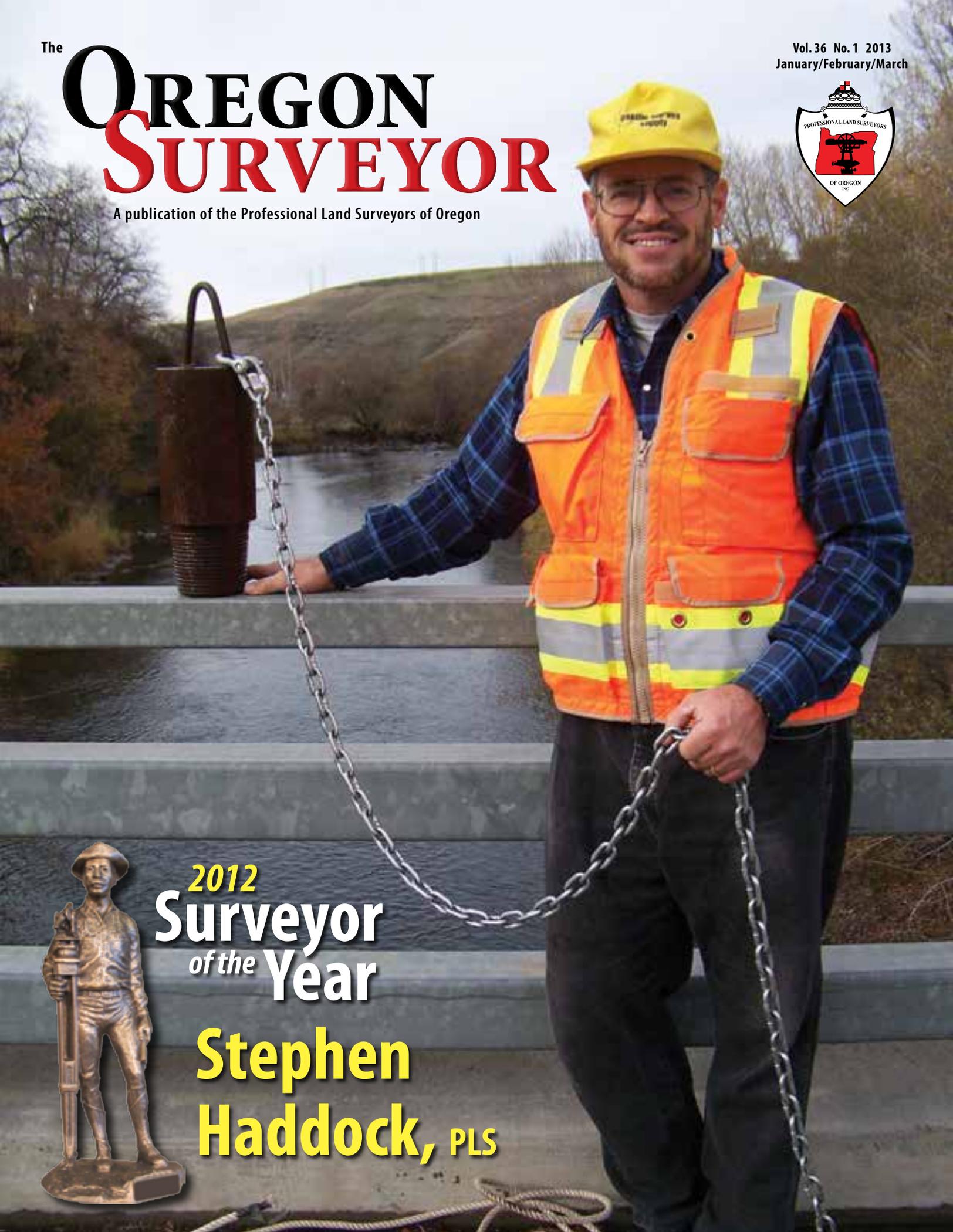


The

# OREGON SURVEYOR

A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon

Vol. 36 No. 1 2013  
January/February/March



**2012**  
**Surveyor**  
*of the* **Year**

**Stephen**  
**Haddock, PLS**

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## THE OREGON SURVEYOR

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***The Lost Surveyor is taking a break this issue, but he will be lost again soon.***

**The Oregon Surveyor** is a publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO). It is provided as a medium for the expression of individual opinions concerning topics relating to the Land Surveying profession.

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*The Oregon Surveyor* welcomes your articles, comments and photos for publication. PLSO assumes no responsibility for statements expressed in this publication. Send materials to Lisa Switalla, lisa@llm.com. For an editorial calendar, please contact lisa@llm.com.

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■ Lee Spurgeon, PLS; 2013 PLSO Chair

## Bearings and distances

When I was elected as the Chair of the PLSO, I was surprised that people started asking me what I wanted to accomplish during my tenure in office. Strangely enough, I never really gave it much thought—probably because I pretty much accidentally got elected to the Chair position. (I will talk about that later in my term because I don't want all of you to think I am a big goof; which I am, mostly.) So I really had to play catch up and spend time thinking about what I can do to best serve the members of PLSO and the surveying profession. Even though I knew the most responsible thing would be to be a good steward of the PLSO finances and ensure we remain solvent over the course of the year, I always came back to the thought that we need to be a vibrant and viable player 10, 20 and even 100 years down the road.

If we are going to be around 100 years from now, we need to **solve our financial problems** and we need to have a plan in place to ensure that we will **have adequate cash reserves to withstand inevitable economic downturns in the future**. I asked Gary Johnston, our finance officer—and a tremendous person all around—to create a budget this year that will not deficit spend. I also asked that we come up with a plan to ensure a six-month cash reserve for operations (about \$120,000), so we can deal with emergencies and short term cash flow problems. I also asked that we include a financial aspect to our strategic plan which will guide the Board of Directors towards a future in which the PLSO is vibrant, active, and able to

respond to a changing industry. It isn't enough to avoid going over the cliff with every financial downturn; we need to stay well away from the cliff in the first place.

One of my concerns is that the field of surveying is being encroached upon by several different fronts and we need to be able to move quickly to deal with these encroachments. For example, to the detriment of the GIS world and the surveying profession, we may have already missed the boat with the GIS technological advancement. Are we losing out on machine controlled construction? We may be, but we do not have the financial resources at this time to make a legislative push to reign in the lucrative juggernaut that is the construction industry. Which brings us back to re-establishing a firm financial base for the future.

The second objective I would like to initiate is to **create a framework for organized, useful, and productive mentorship programs**. I have noticed that PLSO members mentor each other on a regular basis, but it is very informal. Professional development hours aren't being given for the efforts, and matching a mentor with a mentee is often a matter of luck. I also find that most people think of mentorships in a very narrow context. Before we do job fairs, the high school program at the convention, and Trig Star competitions, I would like to have mentors prepared and ready to ably take high school students into the field for a day to show what surveying is all about.

I would also like to have a central location where we can match up someone who has to decipher a Searles



and Ives spiral curve with someone who is skilled at solving them and willing to help out a fellow surveyor. I would like a place where an LSIT, who has spent the past four years doing construction calculations at the exclusion of everything else, can get the experience of a couple of boundary surveys prior to taking the professional exam. I would like a place where a surveyor who is about to testify in court for the first time can get advice and counseling from a surveyor who has been to court on a frequent basis.

