

A PUBLICATION OF
THE SACRAMENTO
AREA CHAPTER
OF THE
CALIFORNIA LAND
SURVEYORS
ASSOCIATION

Focal point



DECEMBER 2008

Fresno State student, group honored by the U.N. and State Department

Reprint from the Fresno Bee

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The United Nations,
U.S. State Department
and a West Virginia
manufacturer
of instruments to detect
landmines have
honored Fresno State
senior David
Biswanger and an
engineering student
group for raising money
to help
remove landmines, the
manufacturer has
announced.

Biswanger is president
of the student chapter of
the American Congress
on

**Check out page 3
for a way to help!**

Surveying and Mapping
at California State
University, Fresno,
which worked
with the Civil &
Geomatics Engineering
Department at the

university and
several other groups on
the project.

They collected more
than 400 cell phones
for recycling and
raised more
than \$1,029 to buy a
de-mining tool from
Schonstedt Instrument
Co., which
also makes devices used
to detect cluster bombs
and other unexploded
ordnance.



Holiday Party

at

Sacramento Brewing Company
2713 El Paseo Lane

Drinks at 5:30

Dinner at 6:30

See details on the website!

LSIT Update

At the November meeting, the Board voted to not administer the LSIT and the STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING exam in April.

budget change proposal to allow the Board to use the money in its account was not approved.

final at the moment. We will be keeping you informed as to the outcome of this decision..

The Board is meeting with the Administration in order to avert this necessity.

The outcome is not

This decision was made because a



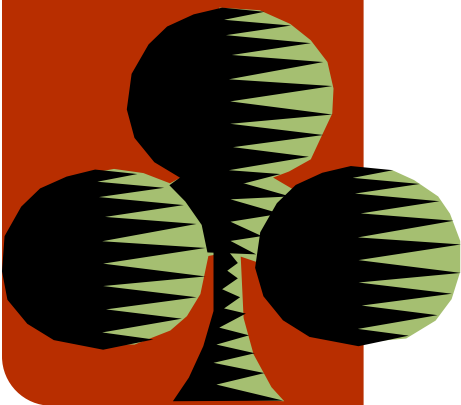
The Sacramento Chapter LS Review is available for sign up.

Check out the website for signup. You can register online to reserve your spot. Payment for the class can be made online, by mail, or at the first class.

Join Us

It is that time of year to renew membership. Our very own webgeek has made is so easy. You can fill out

the form on line. How you pay is up to you. You can choose the convenience of online, pay the Treasurer at the next meeting, or use our trusty US mail system.



Ambiguity By William J. Wilson, PLS

I once had an attorney’s office send me a fax requesting a copy of the “Metzenbaum” description for such & such project. I reread the fax, and then dug through my files, I was sure I had no recollection of any such landowner or adjoining landowner associated with that project. It was not until I went to a coworker and read the fax out loud, that it occurred to me what I was missing... you see where this is going now, don’t you? I am

sure a few of you caught on right from the start, but this proves how we may not see ambiguity in what we say or write, but we must look at it from the perspective of those who may hear what we say, or read what we have written.

I did forward a copy of the subject parcel “Metes & Bounds” description to the attorney’s office; they were grateful and business went on as usual.

However, this also shows that while the scrivener has a responsibility in making the intent clear and concise, the reader has a responsibility in making sure they look at all the ways the words may be interpreted and choose the meaning that works the best with the overall intent of the document. You may think the writings say one thing but someone else may get a completely different meaning.

Fresno Donation cont.

The magnetic locator purchased through the fundraising -- and a matching tool donated by Schonstedt -- were sent to Nepal, according to the company.

Biswanger, 40, of Carmel Valley is a geomatics engineering major.

"It's nice to be honored, especially by the United Nations and State Department," he said. "It

was really nice getting a letter from both those entities."



Got an old cell phone...

Bring it to the Holiday Party to

donate and receive a free raffle ticket!

