

# THE OREGON SURVEYOR

*A publication of the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon*

## Astoria Then & Now



Volume 35 Number 2  
March/April 2012



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Renew your PLSO membership online at [www.plso.org](http://www.plso.org).





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## The Lost Surveyor, from page 27

**Answer: LAT 45° 27' 45" N LONG 123° 58' 22" W**

This site—locally known as Maxwell's Hill—is in Oceanside, Tillamook County, Oregon.

Leonard Rydell told us, "Since there is a 'No Trespassing' sign at the access on the motel property, I asked the owner for permission to go on their property. I do not recommend that anyone goes on the path now (in 2003, it was only ten feet wide.) The phrase 'JACK 1926' is stamped on the cap."



The "path" is a little treacherous these days.



# Join PLSO or Renew Your Membership!

*April is "Membership Month"*

Please watch your chapter notices for great monthly programs and seminars!

**PLSO is the only organization that exclusively represents the interests and serves the needs of Land Surveyors, especially in Oregon.**

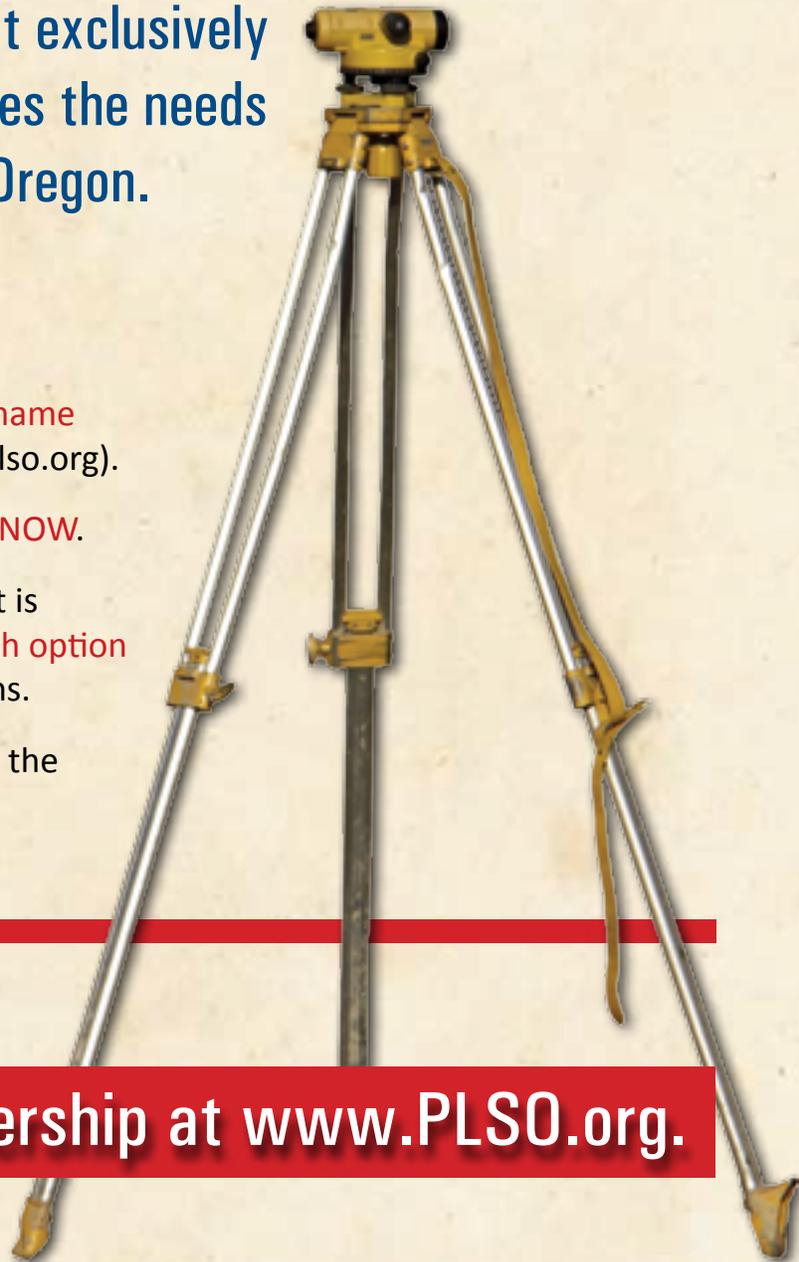
**Follow these easy steps:**

1. Go to [www.PLSO.org](http://www.PLSO.org).
2. Login to the site as a member with the **username** and **password** (emailed from [webmaster@plso.org](mailto:webmaster@plso.org)).
3. Choose the Members tab and go to **RENEW NOW**.
4. There will be two choices for membership. It is recommended that you choose the **18 month option** to avoid having to renew in just a few months.
5. Have your Visa or MasterCard ready or print the form and mail with a check.

For news and regular updates,  
"like" PLSO on Facebook!



**Renew your 2012 membership at [www.PLSO.org](http://www.PLSO.org).**



■ *Mason Marker, PLS; 2012 PLSO Chair*

## Why?

Over the next year, one of the greatest challenges that we face as an organization is membership. Currently, PLSO membership is 148 members lower than it was at this time last year. Even with the extraordinary efforts of our Membership committee, VanNatta Public Relations and individual members, we are still losing ground. When I speak with potential members or former members of PLSO about joining, a common question I hear is, “What do I get for my money?” This is a fair question to ask, but I don’t believe that the best reasons for being a member of the PLSO can be easily quantified. With this being said, in my first chair’s letter to the membership (and hopefully new members), I will share with you why I think membership in PLSO is important.