I am not sure what form the mentorship program will take. It may be web-based, similar to Wendell Harness and Dave Souza's excellent website, [www.surveyorconnect.com](http://www.surveyorconnect.com), or it may take another form. Mason Marker, Gary Anderson, Joe Ferguson, and I will begin discussions as to how to implement the program and we hope to have the program up and running sometime next year.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership for voting for the dues increase. I know it is tough for a lot of you who have been knocked down by a bad economy and the additional dues increase may be a dear sacrifice, but I promise you that the Board, the administrative staff, and I will be good stewards of your hard-earned dollars and we are taking our duties and responsibilities very seriously. ♦

# Editor's Note

■ Greg Crites, PLS

Well, the conference is behind us now and by all accounts (despite the state of the economy) was successful. I was pleased to see the number of attendees, the solid support of our vendors and the abundance of student volunteers who have become an integral part of the smooth running of the event. I would personally like to thank one and all for the support. A significant part of the livelihood of the PLSO depends on conference participation, so it's on this theme that I would like to share my thoughts.

When I received the initial draft of the conference agenda back in November, I was frankly worried that there wasn't enough "pop" to draw the attendance the PLSO relies on. When I say "pop," I hope you know to what I'm referring. Which speakers on the agenda would grab the attention of members deciding whether they would attend the conference, and if so, would these same recognized speakers offer professional development opportunities that would provide us with the intellectual stretching we all need?

Most of you know I work in a large office. Among my coworkers, we are licensed in all 13 western states (and quite a few that aren't in the western U.S.). Simply because we live in Oregon doesn't guarantee automatic attendance at our own conference. It hurt me to hear that some of my coworkers wanted to attend conferences in other states because they weren't all that excited about the PLSO conference agenda. This means I have to get on my PLSO soapbox and remind them of the importance of supporting our organization, something I shouldn't have to do. This was really brought home at the 2013 conference annual meeting luncheon when the subject of a dues increase was raised and I heard people from the audience complaining that they hadn't had prior notice of that proposal! I was left to silently shake my head in wonder at how any member of our organization could be so uninformed that they hadn't heard about a proposal that had been the subject of PLSO BOD budget discussions (published in the Oregon Surveyor, on our website and brought up at chapter meetings) since at least May of 2012 (not to mention how long the BOD was reluctant to bring up the subject for the sake of our membership prior to that time).

Back on the subject of the conference agenda, and not to belittle the hard work of the conference committee and the speakers they selected, but I understand the feeling of irrelevance by some of my peers. I can't tell you the

**Welcome  
to our  
new editor,  
Greg Crites!**



number of times I've heard Dennis Mouland, Gary Kent, Wendy Lathrop, Jeff Lucas and the rest of those national circuit riders dishing up the same old entrées. They do a great job reaching some of the membership and their CPD needs, but not me. I'm at a point in my career where I can sit back and say "been there, done that, bought a t-shirt!" Many of you know of my passion for bicycling and my participation in organized rides throughout the Northwest. I've been given so many t-shirts from these events that I'm sure there are a few Goodwill patrons wearing attire I received due to my participation. Such "benefits" have lost their luster for me. What I remember is the scenery, the weather and the camaraderie. So much of our conference is like that—the networking, the "war stories," the rekindling of acquaintances and even some playing with the "toys."

There are probably quite a few of the old grey beards (such as myself) among our profession who recognize my sentiments. If so, have I struck a familiar chord? For those of you who know me, I really like to stir things up and what better place to do that than as editor of *The Oregon Surveyor*!

What do I want to see that feels relevant to me? What outcomes from continuing education would benefit our profession? Here are some possibilities:

- I want to see clear, concise narratives that reveal the extent of your research, explain exactly what you found, why you held it, what condition it was in and what occupational evidence exists to support your resolve.
- I want to see a clear understanding of positional reliability. I review literally thousands of surveys every year in the course of my research and I can't tell you the number of times I see professionals reveal their ignorance on this subject. You know what I'm talking about. Showing fallings of 0.05 feet on a found monument tied in a cadastral survey of an entire section

(using equipment with specifications that wouldn't even allow such precision). Showing bearings to the tenth of a second. Showing distances to the thousandth of a foot. Are you kidding me? Pin cushions? How many of you **don't** have an idea about what Jeff Lucas has been yelling about all these years?

- Clearly stating your basis of bearings and knowing what that means.
- The elimination of blunders on recorded surveys (probably just a dream). Dare I say that I have to extend some gratitude to those County Surveyors who diligently review submitted surveys prior to recordation.
- Accurate spelling and correct grammar (at least use of some spelling/grammar checker utilities on your computer) on correspondence (including emails) and contract document submittals.
- The use of a contract on each and every project, regardless of the size of your business.

I'm betting I've got your hackles up already, but I'm also betting there are some threads in the foregoing discussion that you recognize! So, bring on workshops that help me to do or better understand these things. *That* is what is relevant. The real challenge is to do it in a way that entertains me and makes me come away from the experience saying, "Wow, that was worthwhile!" So much so that I leave the conference and ask the peers I meet, "Did you go to that conference session on ? You didn't? Well, if you get a chance, you've got to attend one of his/her workshops." That's when we achieve relevance! ♦

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## Thank you, Oran Abbott for 10 outstanding years!

Oran Abbott took the helm as editor of *The Oregon Surveyor* magazine in 2002, joining an impressive line of PLSO members editors, including Bert Mason, Jr., Joel Smith and Parneli Perkins. Over the years, Oran has taken us all over Oregon with his photos for covers and for "The Lost Surveyor," while pouring his thoughts about the profession, ethics and the future into his Editor's Notes. In his way (and with the help of his lovely wife, Paula), he communicated his love of surveying to our readers in every issue.

In Oran's first Editor's Note, he wrote, "I feel that I am embarking on a journey with potential for great adventures, but awesome responsibilities." Thank you, Oran, for bringing PLSO, and the rest of us, along on this journey with you. ♦

—Lisa Switalla, Linda Pope and Heather White, LLM Publications



Oran Abbott on various surveying adventures.



■ Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE; PLSO Executive Secretary

## PLSO shares information in many ways

**P**LSO just finished an amazingly successful conference. A huge percentage of members attended the conference this year to knock off almost all of their professional development hours in a three-day period.

At the annual meeting, the organization approved a dues increase. It was a surprise that some members said they hadn't been informed about this proposal. PLSO leadership had shared this proposal over many months, through many forums including email, website, monthly e-news, *Oregon Surveyor*, e-survey, votes and consultation with members at chapter meetings and event through an open forum at the conference with Chair Lee Spurgeon. It was enlightening that some members still may not be receiving information.

The conference is just one way PLSO shares important information about the profession; but that's not the only way. Here are other ways you can get information from PLSO:



### THROUGH Chapter leaders

During the conference, we held an orientation for new board members. They learned about the many organizational documents we utilize, as well as ways they can involve chapter members in action teams, strategic planning and outreach. Your board is engaged and dynamic and looking forward to keeping the organization progressive with more interesting meetings, faster and more efficient communication. Chapter leaders have access to the newest and best information from the board meetings. Attending regular chapter meetings is the *best* way to provide input to your leadership and to learn about what's going on.