Evergreen Valley College SG 149 — 3D Laser Scanning for Land Surveying

Surveying and Geomatics (CET) 149




This course introduces students to 3D laser scanning for land surveying. The fundamental principles of 3D laser scanning are discussed. The implementation of time-of-flight measurement and interaction of laser beams with various types of surfaces are examined. Students will learn the structure of a 3D laser scanner, its operation in the field, data collection and geo-referencing. Topics on post-measurement processing include data transfer to an office computer, point cloud registration and calibration, data filtering and checking, mesh and surface generations, digital image calibration, 2D drawing generation, feature code management and animations. Several applications in land surveying are discussed.

Cost: \$85
Spring Semester: 1/31/09-5/16/09
Time: Saturdays, 9:15am to 2:45pm

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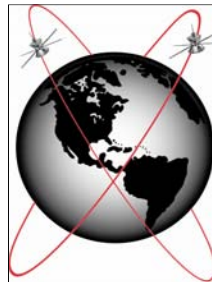
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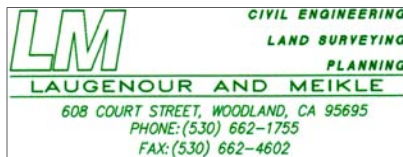
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Being a Corporate Sponsor is a reasonable and cost effective way to support the Sacramento Chapter of CLSA. This corporate support is vital to sustaining our chapter activities, monthly newsletter and scholarship fund. If your firm would like to become a Corporate Sponsor please contact the editor at: focalpointeditor@gmail.com or (209) 518-9962.

Minutes



President Paul Tonn called meeting.

Vice President Clayton Guiraud

Details of Christmas party and information for Boy Scout merit badge.

Secretary Annette Lockhart

No report

Treasurer Nick Labedzki

\$5400 in checking \$10418 in savings

Board rep- Rob McMillan

Getting a proxy from Bill for upcoming meeting. Rob has agenda for review.

Committees

Profession practice: Ian volunteered to be the private sector representative

Workshop: LSIT prep class had 30 in attendance.

LS application seminar had 16 applicants and 8 LSs.

Education: Trigstar-trying for big event at Sac city. Volunteers to go to JFK would like to discuss curriculum.

LS prep class: Video taping of class to be discussed off line.

Naming scholarship: name suggestion to be shared with the Ex-comm.

Equipment for Sac City College: CSDS offered to help

Dave Goodman-antique maps reprints of the early California sharing maps with the distributed to chapter meeting attendees.

CLSA Education Foundation: Please donate Items for conference auction, contact Rob.

Dick Davis chairperson asked members to check the CSRC website for CTRN paper on proposal control in California and permanently connected network. Contact Dick for info. Adrian_Davis@dot.ca.gov



CLSA CONFERENCE 2009

March 28 - April 1



**Hilton San Diego Resort
(Mission Bay), San Diego, CA**



Hotel Information:
Hilton San Diego Resort
Reservations: (800) 445-8687
Cut-Off Date: February 25th
Room Rate: \$159
Group Code: CLSA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Featured Speakers Include:

- Mike Durkee, Esq.
- Gary Kent, PLS
- Dennis Moulard, PLS
- Steve Parrish, PLS
- "GIS Janet" & "Surveyor Randy"
from Professional Surveyor
Magazine (Janet Jackson, GISP
& Randy Rambeau, PLS)

Program to Include:

- Workshops
- Technical Sessions
- LSIT Review Course
- LS Review Course
- CST Exam
- Mock Trial



Registration Information Available in January
Please visit www.californiasurveyors.org for updated information

Upcoming schedule 2009

Month	speaker	topic	location	date
Jan	Pat Tami	LSIT	Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, January 08
Feb	Birk Ellis	Scanning	Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, February 05
Mar	Otto Jarquin	Ethics	Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, March 05
April			Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, April 02
May	Vendor Night		Steve's Pizza	Thursday, May 07
June			Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, June 04
July	Ball Game		Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, July 02
Aug	BBQ		Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, August 06
Sept			Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	Thursday, September 03
Oct			Roseville Cattlemens	Thursday, October 01
Nov			Rancho Cordova Cattlemens	Thursday, November 05
Dec	Holiday Dinner		Old Spaghetti Factory - downtown	



Announcing...

