maine for his work on behalf of the Surveying Engineering Technology program. He is also a Past-President of the Rotary Club of Plymouth, MA.

Land Surveyors have unique abilities in the area of measurement error analysis and in analyzing inconsistencies between field and record data. Using the Cadastral Editor functionality in ESRI's ArcGIS Desktop software, land surveyors can now bring their specialized expertise to bear on improving the positional accuracy an existing GIS. Through a case study from the presenter's research, attendees will see an emerging new role and opportunity for land surveyors in GIS.

"GPS 101: An introduction to positioning with the US NAVSTAR Global Positioning Sys-

Dr. Thomas H Meyer is an associate professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering at the University of Connecticut (UConn). His Ph.D. is from Texas A&M University (College Station, 1998) where he was a research associate in the Mapping Sciences Laboratory. During his tenure at UConn, he has taught geometrics courses in geographic information science, geodesy, digital terrain modeling, global navigation satellite system surveying at the graduate and undergraduate levels. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Association for Geodetic Surveying, the Cartography and Geographic Information Society, the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, and the American Geophysical Union. He is a past president (2006-2007) of the New England Section of the American Congress for Surveying and Mapping and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Surveying Engineering. Dr. Meyer has authored numerous peer-reviewed papers about surveying and mapping and teaches professional education seminars for surveyors throughout New England and the United States.

Abstract GPS has burst forth on the stage of land surveying as one of the most enticing but difficult to understand positioning technologies. GPS offers the promise of 0.01' horizontal accuracy baselines without requiring station intervisibility and with as short as 20 minute occupations. GPS has also been successfully used for heighting and is the foundation of the integrated upcoming national reference frame. Yet, GPS doesn't measure anything recognizable to most surveyors and the jargon describing GPS can be foreign and mysterious, making it "another" black box technology. This seminar will break the ice, explaining the "what's, why's, and how's" in language surveyors understand. Over the course of the talk, the audience will hear the important jargon terms and their explanations, be given an understanding of how GPS works as a system, how they can use it for positioning, why it works well, and what can cause it to fail. Hardware options will be discussed to try to help those thinking of investing in GPS to make the right business decisions: what and when to lease or buy.

"Developing new opportunities and Continuing opportunities for Surveyors in the GIS World"

Brent Jones is the Survey and Engineering Industry Manager for ESRI. His background includes surveying and engineering operations as well as mapping, photogrammetry and AM/FM/GIS services. Mr. Jones is the manager of world-wide surveying and civil engineering solutions for ESRI where his specific responsibilities include strategic industry planning, business development, and marketing activities. For the last fifteen years, he has provided strategic technology planning and market development in the engineering, surveying and GIS industries. As a registered professional engineer and licensed land surveyor, Mr. Jones's technical background includes utility design, land surveying, construction management, GIS design and implementation, regulatory permitting and compliance, along with risk analysis, opportunity assessment, and business growth management responsibilities. He is a past chairman of the GIS for Oil and Gas Conference and past president of the Geospatial Information and Technology Association (GITA).

"Developing Digital Submissions for Surveyors"

Since 2000, **Neil MacGaffey** has been the Assistant Director of the Massachusetts Office of Geographic and Environmental Information, more widely known as MassGIS. Prior to joining MassGIS Neil worked for five years as the GIS Administrator for the City of Newton, Massachusetts. He has also held GIS related positions with Boston Gas Company (now part of National Grid), the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, and the GIS consulting firm Plan-Graphics. He has a Masters Degree in Land Resources from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. While in graduate school in the early 1980s, he was part of a multi-disciplinary GIS project that, happily, included faculty from the Surveying and Civil Engineering Department who were investigating the potential of GPS receivers for acquiring highly accurate locations.

Abstract Plans submitted for municipal review are typically produced using CADD software. Municipal boards and departments know this and so increasingly are issuing standards in which a copy of the CADD file, structured in a certain way, must be provided to them along with the paper plan. The primary motivation for these requirements is facilitating update of GIS databases. As these requirements multiply from one community to the next, surveyors and engineers face an increasing burden. Issues that should be addressed in establishing these standards are complex and include: coordinate systems, conventions for CADD file layer naming and symbolization, file format, coordinate system, units of measure, geographic datum, documentation, survey control requirements (if any), and copyright. Not all municipalities have the expertise or time to correctly navigate these issues and it is inefficient for them to do it individually. The standard produced by MassGIS, with input from all the affected stake holder groups, addresses these and other issues. This presentation will go through how the MassGIS standard works and make the case for the benefit of its adoption. The standard may also be a useful starting place for similar efforts in other New England states.