### THROUGH Events, charity activities, workshops, training, conferences

Attending PLSO events, conferences and activities is a great way to learn, network and socialize with colleagues. Active involvement makes you a more interesting and knowledgeable person.

### THROUGH Mail

All organizations are cutting back mailings because of costs. To make sure we reach members, you will receive postcards about membership renewals, conferences and magazines. Just be sure to know those are *not* the most current or only ways PLSO reaches members.

An advertisement for SURV-KAP survey markers, caps and accessories. The top part features the text "The MEASURE OF EXCELLENCE" in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, there is a collection of various survey markers and caps in different colors (yellow, red, purple, silver) and sizes. A central gold-colored circular badge reads "The Landmark Name SURV-KAP In Survey Products". At the bottom, there is a banner with the text "EASY ORDERING ONLINE!" in red, followed by "SURV-KAP.com" in large blue letters, and "SURVEY MARKERS, CAPS AND ACCESSORIES • 800-445-5320" in smaller blue letters. A gold seal on the right side of the banner says "100% GUARANTEE".

THROUGH

## PLSO website

Surveying is a technical field. Staying abreast of technology is a must for a professional surveyor. Almost everyone can access a computer with a web browser to get information. *PLSO.org* has an immense amount of information about the profession and the association. Help clients understand what you do by directing them to the "For the Public" page. The website also has the latest news, calendar of events and more.

THROUGH

## Monthly e-updates

If your email address is up-to-date in our records, then you should be receiving monthly e-updates with current news about chapter events, member benefits, NSPS news, articles and more. PLSO uses a free program called MailChimp. If you unsubscribe, we cannot add you back onto the list or send you updates. If you want to rejoin, you will have to do that yourself.

THROUGH

## Oregon Surveyor magazine

PLSO's magazine provides interesting articles about the profession, photos, and updates from PLSO leadership and teams. Participate by offering article ideas. The *Oregon Surveyor* team will be asking what members want from their magazine. Make sure to respond.

THROUGH

## Social media

For quick updates, join PLSO's Facebook group [www.facebook.com/ProfessionalLandSurveyorsOfOregon](http://www.facebook.com/ProfessionalLandSurveyorsOfOregon). Over 200 people are already getting news and updates through our Facebook page. If you prefer Twitter, that information comes to your Twitter feed (which can be set for mobile alerts) at [www.twitter.com/ORLandSurveyors](http://www.twitter.com/ORLandSurveyors).

THROUGH

## Email

PLSO doesn't want to add to the flurry of emails that come to your inbox every day. You will sometimes receive a group email for matters of importance. Make sure to read them. You'll want to add *PLSO.org* to your whitelist and check your spam file for lost emails.

There are many ways to know what's happening at PLSO. In our new "permission-based" communications system, you decide what information you want to receive and have access to it in many ways. After reviewing what is available, if something is missing, let your chapter leaders know and they will get the information to you! ♦



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# Financial outlook promising for PLSO in 2013

■ Gary Johnston

The financial condition of PLSO has improved substantially as a result of two significant events in January. First, the 2013 annual conference generated a sizeable profit although final numbers will not be available until late February or early March. Second, members approved a significant dues increase at the annual meeting. The increase in revenue, coupled with continued efforts to reduce expenses for travel, meetings and other costs, should produce a net gain during the year. This gain will help to begin restoring financial reserves to a healthy level. The gain also should allow PLSO to resume support for important programs and services to the profession and to PLSO members.

At the PLSO board meeting held January 23, a budget was adopted that projected a profit of about \$25,000 for the year. Since the final conference income and expense results are not yet available, the budget will be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary, the board may make adjustments at the next meeting April 27. The current budget is summarized in this table:

Keep in mind that this budget is an estimate. It has been prepared by combining working agreements and input from several individuals and committees. It represents the best available estimate of PLSO's income and expense for 2013. Members can expect to see final conference results and other updates posted to the PLSO website as significant other information becomes available. ♦

Income	
Annual Conference	\$115,500
Dues	78,980
Education & Outreach Auction and scholarship donations	11,000
Workshops, general donations and other income	8,508
Sales	1,700
<b>Total Income \$215,688</b>	
Expenses	
Annual Conference	\$80,900
Professional Services	48,450
PLSO activities and member services	39,200
Education, Goals & Outreach Programs	11,000
Administration	10,640
<b>Total Expenses \$190,190</b>	
<b>NET GAIN \$25,498</b>	

## Join PLSO or Renew Your Membership!



PLSO is the only organization that exclusively represents the interests and serves the needs of land surveyors, especially in Oregon.

Go to our website at [www.PLSO.org](http://www.PLSO.org).

# PLSO Annual Meeting review

■ Gary Johnston

At the PLSO annual meeting on January 24, the membership was given a state of the association update by Chair Lee Spurgeon. Spurgeon shared strategic directions he hoped to accomplish during his term. They included:

- Approve and continue to work on the Strategic Plan.
- Build back cash reserves, with a budget surplus at the end of the year.
- Create mentorship programs.

Spurgeon also presented the financial situation of the association. The discussion of finances has been held with the chapters over the last few months and expressed in emails, newsletters and communications with members. Financial strain has come from the fact that membership has been declining due to the lack of employment for surveyors over the last few years. Also the Board had decided to lower conference prices for members to support them during difficult times. The Board had not been regularly increasing dues over the years and this created a budget deficit.

The Board voted to go to the membership for a \$38 increase for corporate, \$20 increase for associate members and \$10 for students (with a commitment that if students could not afford the dues a sponsor would be sought for them). All chapter presidents, other board members, as well as four past state chairs, supported the dues increase.

## 2013 PLSO strategic directions

- Approve and continue to work on the Strategic Plan.
- Build cash reserves, with a budget surplus at the end of the year.
- Create mentorship programs.

Members were given a chance to ask questions. Spurgeon fielded questions about the reasons for the financial challenges as well as the use of scholarship funds and NSPS. Spurgeon clarified the many ways the message was shared through chapter meetings, the website, social media and emails.

Also, Spurgeon noted that PLSO is not a charity and all funds collected by previous auctions are not tax deductible, but he hopes the PLSO Foundation will soon be complete so that will be possible in the future. Funds that were collected for the scholarship fund in the past will be donated to the Oregon Community Foundation (a 501c3) as soon as the organization is financially stable.

The Board voted to join the NSPS 100% membership program which added \$40 to membership dues; which is understood to be both an additional cost, but significant benefits that NSPS provide.

A vote for corporate members only was held at the annual meeting. From approximately 274 attending corporate members, the proposal passed with an overwhelming majority, with four members voting 'no.'