Upcoming presentation by John Wilusz

He will speak about the California/Nevada border, supported by a PowerPoint slide show.

Where: Mountain Mikes Pizzeria in Meadow Vista

When: January 22, 2009 at 6:00 pm

If you missed the presentation in our chapter, it is worth the trip to see!

To all Students of Land Surveying

...and those of you who know a student of Land Surveying:

Applications for CLSA Education Foundation Scholarships are due December 5th.

Over \$40,000 is available to qualified applicants! Details and Application available at:

<http://www.californiasurveyors.org/files/scholarsh.html>

To Be or Not To Be: The Sacramento Calibration Baseline

At the November meeting, Marti Ikehara, from the National Geodetic Survey, presented to our chapter the requirements for establishment of a new Calibration Baseline in the Sacramento area. During the meeting, it was obvious from the audience participation that we need a baseline, and that we ought to move forward with our efforts to establish it. Unfortunately, there has been little response since then.

Immediately after the meeting, one surveyor came up to me, and gave me his business card with a note on the back indicating he was interested in a baseline. I have not received any other response. Neither has Marti. Folks, this project is not going to magically happen on its own. As Marti stated, it takes a minimum of 4 people to do the work. If we as a chapter are serious about this, we need to jump up and seize the opportunity!

If you plan to use the baseline,

please step up and make a commitment. Here's what I will commit: during my tenure as President, I was not able to lead in a public service project. But I will take this project on for my year as Immediate Past President by serving as the coordinator for our chapter and liaison to Marti, IF, and that's a BIG IF, I get six (6) additional solid commitments by the January meeting.

Now, lest you think this is a minor commitment, let me give you a little peak into my coming year.

1. I will miss the chapter meetings in January, February, March, and April because I will be attending the chapter LS review course every Thursday during those months.
2. I will be studying for and taking the state-specific LS exam in April.

We are expecting our 8th child on April 4th.

OK, maybe I'm a little crazy to take on one more commitment, and my wife is probably not going to be too happy with me, but I would like to see this baseline come about for the chapter. Oh, did I mention that I no longer live or work in the Sacramento Chapter's area? But being involved in this chapter for the past five years has been very beneficial to me and my surveying career, so this is one last thing I would like to give back to the chapter before moving on to the North Counties Chapter in 2010.

All I need is you to help me out, and together we can accomplish this for the benefit of our profession. Please contact me by email at paul_tonn@dot.ca.gov or paul-tonn@comcast.net or by phone at 916-628-5022. Thank you.

Items of interest from the November 8th, 2008 CLSA Board meeting by Rob McMillan

CLSA President Jim Herrick (Northern Counties Chapter) has been visiting Chapters around the state to discuss issues of importance with surveyors: recruitment, public awareness, GIS, Professional Development, education, and photogrammetry. Jim distributed railroad records to Board Members from 11 counties, which were sent to CLSA from Public Land Survey Office of the Department of Natural Resources in Olympia, Washington. Jim praised the work of the Legislative Committee, and reminded all of the Board Representatives of their duty to represent their Chapters. This requires Reps to communicate with the Chapters and the Chapter members to communicate with the Reps.

President-Elect Matt Vernon (Channel Islands Chapter) has been busy with Chapter activities around the state, a NCEES meeting, Legislative Committee meetings, and continuing the efforts of the current and past CLSA administrations: VPDP; Public Awareness Committee; Recruitment; and Education to name a few. Be sure to attend the Chapter meeting when Matt comes to town!