My top reason for being a member in the PLSO is the people that make up the organization. Being a member gives me the opportunity to associate with like-minded people who have many of the same interests, both professionally and personally, that I do. I enjoy PLSO meetings and conferences as much for hearing other member’s stories about hiking, hunting, and boating as I do about their latest exploits on the job. Many of our members could easily have a movie made of their life’s story that would be as interesting as any Hollywood action thriller.

Beyond the social aspects, I also enjoy the opportunity to associate with members that are leaders in our

profession. Among the membership of the PLSO is the full range of the surveying profession. There are small business owners, corporate executives, and government officials. Many of the changes that we see in our profession are being driven by these individuals. Belonging to the PLSO provides me the opportunity to meet them, discuss their ideas in person, and learn from their examples. I often find that PLSO meetings are like having a crystal ball allowing me to see into the future of our profession.

As a result of getting to know the members in our organization, I have also been able to build lasting professional relationships. When first

### Top three reason why I am a PLSO member:

- #1 PLSO members
- #2 Education
- #3 Professional support

entering the profession, fellow PLSO members acted as mentors to me, helping me learn the practical details of the profession not taught in school. Fast forward 20 years, and I still find sound council on surveying problems from fellow PLSO members. It is rare for me to find a problem that someone else has not had to face (and hopefully, solved) before.



The second reason I appreciate belonging to the PLSO is the educational offerings. Over time, as I have mastered the basics of surveying, I have discovered that many of the finer points of surveying are not written in text books and equipment manuals. Once a surveyor is

comfortable with the technical part of surveying (things like collecting data, adjusting traverses, and performing layout calculations), it is time to learn the “art of surveying.” The art of surveying is learning things such as strategies for finding DLC corner stones buried deep in Willamette Valley blackberry bushes, strategies for compiling and presenting record information efficiently on an ALTA survey, or how best to manage field crews during the busy summer

construction season. These are all parts of the art of surveying and information that is readily available to a member of PLSO.

This information is available in part through PLSO-sponsored seminars. But to truly learn the art of surveying, discussions with members who have “been there and done that” provides the best information. Will Rogers said,

Continues on page 5 ►

# Editor's Note

■ Oran Abbott, PLS; oranabbott@gmail.com



I am writing this installment of the “Editor’s Note” right after the PLSO Annual Conference. The next issue of *The Oregon Surveyor* will be composed mostly of photos and information about the conference, but my editorial can highlight anything relating to surveying (based on my opinion).

During the annual meeting portion of the conference, we shared a rare moment of silence in honor of Bert Mason, Jr., and Dick Chesebro. Both of these valued members passed away over the last year. The moment of silence gave each of us an opportunity to think of what we can do to achieve part of what Bert and Dick provided for the future of our profession. (Later on Saturday, I attended a very touching memorial service for Bert at Homewoods on the Willamette in Milwaukie.)

At Thursday night’s dinner and scholarship auction, I watched a magician perform several card tricks. Though my camera is able to take several pictures at a time, I could not

even keep up with what the magician did with my eyes. He put a deck of cards in a box, wrapped it up in his handkerchief, then unwrapped it and they were gone. Where it went, who knows?

Since I am retired, the activities of being the editor of *The Oregon Surveyor* are helpful towards keeping my survey license up-to-date. One of my duties involves taking photos of the annual conference for coverage in the conference issue to present an overview of the event. One of the things I noticed in several of the classes—not related to each other—is that we are about to take a huge step forward using computer technology. One class illustrated how you can create a topographic map with one foot contour intervals on a piece of property without going out in the field. Another class showed how to do research on your cell phone and how to use a cell phone as a compass. Laser scanners have become much smaller and can produce maps with elevation shots every one foot.

I know several young unlicensed surveyors who work the electronics, tear down and reassemble computers, and are more up-to-date on the latest electronics. The average age of a surveyor in the United States is 58, so we are told. There needs to be a way to get these young surveyors, who may take over for us, into PLSO. We offer them a nationally-recognized organization that can support and mentor them. Maybe we can create a different type of license for these professionals, or offer their own hierarchy within the PLSO structure.

What we do for society is far more important than our numbers. What we do in determining property boundaries for people, companies, States, or the Nation is much more important. I wonder what we will be in 2022. ◊

**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.

#### ADDRESS CHANGES & BUSINESS

All notifications for changes of address, membership inquiries and PLSO business correspondence should be directed to:

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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 Switalla at lisa@llm.com.

#### ADVERTISING POLICY

Advertising content and materials are subject to approval of the PLSO Board and LLM Publications, Inc. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertising that simulates copy; material must be clearly marked as “Advertisement.”

For advertising information, contact:

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503-445-2234 • 800-647-1511 x2234  
dustin@llm.com

Send display ads or artwork in digital format to ads@llm.com. For submission guidelines, email ads@llm.com.

“A man only learns in two ways—one by reading and the other by association with smarter people.” PLSO gives me the opportunity to learn by association with smarter people.

The third reason I find membership in PLSO to be valuable is professional support. Our profession exists in a rapidly changing environment. Our technologies change weekly, if not daily. The rules and regulations that govern our profession change frequently to suit the needs of those outside of our profession and for those in private practice. There is the constant change of the economy, tax codes and business regulations. It is a challenge to follow and adapt to all of these changes. PLSO works as a watch-dog to keep tabs on changes in legislation and regulation. The Legislative committee, headed by Scott Freshwaters, works diligently to monitor activity in the Oregon State Legislature. Scott also keeps us apprised of what is happening at the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES). On the national level, Bob Neathamer represents us at the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) and Greg Crites represents us at the Western Federation of Professional Surveyors (WFPS).