New dues rate will start in the new dues year July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014:

\$170—Corporate

\$91—Associate

\$10—Student

(Rates do **not** include the \$40 NSPS mandatory membership fee for Corporate members.) ♦



# George John Cook, PE, LS

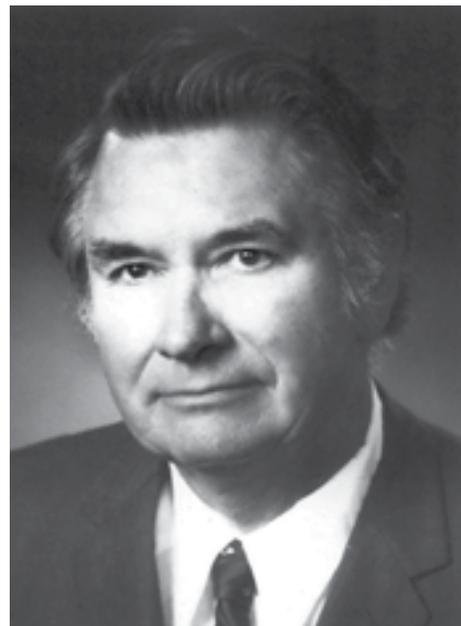
November 20, 1931–December 6, 2012

## One of PLSO's founding fathers

■ By Mike Berry

**G**eorge Cook died December 6, 2012, at the age of 81. Below is a copy of the plaque that the PLSO Central chapter presented to George in 2011 to commemorate his 50 years of licensure as an LS. It enumerates his many achievements, but of course it does not really flesh out this one-of-a-kind Maverick and genuine eastern Oregon character.

Cook was a giant of a man, like 6'5" or so, with hands the size of cast iron skillets and an ego and voice bigger than the high desert skies. Those who worked with him or dealt with him in some fashion always came away with a strong opinion about the man. He was a smart, bold and outspoken man in a profession of smart, bold and outspoken men. But, from firsthand experience, once you got past all his bluster, he was a really fair and generous guy. It was just his nature to challenge all comers to size 'em up, I suppose, and see if they'd go toe to toe with him. If you didn't back down, you had his respect.



George Cook, PLS 540, PE 6021



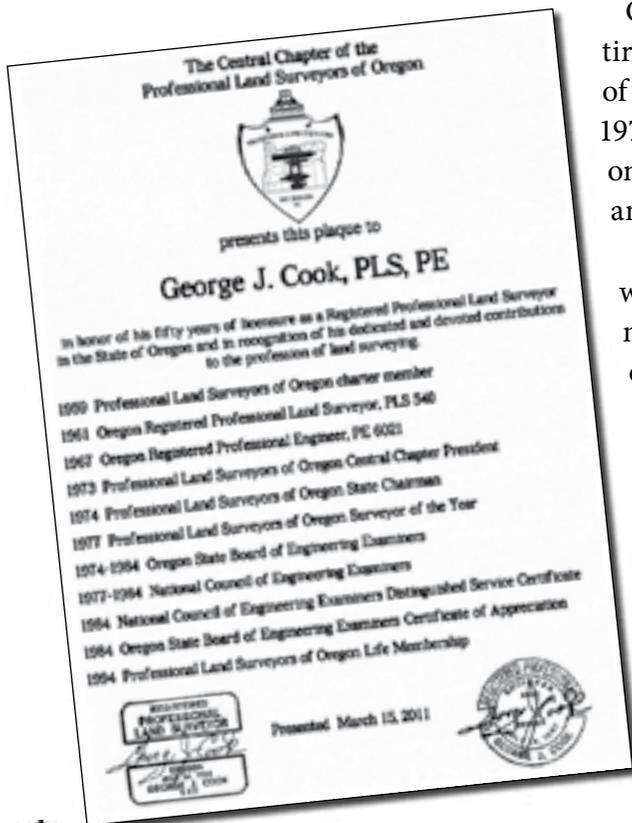
Mike Berry, George Cook and Dave Williams

Cook worked tirelessly for the profession of surveying in this state. He was one of the king-pins of modernizing our state survey laws in the early 1970s. He and a couple other surveyors traveled the state putting on seminars to help educate practitioners about these new laws and how to make their plats compliant.

I worked for him in 1977–1978 (and beerlegger “Geezer” worked for him a year or so later) and there weren't many dull moments in his office, to say the least. In later years, I had many enjoyable conversations with him about survey problems and theory. After attending his service at the VFW, I learned he was a very dedicated and loving father to his four girls, even more devoted to them as they were growing up than he was to the profession of surveying as it was growing up in this state. And that's the true measure of a man. ♦



Charles Pearson and George Cook



## “He was a smart, bold and outspoken man in a profession of smart, bold and outspoken men.”

### ■ From the Bend Bulletin

George John Cook, 81, long time Bend resident, passed away December 6 with his family at his side.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mina, and daughters, Faith, son-in-law Scott, Sheryl, Joy and Susan, eight grandchildren and one great grandson, and special long-time family friend Sharon Baker.

George graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in civil engineering. After graduation, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service for a number of years, finally settling in Bend in 1960 where he eventually opened George Cook Engineering, Inc. His career highlights include the surveying for the first ski lift on Mt. Bachelor. He also worked with John Grey to design Sunriver (yes, he was responsible for the roundabouts). He was a lifetime member of the PLSO and a member of the State Board of Engineering Examiners. He was also a volunteer fireman with the Bend fire department for 17 years.

George “retired” at 50 to become a rancher. He loved to spend long hours on the farm raising Beefmaster cattle. He loved to hunt, fish, travel and spend lots of time with his children and grandchildren.

He will be missed. ♦



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM, OREGON 97310

June 26, 1984

Dear George:

As your service to the Board of Engineering Examiners comes to a close, may I express my deepest appreciation for your work.

I am aware of your long and dedicated service to the work of the board. I am especially grateful that our goals to work for the benefit of the people of this state are mutual ones.

The years ahead are challenging for all of us. I commend you for your past service and trust I may call upon you if the need should arise in the future.

Sincerely,  
VICTOR ATIYEH  
Governor

## Career Highlights

- 1949–53 U.S. Navy, Korean War, *U.S.S. Antietam*, CV 36, Petty Officer 2nd
- 1953–58 Educator, Michigan State University and Oregon State University
- 1958–64 U.S. Forest Service
- 1961 Licensed Professional Land Surveyor, PLS 540
- 1967 Licensed Professional Engineer, PE 6021
- 1969 Purchased cattle ranch, Bend, OR
- 1970s Started the first forestry program and taught all courses for the first two years at Central Oregon Community College, Bend. First engineer, surveyor, real estate agent and broker for Sunriver.
- 1975–84 Appointed to the Oregon State Board of Engineering Examiners
- 1977 Appointed to the National Council of Engineering Examiners
- 1981 Retires to raise purebred Beefmaster cattle on a ranch east of Bend, OR
- 1984 Received National Council of Engineering Examiners “National Distinguished Service Award”



George J. Cook, PE, LS, (right) president of George Cook Engineering, Inc., of Bend, Ore., and a nine-year member of the Oregon Board of Engineering Examiners, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the National Council of Engineering Examiners on Aug. 14, 1984.

# Responses to six common objections to the Boundary Line Agreement legislation

■ *Scott C. Freshwaters, PLS, PLSO Legislative Committee Chair*

## 1. A bureaucrat (county surveyor) will make the decision if a particular boundary line agreement (BLA) is legitimate.

This statement is entirely true and part of the reason that this legislation has the county surveyor (CS) signature approval. At this time, there is nothing to prevent an unscrupulous PLS from helping clients circumvent the property line adjustment (PLA) planning process. Having the CS sign off can, and will prevent misuse of the BLA procedure.

## 2. The CS will be charged with defining terms such as “uncertainty” and “subject to dispute.”

Again, entirely true and not a problem for any CS who is willing to study a little law and learn the definitions of terms such as “subjective uncertainty” and “objective uncertainty.” All of the county surveyors that I have knowledge of through my OACES involvement are very professional and conscientious and would be more than willing to learn some new terminology.