Secretary Aaron Smith (Sonoma Chapter) has been involved with the statewide Professional Practices Committee, Executive Committee review of a request for an amicus curie brief to the California State Supreme Court, and review of the CEAC checklists for Corner Records and Records of Survey.

Treasure Bill Hofferber (Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter) discussed the CLSA financial reports. Total liabilities and equity was \$700k, Net income to date was \$145k. The budgetary philosophy of CLSA is conservative estimation and cautious risk management. As a result of this philosophy, the coffers are more full than relied upon, but about what they expected.

Past-President Steve Shambeck (Orange County Chapter) finally had a lighter workload despite handling several roles: Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Chairman of the Membership Committee, and Chairman of the Past-Presidents Advisory Council (PPAC). The PPAC provides guidance and a historical perspective to the Executive Committee.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

4 bylaw amendments, already approved by the CLSA Board of Directors, were adopted by the general membership.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has completed study material the list for Land Surveyor In Training exam. They request that each chapter appoint an education committee liaison. The volunteer will encourage the chapter to provide LSIT and LS education programs. Report program schedule, and location. This information will be posted in the education portion of the CLSA public Website. A list of participants and the correlation to the exam success will provide bragging rights for the chapter holding the LSIT and LS programs.

CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The CLSA Education Foundation has been listed in the California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC). Something for our Public Sector members to keep in mind for next year. There are a potential of 46 scholarships for \$44,000 to be awarded in early 2009 by the Education Foundation along with CLSA and the many Chapters who participate. Sacramento has the \$1000

Dave Goodman scholarship, and 2 unnamed \$750 scholarships. Supporting students of Land Surveying with scholarships is one way we can work together to recruit a new generation of Surveyors to carry on traditions and lead the profession in meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

One of the biggest annual fundraisers for Education Foundation is the auction at the annual CLSA Conference. Once again, please spread the word about the need for donations of items for the auctions. Each Chapter is asked to donate auction items for the Live and Silent Auctions at the Conference. Individuals may want to donate old survey equipment, photos, artwork, books or anything of interest to Surveyors. Coordinate efforts with your Chapter Representatives.

Please remember the CLSA Education Foundation in your tax-deductible charitable contributions as we come to the end of the tax year. I would also like to recognize those that donate all year round thru employee association payroll deduction plans such as the California State Employees Charitable Campaign program (Code # 18983, page 54 in the resource guide: http://www.csecc.org/images/stories/pdf/2008/08-09_csecc_drg_final.pdf)

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

2009 Tentative Workshop Schedule:

February – Subdivision Map Act (North & South)

May – Condo Discussion Panel (North & South)

September or October – Railroad Surveys (North & South)

CENTRAL OFFICE INFORMATION

A pat on the back to Central Office for scheduling the Sacramento LSIT Review seminar and the CLSA Legislative Committee meeting at the same location and time so Crissy Wilson could cover both events at once. Another benefit was that Legislative Committee members and LSIT candidates had an opportunity to interact at the joint lunch. I think this was a great opportunity for the aspiring professionals to see that once they obtain the PLS, the work is not over. Part of the duty in being a professional is serving the profession.



PUBLICATIONS

The CLSA 2008 publications (Subdivision Map Act, PLS Act, Refill Packages and Complete Packages) are now on sale at 50% off the list price, while supplies last. 2009 publications will be available in January. Great study materials!

2009 CLSA CONFERENCE

The 2009 CLSA Conference will be held at the Hilton San Diego Resort Mission Bay on March 28 - April 1, 2009. The room rate is \$159 and reservations can be made by calling (800-445-8667) (Group Code: CLSA). Registration material will be available in January. See attached conference ad for information regarding programs and featured speakers or visit the CLSA website.