These individuals distill the expected changes to the surveying profession down to the issues that are important for us in day-to-day work and bring them back to the membership for consideration and action. I know for myself, tracking all of the issues that come before these bodies would not be feasible.

Belonging to PLSO gives me access to the information that is important to my profession without me having to try and follow the business of all the different organizations that the PLSO follows. I also appreciate that if laws or policies are being proposed that adversely impact our profession, the PLSO will be there to lobby against it.

“A man only learns in two ways—  
one by reading and the other by  
association with smarter people.”

—Will Rogers

These are the reasons I belong to the PLSO and will continue to support it with my membership. Consider the reasons that keep you a member in PLSO and think about how you can communicate those reasons to your

fellow licensed surveyors who do not belong and to those who are not licensed yet but hope to be someday. I know that the reasons that keep me as a member will only get stronger as our organization grows. ☺

## **ASAE Announces Renewal of Mary Louise VanNatta as a Certified Association Executive**

The American Society of Association Executives has announced that Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE of VanNatta Public Relations has received certification renewal as a Certified Association Executive (CAE™). The CAE is the highest professional credential in the association industry. Less than five percent of all association professionals have earned the CAE. VanNatta originally obtained her CAE in 1993.

Mary Louise VanNatta has over 25 years of association management experience. She graduated from Willamette University with degrees in Political Science, International Studies, and Spanish. She specializes in association management, designing programs tailored for individual associations, membership recruitment, conference planning, meeting planning, and promotional writing. She has spent almost 25 years in public relations with VanNatta Public Relations, which has been recognized five times by *Oregon Business Magazine* as one of the top PR firms in the Mid-Willamette Valley.

To be designated as a Certified Association Executive, an applicant must have a minimum of three years experience in nonprofit organization management, complete a minimum of 75 hours of specialized professional development, pass a stringent examination in association management, and pledge to uphold a code of ethics. To maintain the certification, individuals must undertake ongoing professional development and activities in association and nonprofit management.

VanNatta and her firm have handled association management for PLSO since 2007. ☺

■ *Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE; PLSO Executive Secretary*

## Helping youth “test drive” their future careers

Some of us fell into our careers with a great opportunity or we went to school or trained for our vocation. But times have changed. Imagine making a career choice in today’s society? Now, there are more options than ever for careers and the world of work can be confusing and complex. In addition, with work opportunities limited for youth, few students have gained the experience it takes to obtain and hold a full time job. One of the ways we help students

find their path is offering them a chance to test-drive a career—or at least observe what a day at work looks like to you.

I’ve had a few student job shadows at work; which involves having a student watch you work for a day. Recently, a charming young lady from my high school alma mater spent a Friday with me. It is part of the student’s curriculum and is a graduation requirement. There’s nothing like a shadow to mirror the



realities of your workday, and that particular day wasn’t too exciting. It gave me pause to think, as members of PLSO, how do we talk about the importance of surveying and give youths an insight into a career that could meet their needs for a lifetime?

Our fast-paced internet and high-pressure life has not been lost on our teenagers. They hustle to school shortly after 7 am, load up on classes, carry 60 lbs of textbooks, go to sports practice, scouts, clubs, and study and seem to only get sleep on the weekend. College pressure starts during freshman year. All the while, they are posting on Facebook, texting and playing action-packed video games to keep life interesting. Life changes every minute. How could my typical workday even hold a candle?

What happens to a graduate when this “short attention span theater of life” dumps them on the job site? I once saw a new employee break down in tears after performing a full day of answering phones, photocopying and making name tags. “I didn’t know it would be like this,” she wept.

When most of our young prodigies leave school for the wonderful world of employment, they are most likely entering an eight-hour-a-day life that, for most people, will either be in an office, factory or outdoors. Our society has not prepared children for the patience it takes to get them through a typical work day. Surveyors in the field know that, along with mathematical

An advertisement for SURV-KAP surveying products. The top half features the text "The MEASURE OF EXCELLENCE" in large, bold, blue letters, with "The" in red script. Below the text is a photograph of various surveying tools including a yellow cap, a red cap, a purple cap, a silver cap, a silver level, a purple level, and a silver level. A gold circular seal in the center of the tools reads "The Landmark Name SURV-KAP In Survey Products". The bottom half of the advertisement has a white background with the text "EASY ORDERING ONLINE!" in red, "SURV-KAP.com" in large blue letters, and "SURVEY MARKERS, CAPS AND ACCESSORIES • 800-445-5320" in smaller blue letters. A gold seal with "100% GUARANTEE" is also present.

and technical knowledge, patience and tolerance for the environment are valuable skills. That's where a high quality job shadow can help prepare students for full-time work in our fields.

PLSO encourages you to offer job shadows to students at high schools, colleges, scouts and clubs. Generally the schools, or their career centers, maintain a list of companies who will talk to students in a classroom or offer a job shadow or internship. You can also help Boy Scouts complete the Surveyor Merit Badge (check out [www.plso.org](http://www.plso.org) for info) or participate in a career fair.