## 3. Disagreements and abuses are bound to occur. The county may have to implement an appeals procedure if a landowner’s BLA is denied by the CS.

Also, landowners could use the procedure to circumvent the land use procedure of PLA. This puts the CS in the position of making a judgment as to the legitimacy of a claim of BLA.

Precisely, and this is a good thing (*see No. 1 above*). As to the charge of the county having to implement an appeals procedure, that is entirely possible, but in reality how often is this likely to occur?

## 4. The BLA legislation is unnecessary since common law doctrine is already available.

Yes, common law doctrine is available now, with no “gatekeeper” doing quality control. Furthermore, at this time, there is no requirement that a BLA be monumented or that the agreement be recorded in the public record. Also, in at least two Oregon counties a document entitled “Boundary Line Agreement” cannot get recorded. With this proposed legislation requiring recording of the agreement, the possibility of land owners spending tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees to defend or oppose a BLA could be obviated.

## 5. Confusion for title companies, subsequent purchasers, and real estate brokers.

Really? How does the placing of something in the public record that adjacent landowners already have the right to do, create confusion? One would think that the memorializing of the agreement would only serve to allay any confusion.

Imagine a potential buyer being told, “the east boundary of the land you are buying is that old row of stones over there—my granddad and neighbor’s dad agreed to that line 35 years ago.” Then have the potential buyer find out that the line was never marked by a surveyor and that there is not a public, written agreement. This hypothetical situation can cause more confusion than having a BLA document in the public record.

## 6. The BLA may disadvantage some naive owners who agree to the BLA but don’t realize that it may reduce the value of their property if they sell.

Well, since the BLA “...does not violate the statute [of frauds] is that it interprets, rather than alters, the property deed description and, therefore, does not effect a conveyance or transfer of real property”<sup>1</sup> then what is the problem?

If the BLA is being perfected because the line is uncertain, then it stands to reason that the deed description either does not close mathematically and is lacking monument calls or the line may have two or more possible locations on the ground. If the former is true, then how will the property be devalued if the size cannot be accurately determined pre-BLA? If the latter is true, then it stands to reason that value could be added to the land by having the line monumented and defined by the BLA. If the location of the line is being disputed, then value would be added to the property by virtue of the BLA making the property marketable, not to mention the peace and harmony that can be restored to the neighborhood. ♦

---

*If anyone has any comments about BLAs please feel free to contact the author at 541-593-1792 or via email: [sfreshwaters@chamberscable.com](mailto:sfreshwaters@chamberscable.com)*

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*Here is a link to the text of the 2011 House Bill:  
[www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/hb2800.dir/hb2892.a.pdf](http://www.leg.state.or.us/11reg/measpdf/hb2800.dir/hb2892.a.pdf).  
The 2013 BLA bill should be identically worded.*

1. Hammack v. Olds, Or.App. 09/14/1988

# 2012 Surveyor of the Year

## Stephen Haddock, PLS



Stephen Haddock, owner of Witness Tree Surveying, is a second generation land surveyor. In high school, he spent many days with his father reading quad maps and learning to navigate in the woods. After high school, he expanded those skills while working on the fire crew with the U.S. Forest Service and while serving in the U.S. Army. In the mid 1980s, Stephen worked full time during the summers with his father as part of Haddock Surveying. The work included locating and marking U.S. Forest Service property boundaries and performing construction staking services for private firms who were building roads on the National Forest. During those years, Stephen obtained an Associate of Science degree in Electrical Engineering Technology at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. In 1995, Stephen began full time partnership with his father in Haddock Surveying, obtaining his Land Surveying Intern license in 1997 and his professional licensure in Oregon in 2001. He passed the Certified Federal Surveyor's exam being certified as a CFedS in June of 2011. He is currently the County Surveyor Elect for Morrow County, Oregon. ♦

### Nomination Letter

I would like to nominate Steve Haddock as "Surveyor of the Year." Steve's commitment to the profession has been demonstrated over and over again by his involvement in PLSO.

Steve has been involved in his local chapter as president, president-elect and secretary/treasurer for over 14 years. Steve has also been the Scholarship Chairman for PLSO since taking over from Pat Gaylord. Steve has served with dedication beyond expectations as scholarship chair.

Sincerely,  
*Joe H. Ferguson, PLS*

### Testimonials

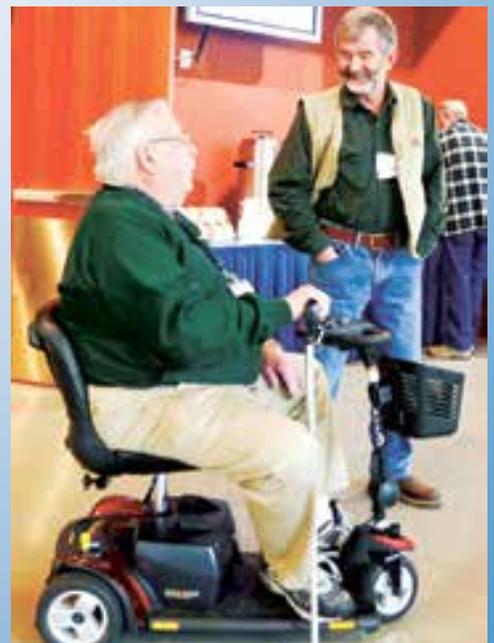
"Steve started working with his dad, Dave Haddock, as a young man. Dave is a surveyor and an engineer and Steve became his crew and eventually his party chief. He then went to school for electrical engineering at Blue Mountain CC. After some time in the army, Steve came back to Eastern Oregon in the early 1990s and [I think] he took over most of his dad's business. I think he got registered around 1995 or 1996? He then opened his own business (Witness Tree) but still worked with his dad some. He was president of the Blue Mountain Chapter in that time frame (maybe 1996-1998 or there about). He then became the secretary of the chapter and has stayed on in that capacity. You already know of all of his activities with the scholarship group."

"You could not ask for a nicer guy; and he has the complete skill set as a land surveyor. We have retraced plenty of his work and it is a pleasure, he always does a very complete job with his research and never seems to give up in corner searching."

# ENERGIZING the FUTURE



2013  
PLSO  
Annual Conference



# PLSO Award Winners



**Steve Haddock**  
Surveyor of the Year



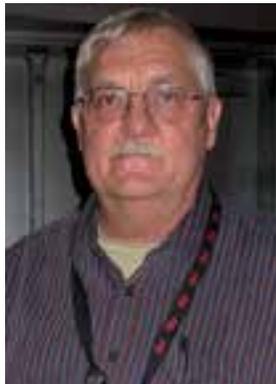
**Bob Neathamer**  
Life Member



**Paul Galli**  
Brush Cutter Award



**John Thatcher**  
Pioneer Chapter



**Stephan "Pat" Barott**  
Rogue River Chapter



**Ron Rice**  
Midwest Chapter



**Tom Del Santo**  
South Central Chapter



**Jamey Montoya**  
Willamette Chapter



**Rod Lewis**  
Blue Mountain



**Tim Kent, Tony Brooks, Chuck Wiley, Ken Cochran**  
PLSO Outgoing Conference Committee Members

See page 17 for a full list of awards



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 **Trimble**



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## A look inside the annual conference

■ *Tim Kent*

It was a great time to be together with our members and guests at the 2013 conference. About 500 attended and were rewarded with three days of interesting and informative presentations. The accommodations at the Salem Conference Center and Grand Hotel were some of the best we have experienced.