Rhode Island Society of
Professional Land Surveyors
2008 RISPLS CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Friday, November 21, 2008, Newport Marriott Hotel, Newport RI

Name (for badge) _____
Home Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Company/Employer (for badge) _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Work Phone _____ Fax _____
Home Phone _____ Email _____

Full Registration Includes admission into all seminars, exhibits & luncheon on Friday, a copy of the Proceedings Manual, along with a RISPLS gift.

Member \$225 _____ Non-Member \$275 _____ Students/ Field Technicians \$150 _____

**Pre-Meeting Breakfast: Assorted Chilled Juices, Seasonal Sliced Fruit, Sweet & Savory Breakfast Breads, Muffins & Bagels, Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea*

**Mid Morning Break: Variety of Granola Bars, Soft Drinks, Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea*

**Lunch:: Herb Roasted Pork Loin, Soup or salad, seasoned vegetables, rolls, dessert and coffee & tea*

**Mid Afternoon Break: Gourmet cookies, cashews & pistachios, assorted soft drinks, iced tea and bottled water along with freshly brewed coffee & tea*

Will you be attending Friday evening dinner? Yes _____ No _____ How Many? _____ **

****The Cost to attend the RISPLS Dinner and Awards Ceremony is \$50 per person, spouse or significant other free.****

Stuffed Sole _____ Seared Chicken Breast _____

All entrees include , a House Salad, Chef's selected Potato & Vegetable, Coffee and Assorted Teas. Dessert:

****If no choice is made, Grilled Chicken Breast will be ordered**

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE _____

Choose which of the following you will be attending, this must be completed.

Seminar IA (8:15-10:15am) _____ New England BOR Roundtable discussion

Seminar IIA (10:30-11:30am & 12:30-2:30pm) _____ New England BOD Roundtable discussion

Seminar IIIA (2:30-4:00pm) _____ New England Colleges & Universities Roundtable discussion

Seminar IIIIA (4:00-4:30pm) _____ NESS 2009 Roundtable discussion

OR

Seminar IB (8:30-11:30am) _____ Thomas Meyer, Geodesist, University of Connecticut

Seminar IIB (12:30-2:00pm) _____ A. Richard. Vannozzi, PLS

Seminar IIIB (2:00-3:30pm) _____ Brent Jones, PE, PLS

Seminar IIIIB (3:00-3:45) _____ Neil McGaffrey, MassGIS

PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SEMINARS; DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS November 10, 2007.

Late and/or on-site registrations will be accepted after this date as space allows and will be charged a \$10 late fee. RISPLS makes every effort to have adequate program material available at the meeting, however late registrants may not have materials available to them.

No Refunds on Cancellations!

Please send completed registration form and payment to: RISPLS, PO Box 544, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Registration forms may be photocopied. *Questions? Please contact Debbie McCormick (401)316-0387 or email her @ Deb0170@hotmail.com.*

RISPLS 2008/2009 Board of Directors and Officers:

Richard Nudenberg	President	John Libby	Past President
Scott Engelhardt	Vice President		
Richard Couchon	Treasurer		
Michael Hayes	Secretary		
Mike McCormick	Board of Directors		
Michael Darveau	Board of Directors		
Patrick Grant	Board of Directors		
Michael Darveau	Board of Directors		
Tim Kinder	Board of Directors		



Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors

P.O. Box 544
East Greenwich, RI 02818

RISPLS Members,

It is that time of year again where we are looking for your input and assistance. **Please take the time to answer the few questions below and return it by November 1st.** Awards will be given at the 2008 Annual Convention. There were no rewards given in 2007 due to lack of participation, please let us know what you want to see in the coming year.

2008 Awards Nominations

The below awards are given to individuals who have given freely of their time and efforts to the organization and toward the betterment of the surveying profession.

Your name: _____ or NOT!

1. Municipal Employee Award. Please include name of clerk, town and reason for your recommendation/nomination.
2. Surveyor of the Year. List name and reason for your recommendation/nomination.
3. Technician of the Year. List name and reason for your recommendation/nomination.
4. What topics would you like to hear about at next year's general membership meetings and convention? Include speakers' name of any specific seminars.
5. Concerns to be passed on to planners and building inspectors at upcoming meetings and seminars.
6. We are currently looking for volunteers to serve on the 2008/2009 RISPLS Board of Directors as well as various committees. Please indicate if you are interested.