As a result of your involvement, your job shadows may find surveying is a good match. Possibly, something they see will spark their interest and cause them to focus their studies to achieve a career in the field. ◉

### Points to keep in mind while welcoming a student to your jobsite:

- ▶ **Call attention to the environment.** You are providing a snapshot of a work environment. Students should have a chance to observe the workplace and determine if they like work—as my father said—“inside and out of the rain,” or need to get out of the temperature-controlled box for some fresh air.
- ▶ **Show them the regular chores as well as the exciting ones.** No one wants a career “bait and switch.” You can explain how the day they are observing might differ from the majority of the days. Talk about how a surveying career can vary depending upon a person’s interests and specialties.
- ▶ **Speak of expectations.** Let your student know the best and most challenging parts of your career. If there are people you admire for their expertise or skill, point out those qualities.
- ▶ **Bring them along.** If you have workplace meetings, site visits, lunches or phone calls that are not private, include the student in these meetings. Give them a primer so they can follow along. After the meeting, explain what happened and your strategy.

## SURVEYING EDUCATION

[www.clark.edu](http://www.clark.edu)



### Are you looking to further your education in surveying or complete an Associates of Applied Science degree in surveying that transfers to Oregon Tech?

Clark College in Vancouver now offers you this exciting opportunity. Classes are offered in the evening and Saturday lab sessions as needed. The faculty are all professionally experienced and licensed land surveyors. In-state tuition applies to some of the Oregon border counties.

For further information contact Tim Kent at [tkent@clark.edu](mailto:tkent@clark.edu) or 360-992-2052.



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# PLSO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

## Attendees

### Officers

CHAIR Mason Marker | CHAIR-ELECT Lee Spurgeon  
EXEC. SECRETARY Mary Louise VanNatta, CAE | PAST CHAIR Gary Anderson

### Board Members

CENTRAL (1) Andrew Huston, President | David Williams, President-Elect  
MIDWEST (2) Ron Rice, President  
PIONEER (3) John Thatcher, President | Ben Stacy, President-Elect | Jered McGrath, Sec-Treas  
ROGUE RIVER (4) Stephan Barott, President | Fred Frantz, President-Elect  
SOUTH CENTRAL (5) No representative  
SOUTHWEST (6) Mike Erickson, President  
UMPQUA (7) Carl Sweeden, President | David Edwards, President-Elect  
WILLAMETTE (8) Jamey Montoya, President | Nathan Magness, President-Elect  
BLUE MOUNTAIN (9) Rod Lewis, President | Tom Battey, President-Elect

\*President-Elect for 2012

### Committee Chairs

FINANCE Gary Johnston | EGAC/TRIG-STAR Joe Ferguson | LEGISLATION Scott Freshwaters  
CONFERENCE Tim Kent | SCHOLARSHIP Steve Haddock | NSPS Bob Neathamer

## Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marker at 10:09 am.

Minutes from the December 3, 2011 meeting were reviewed.

MOTION: Barott moved and Magness seconded the minutes be approved as printed. Motion passed.

## Report FROM THE Executive Secretary

Assets of the association stand at \$90,874.23.

There are 431 dues paying members with 448 total members. 379 members have paid for 18 months and 69 have paid for 6 months. Approximately 211 dues paying members have not renewed from last year.

- The office encouraged the chapters to contact non-members in their area and to communicate with non-members through email solicitations. The office compiled a list of new OSBEELS licensees as part of the PLSO membership renewal campaign. Membership was audited using all hard copy forms and credit card receipts along with the website. The

office hosted a conference call on January 18, 2012 to discuss future plans for the membership campaign.

- The office continues to monitor the LightSquared issue and discussed with national representatives on PLSO involvement.
- Gary Johnston, with the help of the PLSO office, came up with a draft budget for the 2012 year and a copy was sent to the board for a review. PLSO leaders met regarding the state of PLSO finances and concerns with maintaining proper reserves. The financial requirements for the proposed Foundation was discussed. During the officer's orientation meeting, an extensive discussion was held on the budget.
- The office has been reviewing the conference committee notes and providing input when asked. Jeanette participated in the conference committee meeting via conference call. The office will take care of exhibitors, negotiate terms for the conference menu, provide suggestions for speaker gifts, and arrange for early hotel reservation incentives.

- The basic PLSO website is up and running. Events and registration forms are being posted on the website, and the member information section has gone live. More benefits will be included in Phase 2, which will create groups for chapters and administrative functions for chapter presidents.
- The office continues to answer questions that come into the office from members and non-members via e-mail and phone calls concerning membership, looking for a surveyor, and event information.
- The office completed the 2012 PLSO Planning Calendar and the dates of future board meetings are on the online calendar for people to view.
- The orientation meeting for the new PLSO Chair and Chair-Elect was hosted at the PLSO office.
- The office is in the process of adding updates for the Board of Directors Operation Manuals for the coming year and placing them on the website.
- The office contacted many of the County surveyor offices via email and encouraged county surveyors to place PLSO membership information on their websites.

## Report FROM THE Chair

Mason Marker introduced himself to the organization. He is looking forward to what is coming up this year.

- Marker met with VanNatta, Spurgeon, Anderson and Johnston to talk about the next year. He said the budget will be a challenge and we should help chapters with presentations/workshops to bring in revenue.
- Marker said that membership is the most important item he will focus on this year. He encouraged the group to grow the associate membership base.
- Students can get lost after they graduate, so PLSO needs to continue

to encourage students and graduates as they move into the surveying career. This will be important to the health of the profession and the organization.

- Marker is interested in seeing the establishment of the PLSO Foundation.
- There is a vacancy in the WestFed position.