The conference committee spent the past year planning for this event and received many suggestions for what you wanted to see and hear about. From the results of the exit survey, the majority of attendees responded favorably about their experience. There are always a few glitches, like parking and food choices, but the overall consensus is that the conference was a positive experience.

The lineup of presenters and topics was again well received. There were the always well-liked sessions on boundary surveying and similar presentations, but also many sessions that dealt with business, GIS, and other related topics. Gary Kent received great reviews for his sessions on ALTA surveys, Managing Your Business, and Resolving Boundary Disputes. The presentations by the federal agencies were also well received and were new to the program this year. The exit survey also provided many great suggestions for topics and presenters to be considered for next year.

A great response was received from all involved in the Wednesday luncheon program where Jeff Whitaker, the exhibitor coordinator, had each of the exhibitors make a short presentation to the attendees about their products. This “broke the ice” for many people to make the effort to meet the exhibitors and get to know about their products. This may become an annual event.

The Education and Outreach Auction was a great success raising about \$10,000 to be used in a number of programs supporting the members of PLSO. The live auction was highlighted again by our great auctioneer, Paul Schultz, ably assisted by Paul Rydell, Jered McGrath and OIT students. And of course, we salute the donation made by member Sue Newstetter who again bid an enormous price for a wood table. She has the corner on bidding an item up to its very top limit.

Since the inception of a permanent conference committee in 2008, a core group of dedicated members have designed and continually streamlined the conference planning process. This has resulted in a cohesive and efficient planning effort, which has made the entire conference experience much easier on all those involved. This was the final conference for four of those individuals that have been involved from the onset; Tony Brooks, Chuck Wiley, Ken Cochran, and Tim Kent. Many thanks are due to them for their contributions to the conference planning committee. New committee members have been a part of the planning process during the past year and the entire committee will continue to serve the membership with providing quality annual conferences. ♦

## Award Winners

### **PLSO Past Chair**

Mason Marker

### **PLSO outgoing Chapter Presidents**

*Central Chapter*

Andrew Huston

*Midwest Chapter*

Ron Rice

*Pioneer Chapter*

John Thatcher

*Rogue River Chapter*

Stephan “Pat” Barott

*South Central Chapter*

Tom Del Santo

*Southwest Chapter*

Mike Erickson

*Umpqua Chapter*

Carl Sweeden

*Willamette Chapter*

Jamey Montoya

*Blue Mountain*

Rod Lewis

### **Special Awards**

*Brush Cutter*

Paul Galli

### **Life Members**

Dave Krumbein

Bob Neathamer

### **Surveyor of the Year**

Steve Haddock

### **PLSO outgoing Conference Committee members**

Tony Brooks

Ken Cochran

Tim Kent

Chuck Wiley

### **Map Contest Winner**

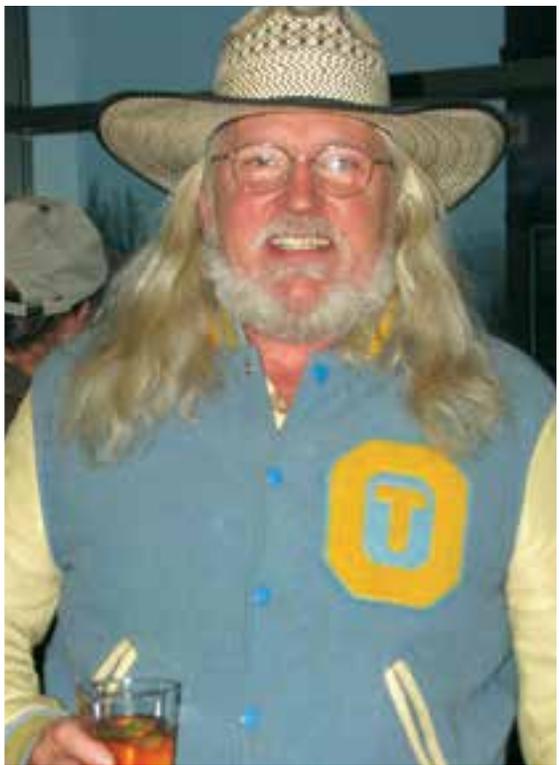
John Besancon

### **Survey Olympics Winners**

Lee MacDonald

Berta Romio

2013 PLSO Annual Conference • Energizing the Future



January 23-25, 2013 • Salem Conference Center—Salem, OR



# GPS, Geodesy and the Ghost in the Machine: A workshop for Surveyors and GIS Professionals

Presented by Michael Dennis • Sponsored by Oregon GPS User's Group

Thursday, March 21 • 7:30am – 4:30pm

NW Eola Viticulture Center of Chemeketa CC, 215 Doaks Ferry Rd., Salem

Positions determined using GPS and GNSS equipment are determined using complex algorithms that are often hidden within proprietary software, aka "the ghost in the machine." Users unfamiliar with the computational process can unwittingly generate positional errors ranging from centimeters to kilometers. This workshop seeks to shed light on the GPS black box by 1) Explaining the main geodetic principles and terminology behind GPS; 2) Reducing blind reliance on GPS and GIS software; and 3) Providing practical information and tools for the GPS user. Topics include geodetic and vertical datums, map projections, ground coordinate systems, the geoid and gravity, accuracy assessment, GIS and survey data compatibility, and documentation (metadata). National Geodetic Survey (NGS) products and services are used along with numerous examples of positioning errors to illustrate the peril of neglecting geodetic principles, with particular emphasis on the situation in Oregon. A workbook is provided that includes step-by-step GPS and geodetic computations.

*Michael L. Dennis, RLS, PE, is a geodesist at the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) where his duties include analysis of geometric and vertical datums; evaluation of data processing and survey network adjustment procedures; development and promotion of standards and guidelines; integration of NGS products and services with GIS; and public outreach. Michael managed the national adjustment of the 2011 project re-adjusting 79,677 passive marks which were constrained to 1195 CORS across the U.S. He was also instrumental in helping ODOT define the low distortion projections used for the Oregon Coordinate Reference System.*

Check-in: 7:30–8:30 am (preregistration only—No registration at the door) First come, first served for up to 165 registrants. Cost is \$65 and includes lunch. Attendees will be emailed handouts prior to the workshop. No materials provided at the workshop.