2008 CLSA Board meeting continued...

CLSA

MEMBERSHIP

A final dues notice, along with a letter signed by the CLSA President has been mailed to those members with unpaid dues. An invitation to join CLSA was sent to newly licensed Land Surveyors (PLSs) and newly licensed Land-Surveyors-in-Training (LSITs) were sent resulting in 88 new Corporate members and 34 new Associate members.

CHAPTER REQUIREMENTS

Chapter Annual Reports are due by December 31st. The annual report is available as a PDF fill-in form and will be emailed by the Central Office to all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries.

SURVEYING THE COURTROOM BOOKS – SIGNED BY JOHN BRISCOE

John Briscoe, Esq. has signed several copies of the Surveying the Courtroom, Second Edition. These books would be a great Christmas gift. A limited number of signed books are available and can be ordered online through the CLSA Store or by using the order form distributed at the Board meeting.

CLSA AWARDS

Deadlines for CLSA Awards are approaching. Award applications can be found on the CLSA Members Only Website (username: last name, password: CLSA member number).

Chapter Newsletter of the Year: Deadline – December 31st

Chapter of the Year: Deadline – December 1st

CLSA Member of the Year: Deadline – December 1st

Distinguished Service Award: Deadline – December 1st

CLSA WEBSITE

Resources continue to be added to the CLSA website. New additions to the “Members Only” area include searchable PDFs of past SMAs, PLS Acts, PE Acts and Board Rules as well as PDFs of past LS Exams. Special thanks go to Steve Martin for providing LS Exams and Mike Emmons for providing some of the SMAs. Please note, there are several years of SMAs and PLS Acts missing from the site. If you have a copy of one of the missing years, please forward to the CLSA Central Office for scanning and uploading to the CLSA website.



SALARY SURVEY

CLSA Central Office compiled the data for the Salary Survey and has posted it to the CLSA website. The data, which is based on 2007 salaries, was broke down into four geographic areas and then further by job title. Results can be found on the CLSA Website on the Resources page.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

2008 CLSA Board meeting continued...

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Central Office has received and processed several applications for the new CLSA Professional Development Program. Each participant will be issued a plaque and, upon request, a digital logo to be used on their business cards, website, etc. The application for the Professional Development Program can be downloaded from the CLSA website. The Central Office, in conjunction with a website programmer, has developed an online tracking system that members can utilize in maintaining a listing of their professional development participation. The Professional Development Program is something that surveyors throughout the state have said should be available through CLSA. Time to put your money where your mouth is.

As you can imagine - more goes on at a CLSA Board meeting than we have room for here... GIS Liaison, Advanced Technologies Committee, Exam Guide Committee, OIT Industry Advisory Committee, Public Awareness Committee, Legislative Committee, Professional Practices Committee, BPELS liaison, NCEES-POLC liaison, WFPS liaison, Caltrans liaison, CSRC Liaison, CEAC Liaison, ACEC (CELSOC) Liaison, Membership Committee, ACSM/NSPS liaison, Trig Star Program, Scouting Merit Badge, Cal Surveyor Magazine, Conference Division, and Chapter Reports from 22 Chapters.

Discuss the rest of the story with your Chapter Representatives! Another idea is to contact your Rep and attend the next CLSA Board meeting yourself. Take a look at what goes on inside. You could be the person we need to help take CLSA to the next level...

CLSA SACRAMENTO - 2008 CHAPTER OFFICERS

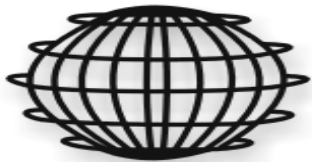
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The FOCAL POINT is a publication of the Sacramento Area Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association and is pleased to publish letters from land surveyors and other interested persons on subject matter relevant to the land surveying profession. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual writers and are not necessarily those of CLSA, the Chapter, or the editor. FOCAL POINT accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information given. Letters may be edited and published in any format. All letters submitted become the property of the Focal Point. Due to space restrictions, FOCAL POINT reserves the right to hold letters for publication at a later date.

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