Please send to RISPLS, PO Box 544, East Greenwich RI 02818, Attention: Debbie

2008 RISPLS Plan Contest

Contest Rules

1. Must be a plan of Rhode Island land, dated between November 2007 and November 2008.
2. Entries must be un-mounted blue or black line prints.
3. Plans must be 1 sheet (no multiple sheets or sets).
4. Each entry must be accompanied by an entry form. (Forms will be available at convention)
5. No plans will be accepted after the submission deadline (10:00am November 21, 2008).
6. Awards will be presented at the banquet, Friday, November 21, 2008.
7. All decisions are final. Award-winning entries and the results will be displayed at the Convention.

All entries will become the property of RISPLS, Inc., and will be disposed of after award presentation.

Awards

Awards will be presented to the first place winners, and announced for the second and third place winners in each category.

First place.....\$100.00

Second Place.....\$ 50.00

Third Place.....\$ 25.00

Judging

All entries will be checked for compliance with the Procedural and Technical Standards for the Practice of Land Surveying in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations as adopted by the Board of Registration. No plan will be judged if it does not comply with said Standards.

The plan shall be judged and voted on the following:

- Overall appearance, neatness, balance and consistency.
- Lettering - clear and unmistakable.
- Completeness (deed reference, plan references, areas, old property lines, monuments, etc.)
- Qualifying notes or statements (clearly and unmistakably stated).
- Signatures and seals.

Plan Categories

Plan Categories (Property Line, Subdivision, Site Plan) will be judged using either mechanical or freehand methods.

ENTRY FORM (PLEASE PRINT)

Title of Plan _____ Category _____

Name of Preparer _____ Company Name _____

Company Address _____ Company Telephone _____

*Please submit plan to: Michael Hayes, John P Caito Corporation,
141 James P Murphy Highway West Warwick, RI 02893*

*Plans must be received by November 14, 2008; otherwise you may submit them at
the convention by 10:00 am. Remember to send this form!*

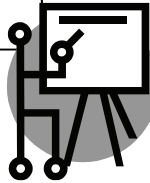
Please send them in as early as possible, so I do not get overloaded at the convention.

Thank You!!!!!!



The Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors
PO Box 544
East Greenwich, RI 02818
RISPLS.ORG

**PIERRE H.
GUILLEMETTE SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAIL-
ABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
DEADLINE IS
NOVEMBER 1ST**



Please be reminded, when you are considering the purchase of services and equipment, these companies are RISPLS Members and support the aims and objectives of the society.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

ALLEN PRECISION EQUIPMENT

Surveying Instruments & Supplies
800/241/6223
1550 Boggs Road, Duluth, GA 30096
www.allenprecision.com

AEROTECH CORPORATION

365 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908
401/351/0600

BL MAKEPEACE

Surveying Instruments & Supplies
125 Guest Street
Brighton, MA 02135
800/835/0194

WSP-SELLS

80+ Years of Mapping & Digital Orthos
90 Trolley Crossing Road
Charlton, MA 01507
508/248/1970
www.wspells.com

CEI COL-EAST, INC.

Aerial Photography, Digital Mapping, Orthophotos
PO Box 347, North Adams, MA 01247
800/FLY/TOPO
www.col-east.com

EASTERN TOPOGRAPHICS

495 Center Street, PO Box 970
Wolfeboro, NH 03894-0970
mail@e-topo.com
TEL:603/569/2400/FAX:603/569/8200

KEYSTONE PRECISION INSTRUMENTS

455 Fortune Blvd.
Milford, MA 01757
TEL:888/443/9840 FAX:508/478-4200
www.keypre.com

MAINE TECHNICAL SOURCE

Surveying Instruments & Supplies
110 Winn Street, Woburn, MA 01801
800/322/1599

MINUTEMAN MAPPING

7 Colby Court-Unit 4-209
Bedford, NH 03110
TEL:603/627/5010/FAX:603/623/5322
pviani@minutemanmapping.com

VANASSE HANGEN & BRUSTLIN, INC.

Transportation, Land, Environmental Services
530 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909
401/272/8100