Questions: [johnminor@stuntzner.com](mailto:johnminor@stuntzner.com) or [neathamer@gmail.com](mailto:neathamer@gmail.com)

Send one registration per person to: Cael Neathamer, PO Box 1674, Medford, OR 97501

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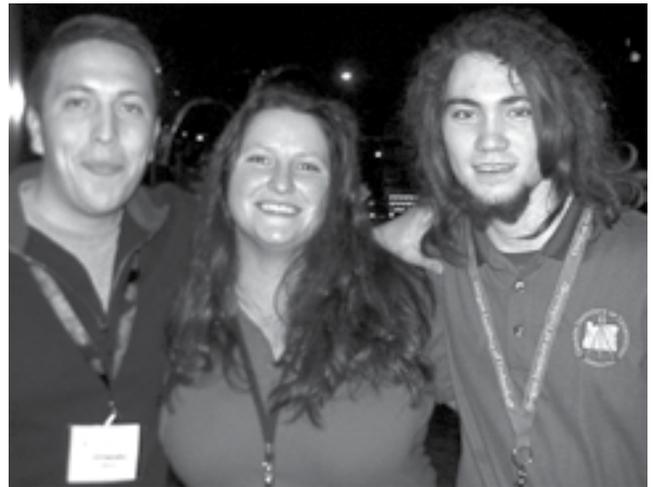
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# 2013 PLSO Annual Conference • Energizing the Future

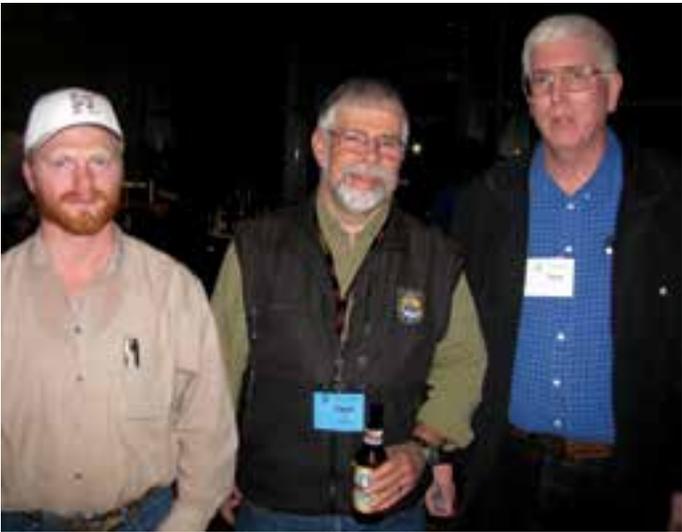
Thank you  
OIT student  
volunteers!



## High School Student Program



2013 PLSO Annual Conference • Energizing the Future





# PLSO Student Appreciation Nights— More than just a “free” dinner for students

■ *Abby Chin (David Evans and Associates) and Keith Williams (UNAVCO)*

Note: While Abby Chin and Keith Williams were students at OSU, they attended two PLSO Student Appreciation Nights.

The annual PLSO student appreciation dinner at Oregon State University provides students with a great opportunity to learn more about the surveying profession from practicing land surveyors by bringing together students from Oregon State University, Chemeketa Community College, and Linn Benton Community College with surveyors from the Willamette Chapter of the PLSO. The event is an important experience for students to be able to meet practicing surveyors and learn about current projects. It also allows students to network with current professionals, which is critical to integrating them into the profession. Students are able to attend free of charge thanks to generous donations from a number of the professionals in attendance.

Aside from a much appreciated, sponsored dinner, students have greatly benefited from new opportunities arising from attending these PLSO dinners.

At each event, dinner is followed by a presentation focused on surveying. For example, one year the presenter was Jeff Whitson, PLS, DEA Vice President and Center of Excellence Regional Manager, who spoke about “Historical Riparian Boundaries of the Lower Twelve Miles of the Willamette River.” To wrap up the event, door prizes are awarded to the students. Gifts from companies, like Portland Precision Instruments (PPI) and DEA, range from Subway gift certificates to Garmin handheld GPS navigation systems. It is a great way to end the night as the majority of students go home with something.

Aside from a much appreciated, sponsored dinner, students have greatly benefited from new opportunities arising from attending these PLSO dinners.



Abby Chin and Keith Williams perform a LiDAR survey with Brady Callahan (center) from Oregon Parks & Recreation. Photo by Kris Puderbaugh

Abby Chin attended two dinners during her two years at OSU. In 2012, she sat next to Marcus Reedy, another DEA VP and was able to discuss her thesis project on using terrestrial laser scanning to evaluate road roughness. The dinner provided a light atmosphere for Abby and Marcus to discuss career paths and gain more insight on the work that DEA does. As a result of this dinner and the connections made, Abby was able to get a job with DEA after graduation.

Keith Williams also attended two dinners hosted by the PLSO. The first of these dinners gave Keith hope that he would not have to spend 40 hours a week sitting behind a desk working as a civil engineer. He met with many practicing surveyors and discovered what a typical day in the “office” entailed, as well as discovering that OSU was offering a graduate degree in Civil Engineering Geomatics with exposure to advanced technologies such as LiDAR. Two years later, he conducts LiDAR and GPS surveys around the world working for UNAVCO.

We, on behalf of all of the student attendees, would like to thank all of the members of PLSO and everyone involved in making these dinners possible. It has helped us along in our academic and career paths. Such an event is a great way to help attract and retain students in both the School of Civil and Construction Engineering and the School of Forestry at OSU, as well as students at other programs throughout Oregon. ♦

# BLM Public Land Survey Plats

The following public land survey plats for Oregon were approved and/or filed during the period of May 2012 through November 2012. This list is also available electronically by contacting this office at khensley@blm.gov.