### Chapter Activities

**Central**—Huston said they will have a meeting on January 25 at the Bend Brewing Company.

**Mid-West**—Rice reported that they want to do a workshop this spring. They want to get someone to demonstrate the writing of the special types of reports.

**Pioneer**—Thatcher said Eric Gakstatter, from GPS World, gave a presentation on LightSquared at the December meeting. At the January meeting, Wendell Harness did a presentation on the PLSO website. Geocaching was discussed.

**Rogue River**—They will have a meeting with a local title company. Jim Hibbs volunteered to serve on the PLSO Foundation Board. The documentation of foreclosed properties are becoming an issue as some are having problems with old deed descriptions.

**South Central**—Not in attendance.

**Southwest**—Erickson said their meetings have gone well. They will participate in Engineers Week with the Professional Engineers of Oregon. On February 22, the National Engineers Week High School Banquet is being held in Coos Bay. Representatives from PSU, OIT, OSU and the PLSO Southwest chapter will attend.

**Umpqua**—Sweeden said they are trying to schedule a workshop in April for the Oregon Coordinate System. Ron Singh will help. At their last meeting there was

a small turnout. Romey Ware presented about the history of the area in relation to public works projects. Kent reminded the group that students are the future of our organization and we need to keep them engaged. He commented that we need to get Umpqua chapter engaged in the annual conference.

**Willamette**—There was no meeting in December. Rep. Andy Olson was scheduled to attend the January meeting, but it was canceled due to weather. They will reschedule for next month.

**Blue Mountain**—Lewis reported there was a seminar for GIS in Pendleton on December 17. There is a lot of information online. They are always looking for good topics. It was well attended and successful. Blue Mountain Community College is incorporating GIS instruction with its survey curriculum. The February meeting topic will be centered on the technical student contest. Dave Krumbein asked PLSO to sponsor the contest for the high school students. They will encourage students to learn why technology is important.

### Old Business

**Membership Report**—Anderson reported on a conference call that was held with the newly formed Membership Task Force.

- There are 40 associate members who have yet to renew.
- Pioneer chapter has 14 associates who have not renewed.
- PLSO membership numbers have dropped by 100 members since 2008–2009. A goal of 312 new members has been set to get back to the average membership of the last few years.
- There are 211 corporate members who have yet to renew.
- There are about 1000 licensed surveyors on the OSBEELS list who are not members of PLSO.

- Chapters were charged with calling their non-renewing members. Montoya discussed his experience of calling non-members. VanNatta will call the Chapters to encourage them.
- April is membership month. VanNatta will help the chapters put on a good meeting in April. Johnston reminded the board that retired members can renew their membership at the “special” designation.
- The idea of indicating new members by a coded label on their name tags at the conference was suggested.

**PLSO Foundation**—Fassbender was not in attendance. Bylaws have been drafted and there will be a small conference call where the group will finalize the organizational documents and send them out to the chapters to get input. They will be voted on at the March meeting.

There was a discussion about the scholarship auction and what it should be called. Haddock said that people want to give money to students.

McGrath noted that we should be supporting students in other ways and scholarships are just part of that. We need to develop surveyors through other programs (like TwiST) if we want to have younger people interested in the profession.

Spurgeon asked that a motion be made that we leave the scholarship auction the way it is now and spend time during the year to consider what we are doing.

Thatcher suggested that members should have a choice where their donations go.

MOTION: Rice moved that the name “scholarship auction” be retained for the conference and the money should be used for scholarships. Motion seconded.

Motion passed.

Continues on page 10 ►

## PLSO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, continued

**Budget**—Johnston gave a budget overview. Budget assumptions include increasing membership by 300 this year. (200 renewals and 100 new.)

Thatcher asked about the “other income” designation. Johnston explained that “other income” was projected December income in 2012, which should come from the conference revenue expected for 2013. Johnston is hoping it is a conservative number and it will be higher.

Barott asked about travel allowances for NSPS meetings. The proposed budget of \$2000 is adequate, but the location of NSPS meetings is still being determined.

Johnston discussed how the scholarship auction was income and expensed.

Rice asked about member dues income and conference revenue. Some of that is an issue because of the drop in membership.

Anderson complimented Johnston and VanNatta on their work on the budget.

**Officer orientation**—VanNatta introduced herself and explained her relationship with PLSO. She is a CAE (Certified Association Executive) who has made a career of association management. She explained that PLSO does not hire a staff person (i.e. pay salary, benefits, etc.) but has entered into a contract with an association management company to handle their association business. She showed a DVD called “Board Orientation 101” and answered questions. Much of the board information is on the website.

### Committee Reports

**Bylaws** (Mason Marker)—Brent Bacon was not in attendance. Marker said he would like to consider committee term limits and will bring a proposal to the board next meeting.

**OIT** (Bob Neathamer)—Neathamer discussed the OIT Wilsonville Campus. OIT purchased the InFocus Building

and is working to develop a campus there. The goal is to offer upper division courses in surveying beginning in fall 2012. A committee, which had strong involvement from PLSO leaders, helped put together a plan. They will be looking for professors, funding, etc. Marker encouraged the board to help find people in the surveying community to serve as adjunct professors and teach classes. PLSO will send out a poll on the project via SurveyMonkey.

**Conference** (Tim Kent)—PLSO is joining with GIS in Action for a combined 2012 conference as a 4-day event. Tuesday, March 13 is a GIS-only program. The PLSO Board Meeting and NSPS student competition will be held on Tuesday. Wednesday is a combined day with a plenary session. Mano Marks from Google Earth will be a presenter. Curt Sumner from ACSM and Brent Jones from ESRI will speak as well. On Thursday and Friday, the focus will be conventional survey program topics. The committee is working well and handling its finances carefully. A discussion about using GIS was held.

Questions were raised about planning for the 2013 Conference. At this time, the venue and the chapter coordinating the program have not been set. Chapter presidents were encouraged to discuss serving on the program committee and to be prepared to report prior to the next Board meeting.

**Budget (resumed discussion from earlier in the meeting)**—Haddock discussed the Oregon Community Foundation. We put money in the Oregon Community Foundation fund for PLSO. There is about \$240,000 in the fund. PLSO has some rights to designate distribution, and has an agreement that OCF manages the subfund. Much discussion was held about how the OCF manages the money and how scholarship committee income is reflected in the

budget. It was clarified that the PLSO budget only represents anticipated contributions and subsequent disbursements to OCF. Haddock intends to do some research on PLSO’s agreement with OCF to clarify the relationship.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to pass the budget as presented. Rice called for the question.

Motion passed.

### Education Goals and Actions/TrigStar

(Joe Ferguson)—Ferguson encouraged members to join him on the PLSO website committee page. He mentioned Anderson’s work on the Willamette Stone. TwiST will be held in June at Clark Community College. Kent showed some great items that will be at the scholarship auction.

**Legislative** (Scott Freshwaters)—March 21 is Oregon Design Professionals Day at the State Capitol. There are some concerns about the Oregon Realtors trying to limit PLSO’s ability to raise the corner restoration fund. The legislative committee needs representation from the Pioneer Chapter.

**OACES** (Scott Freshwaters)—PLSO should support and encourage County Surveyors to attend PLSO Chapter meetings.

**NSPS/Professional Practice** (Bob Neathamer)—LightSquared has been delayed by legislation passed at the end of 2011 and signed by President Obama. NSPS has been representing us well.

The NSPS reorganization is coming along. There is still a great insurance program through NSPS. PLSO needs a representative for Professional Practice from each chapter. Chapters will forward a name to Mason Marker before the next meeting. VanNatta will set up a conference call to discuss updating policies.

**WestFed**—Marker will accept names of members who are interested in serving to replace Crites.

**Publications/Oregon Surveyor**—Kent asked about online publications. The present plan is to print six *Oregon Surveyor* issues this year.

**Awards**—Miles was not present. Awards were voted on at the last Board meeting. VanNatta will prepare framed chapter awards if chapters provide them to the PLSO Office about one month before the Annual meeting.

**Good of the Order**

MOTION: Edwards moved and Rice seconded the meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm. ◊

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# Pondering about Prosperity

■ *Stephen K. Haddock, PLS, CFedS*

**PROSPERITY** is an interesting word. Particularly in the times in which we now find ourselves.

I just received a renewal quote from my NSPS authorized insurance agent. The premium has gone up by 30% over last year. The agent said, “this is because underwriters base their calculations on past Gross Receipts.” Well, I can do the math. My gross receipts have gone down every year for the last four years. Wouldn’t it be more accurate to say, “We raised the price

Each man had his own knowledge but did not know enough to make a go of it on his own. However, they came together and helped each other through the hardships and challenges. They forged friendships that lasted lifetimes and were thankful for the successes they had mutually obtained.

The values held by those homesteaders are what create true prosperity—everyone doing their share for the benefit of others so that all can make a go of it. In my career, I

These values are part of why I support our scholarship program. Our students need to know that the mission of a surveyor is much more than mathematics and whiz-bang technology. We have higher goals than just having careers and businesses. We want everyone in our communities to benefit from our knowledge and the efforts we make. The word “community” includes our students. What better way to help instill these values in them than to demonstrate that we care? This

Our students need to know that the mission of a surveyor is much more than mathematics and whiz-bang technology.



because everyone is raising their prices?” This is the climate in which we now find ourselves. The government wants more taxes. Businesses are raising their prices. Banks are taking all the returns on your savings. Investments in the markets magically disappear. Bankruptcies are everywhere. Prosperous is hardly what people are feeling right now.

I am currently reading a book about a boy whose family was homesteading in Montana before the trains came through. His description of the times and the people provides a valuable insight into prosperity. He described a time in which many of the people came to the area with little or nothing. One man may have had carpentry tools and another man had a plow. Yet another had an anvil and smithy tools.

have met many surveyors who hold these same values, beginning with my mentor, Bill Wells in Pendleton. These values are embodied in the reason we obtain licenses—to protect the health, welfare and safety of the public. While the word “public” has been shanghaied by the Government, it was originally a fancy word that meant “my neighbors, my community.”

is in large part what the scholarship program is about, caring enough to help students when times are tough. This is also one reason I ask every year that you remember the auction and convention. Your donations make it possible for us to let the students know that surveyors care. Remember the students that we helped this year when you consider donating. ☺

**Find more information about PLSO scholarships here:**

<http://plso.org/education-careers/plso-scholarships>

The goal of the PLSO Scholarship Fund is to promote land surveying education in the State of Oregon and to assist students pursuing a career in land surveying to attain their goals. This fund is administered through the assistance of the Oregon Student Assistance Commission under the State and Federal guidelines for financial aid. All applications are evaluated and awards are determined by the PLSO Scholarship Committee.