## Oregon, Willamette Meridian

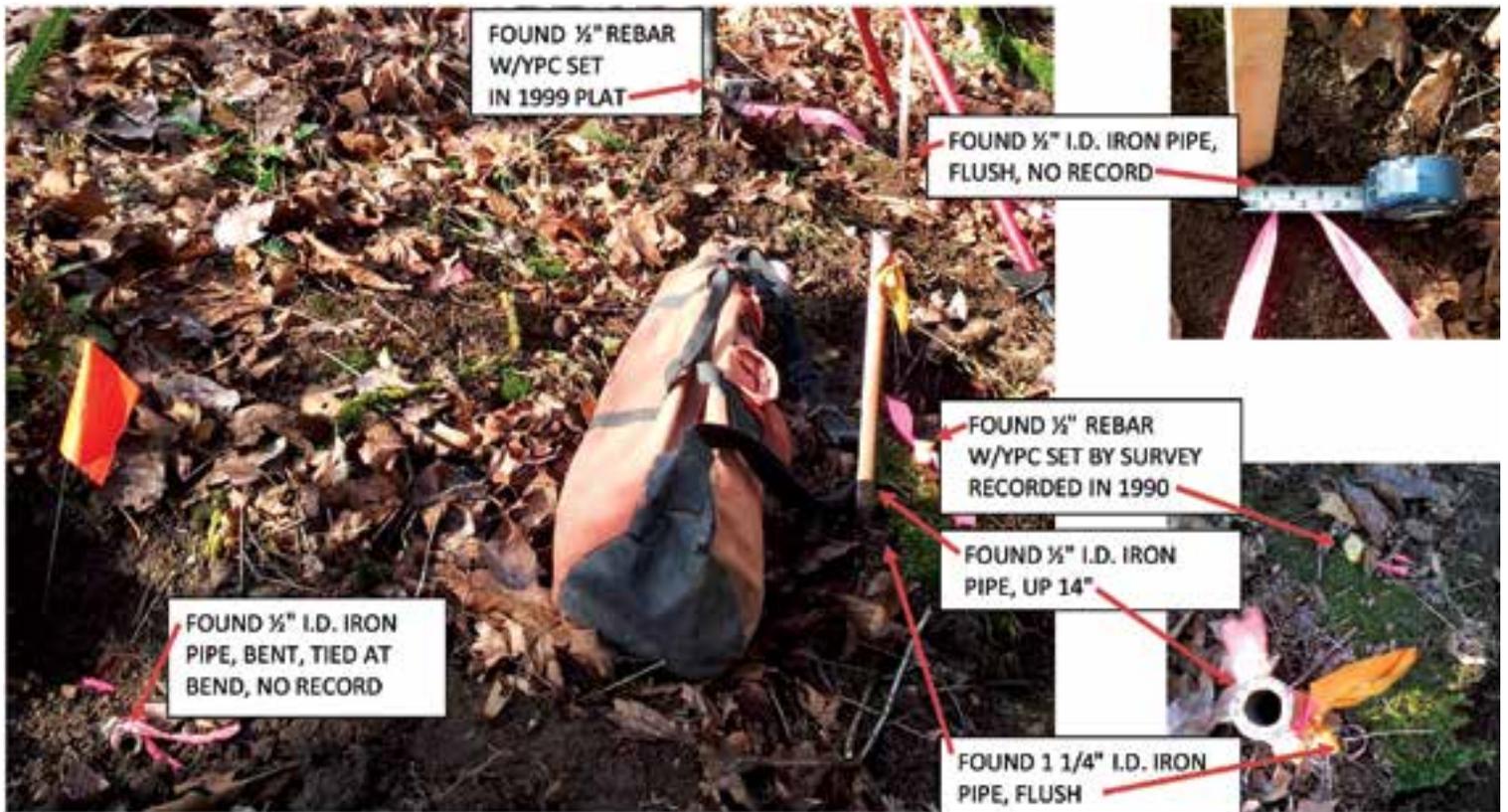
T. 26 S., R. 10 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 7 S., R. 3 E.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 15 S., R. 6 W.	Retracement
T. 41 S., Rs. 42 & 43 E.	Corrective Dependent Resurvey, Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 18
T. 34 S., R. 5 W.	Dependent Resurvey, Subdivision of Section 30 & Survey
T. 41 S., R. 4 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 18
T. 16 S., R. 1 W.	Retracement
T. 9 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 9
T. 7 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 25 S., R. 13 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Survey
T. 20 S., R. 9 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 36
T. 9 S., R. 19 E.,	Dependent Resurvey & Remonumentation
T. 18 S., R. 1 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 7
T. 3 S., R. 3 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 29
T. 27 S., R. 3 W.	Retracement
T. 25 S., R. 4 W.	Retracement
T. 18 S., R. 6 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 7
T. 14 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 17 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 5 S., R. 14 E.	Dependent Resurvey, Survey, & Subdivision of Section 5
T. 26 S., R. 2 W.	Corrective Resurvey, Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections
T. 27 S., R. 11 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 16 & 24
T. 39 S., R. 3 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 20 & 28
T. 19 S., R. 5 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 19 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 25 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 28 S., R. 2 W.	Retracement
T. 20 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 21
T. 3 N., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Sections 9 & 19
T. 2 S., R. 5 W.	Dependent Resurvey, Subdivision of Sections, & Survey
T. 21 S., R. 10 E.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 24
T. 21 S., R. 2 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 22 S., R. 3 W.	Dependent Resurvey
T. 20 S., R. 1 W.	Retracement
T. 28 S., R. 3 W.	Retracement
T. 21 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 16
T. 17 S., R. 7 W.	Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 13
T. 3 N., R. 3 W.	Corrective Dependent Resurvey & Subdivision of Section 21
T. 25 S., R. 1 W.	Retracement
T. 27 S., R. 2 W.	Retracement
T. 8 S., R. 20 E.	Remonumentation

## In Trackless Woods

■ *Richard Wilbur*

In trackless woods,  
it puzzled me to find  
Four great rock maples  
seemingly aligned,  
As if they had been  
set out in a row  
Before some house  
a century ago,  
To edge the property  
and lend some shade.  
I looked to see if ancient  
wheels had made  
Old ruts to which the  
trees ran parallel,  
But there were none,  
so far as I could tell—  
There'd been no roadway.  
Nor could I find the square  
Depression of a  
cellar anywhere,  
And so I tramped on  
further, to survey  
Amazing patterns in  
a hornbeam spray  
Or spirals in a pine  
cone, under trees  
Not subject to our  
stiff geometries.

*"In Trackless Woods" from COLLECTED  
POEMS 1943–2004 by Richard Wilbur.  
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# Monuments over measurements

■ *Cindy Halcumb, PLS*

A 2012 lot line retracement survey along two sides of an open space tract became an extensive endeavor. The tract was created and monumented by a 1999 plat. The underlying deed revealed a sectional subdivision description, the northeast corner being the 1/16 corner along the southeast quarter of the section. The adjoining deeds confirmed the same construction. No written gaps or overlaps were evidenced.

Six different monuments were found within eight feet of one another in the vicinity of the corner. The evidence indicates that five of these monuments were in place when the field crew monumenting the 1999 plat set the sixth corner. This plat did not reference any of the iron pipes, and one is up above the surface by over a foot! The plat called out a falling to the 1/2" rebar set in the 1990 survey.

This example is being shared to help protect the best interest of the public, property rights and the profession of land surveying. Licensed land surveyors are servants to the public. Due diligence must be taken in every situation to meet this end. Our tools today report data to the nearest 0.001 of a foot with realistic accuracies closer to 0.01–0.02 of a foot. This is a ridiculously small distance when measuring boundary lines, and yet many champion this ability to measure with an academic sense of pride. Surveyors will report existing monuments to be off by hundredths of a foot. Realistically, in consideration of the widths of the physical boundaries such as fence and tree lines that property owners maintain, this difference is negligible.

With the understanding that monuments can be moved from their intended position with malice, in the majority of

cases, existing monuments control. Take due diligence in the discovery phase of every survey to locate all the evidence. If you don't take the time to find it, you cannot hold it. The public record does not reflect the work of all past surveyors, making it imperative to look for monuments regardless of what the existing maps depict. When a past surveyor's work is recovered, engage! Take the time to verify relative positions and examine signs of acceptance. Document local occupation lines and talk with the lot owners. While mathematical positions should be calculated, compared and referenced on the survey, make it a rare incident to dispute an existing monument. If a monument has not been knowingly disturbed or ignored, it must be accepted by the subsequent surveyor. A situation with multiple monuments or "porcupined" corners should not exist, and is an embarrassment to the profession.

In *The Judicial Functions of Surveyors* written by Justice Thomas M. Cooley, we find that it is "the duty of the surveyor to search for original monuments, or for the places where they were originally located, and allow these to control if he finds them, unless he has reason to believe that agreements of the parties, express or implied, have rendered them unimportant." In *Diehl v Zanger*, Justice Cooley further states that "No rule in real estate law is more inflexible than that monuments control course and distance—a rule that we have frequent occasion to apply in the case of public surveys"... "its application in other cases is quite as proper, and quite as necessary to the protection of substantial rights."

Do not perpetuate the belief that no two surveyors can ever agree. Protect the best interest of the public, your reputation and that of the profession. Your schonstedt and your patience are your best allies! Do you (or your field crews) bring these tools along for one final search of the area when you plan to set a new corner? ♦

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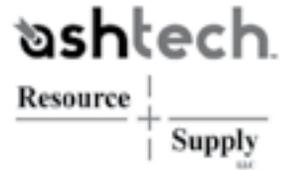
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