# 2011–2012 Scholarship Winners

Dear PLSO members,

I wanted to extend my thanks for choosing me to receive the PLSO Scholarship for the 2011–2012 school year. This will be my final year in college and as money gets tighter and tighter, this scholarship came at the perfect time. I realize that times are tough for everyone, but after going to the PLSO Conference in Salem this past year and seeing the scholarship auction, it is apparent that land surveyors really care about those trying to follow in their footsteps.

Like I already said, this money will really help to cover the costs of school, and I greatly appreciate everyone who has made this scholarship possible.

Sincerely,

Jason Weisz

*Thank You!*



Jason Weisz



Timothy Brown



Laura Gordon



Joel Herzberg



Michelle McBride

## PLSO goes to Salem for Oregon Design Professionals Day on February 21



### Participants:

American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon (ACEC)  
American Institute of Architects (AIA)  
American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)  
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)  
Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)  
Professional Engineers of Oregon (PEO)  
Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO)

### Boards:

Oregon Board of Architect Examiners (OBAE)  
Oregon State Board of Examiners for Engineering and Land Surveying (OSBEELS)  
Oregon State Landscape Architect Board (OSLAB)

### Goal:

Work jointly on issues and policies for the benefit of all Oregonians.



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# OSU Celebrates the Graduation of the First Geomatics Masters Student in 20 Years!

■ *Michael J. Olsen and Robert J. Schultz, Oregon State University*



*(above)*

Evon Silvia performing 3D laser scanning in Japan following the recent tsunami and earthquake.

*(right)*

Evon Silvia teaching a lab section of the Surveying Theory course in Fall 2009.



In recent years, Oregon State University (OSU) has focused on growing its graduate geomatics program within the School of Civil and Construction Engineering. Evon P. Silvia graduated in Spring 2011 upon completion of requirements associated with a Master's of Science degree in Civil Engineering-Geomatics.

During his first year of graduate school, Evon served as a teaching assistant, where he taught lab sections of several courses: Surveying Theory, Highway Location and Design, and Plane Surveying. He also developed a computer program to process traverse data with a easy to use Graphical User Interface (GUI). He completed coursework in surveying, GIS, digital terrain modeling, and computer programming (including 3D visualization using OpenGL).

For his second year, Evon worked as a graduate research assistant. A critical part of a graduate degree is to write a thesis, which represents a significant, novel contribution to the existing body of knowledge. For his thesis research, he studied coordinate system transformations and use of inclination sensors in 3D laser scan surveying. Because inclination data are acquired as the scanner rotates, there are dynamic effects that can influence the ultimate data quality. Evon developed a testing procedure to ensure that one obtains reliable data from inclination sensors while scanning. He also presented a case-study on how inclination data can be used to verify the quality of control coordinates. In this case study, the scanner's inclination sensors showed a significant

Continues on page 16 ►

OSU Geomatics, continued

error existed in the control coordinates. The control was re-established with a total station and verified with the scanner data.

His research has been developed into two publications that he hopes to publish in the *ASCE Journal of Surveying Engineering*. One has been accepted to publication, following completion of minor revisions, and the other will soon be submitted to the *Journal* for review.

Evon also developed local coordinate systems to use at the OSU Hinsdale Wave-lab facility so that scientists and engineers could accurately compare testing results of scale models subjected to wave loading. This past summer, he travelled to Japan as part of a NSF-funded reconnaissance team to perform scanning of buildings that were damaged by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. These datasets are being analyzed by structural engineers to improve building codes in tsunami hazard zones.

Evon also has been active in training other graduate students in equipment operation and programming to help them with their research projects. Since Evon began his graduate studies at OSU in Fall 2009, the geomatics graduate program has grown to seven graduate students starting in Fall 2011. Evon's leadership was critical to that growth.

Evon joins the ranks of several other OSU graduates, who have gone on to be leaders in geomatics. A sampling of previous OSU graduates with a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering—Surveying from 20 years ago include:

- **C. Henry Cole**, MS 1978, Cole Surveying, Corvallis, OR
- **Tyler B. Parsons**, MS 1978, Parsons Surveying, Corvallis, OR
- **James R. Plasker**, MS 1973, US Geological Survey Retired Associate Chief Geologist for Operations—Geologic Division. Past National President of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). Executive Director of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Reston, VA.

Evon is currently working for Watershed Sciences, an innovative, airborne LiDAR company based in Corvallis and Portland, OR, processing LIDAR data and developing computer code to automate processing and quality control procedures. He has passed both the Fundamentals of Surveying and Fundamentals of Engineering examinations and is working towards becoming a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) and Professional Engineer (PE). We wish the best of luck to you in your future endeavors, Evon! ◉

---

*Michael J. Olsen is an Assistant Professor at the School of Civil and Construction Engineering at Oregon State University. He can be reached at michael.olsen@oregonstate.edu.*

*Robert J. Schultz is a professor of Geomatics at the School of Civil and Construction Engineering at Oregon State University. He can be reached at robert.schultz@oregonstate.edu*

Come join us!

# TEAM TRIPOD

A surveyor triathlon relay team

SWIM • BIKE • RUN



(from left) Renee Clough, Steven Carper and Russ Dodge in 2011. Notice the "gold" medals!

Last year was so much fun that once again, I am looking for people in the survey industry to join me on triathlon relay teams this summer. When competing as a relay, each team member only does one of the three sports, making it much less daunting. I do not have a goal of winning, so don't feel that you have to be especially good at any of the sports to join our teams.

I don't have specific races selected yet because most triathlons have not posted their date for the upcoming season and because the selection of which triathlon will depend on the availability and location of the participants. There are many race lengths. The lengths I am thinking of are approximately: swim 1500 meters, bike 24.9 miles, and run 6.2 miles; and swim 500 meters, bike 12 miles and run 3.1 miles (although the distances vary slightly for each race).

Please contact me if you are interested in joining, even if it is a tentative interest. Be sure to note which sport(s) you are the most interested in. Feel free to pass this information along to other survey industry people you know (coworkers, spouses, students, etc.). I see this as a great opportunity for us to meet other surveyors in a non-technical setting, but even more to get out and have some fun. Volunteers for a cheerleading squad are also welcome.

I look forward to hearing from you!

**Renee Clough, Branch Engineering, Inc.**

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# A Paddler's Life

## *My journey in a Voyageur canoe*

■ Greg Crites

I joined the David Thompson Columbia Brigade at Vancouver Marine Park in Vancouver, Washington, on Tuesday evening, July 12, 2011, as a small (albeit very small) part of the commemorative expedition recreating/celebrating the 200th Anniversary of David Thompson's journey down the mighty Columbia River. From the time I first heard about the expedition, some primal urging spurred me to sign on. I'm not sure that common sense ever factored into the equation, but I'll get to that. My life has always been lived disconnected between an insatiable need for infusions of adrenalin and my lack of natural athleticism. I try to make up for this by overdoing things, simply because living in the moment through physical exertion has proven to be the most effective psychotherapy I've ever found. My brigade experience taught me a few lessons about that. As this would be the final leg of a six-week long journey, I had "self-limited" the extent of my misjudgment to only three days of exertion. This proved to be providential for a 60-year-old man still denying his age.



Initiation in the boat basin. Greg Crites is standing in the foreground and Royce Hill on the far right.



Upon my arrival in camp, I was fondly greeted by my old acquaintances, Denny and Delores DeMeyer. Denny proceeded to launch into a commentary on the volume of my supplies, which I would characterize as "Greg, you're only going to be on the river for three days!" Needless to say, I left a few things behind, though I have to admit I missed my lawn chair the entire trip, not to mention my "pillow top" bed. I can still see my girlfriend driving off with my "un-necessaries" and having the sinking feeling I'd be sorry. After all, she wasn't going to pick me up until we reached Astoria three days later.

I was quickly brought up to speed regarding team organization, bivouac procedures, departure times, but most importantly, how much time I would be paddling. I was nervous about this from the moment I learned that I would actually get to participate. My intuitions told me this would be exercise and *not* the kind I was used to doing! I came to the acute realization of how accurate this assessment was when we took our first training exercise in the boat basin near our camp that evening. After feasting on a wonderful roast beef sandwich with thickened "au jus," tossed green salad and chocolate cake, all "rustled" up by the very capable hands of Delores, we headed toward the river.

Getting into the canoe can be likened to the flow of the river we'd be paddling down. The team pushes it into the river until the front (bow) is the only thing touching the shore. The person in the back (the stern to you nautically bent types, though I'm not sure such vernacular applies to a canoe) does the bulk of the steering, so this individual gets on first. After much paddling experience, this role has landed pretty squarely on the shoulders of the canoe captain. Because it is difficult to hear the rest of the team, the next person aboard is the one who counts our paddle strokes. There's a reason for this, but I'll get to it in a minute. The next three people are simply paddlers (the horsepower, so to speak), but this is anything but simple, and I'll explain that shortly as well. The last person in the boat was generally the most experienced paddler.

In *Koo Koo Sint* (the name of our canoe, which means “stargazer”—the aboriginal nickname for David Thompson), Denny DeMeyer generally filled that role, but we had a couple of other folks who took a turn or two at this important post, rotating between our canoe and Paddle Song, the other member of the North American Land Surveyors flotilla. The person sitting in the bow sets the pace for the paddle strokes, watches for obstacles, and directs the movements of the team so we don’t run into the other canoes while underway. This worked well most of the time.

So, we are all sitting in the canoe, perfectly centered on our seats to prevent capsizing. *That* would have been an unsatisfactory outcome, especially within the first hour! Now the person seated in front of the captain (the coxswain) yells “paddles up,” and we all raise our paddles over our heads, with each paddler pointing his/her blade toward the side of the canoe where they will be initially perched. The coxswain yells “switch” and we slide to alternate sides of the canoe (the gunwales for you nautical types) to balance the weight. This needs to be a rather precisely timed endeavor because if you’re late on the slide, the canoe tips and you’re caught staring face down into river water or worse. I suppose I should mention this “slide,” as it’s so important to the effective operation of the paddling team. If you remember, a canoe is much wider in the middle (amidships) than at the two pointy ends (the bow and stern). Consequently, the paddler sitting in the middle seat has the longest slide from one side of the canoe to the other. Long legs and lithe bodies do well in this position, not squat, overweight, pasty-faced office jockeys like myself.

So, here we are, adrift in the boat basin, about to embark on our training exercise. The coxswain yells “paddles ready” and then something like “go,” at which point we all start paddling, hopefully synchronized. The technique involves around 50 paddle strokes per minute and then the person sitting just in front of the coxswain (who is silently counting our strokes) yells “ready, one, two, three, switch” in time with our strokes, whereupon each paddler slides to the opposite side of the canoe, here again, *simultaneously!!* Wait a minute, you did hear me correctly, I said 50, didn’t I? That’s right, this effectively translates into 3,000 strokes an hour! Did you

catch that? So, doing the math then, my first day on the river involved paddling for 3.5 hours (about 45 kilometers). That’s a bit over 10,000 strokes. Here I was thinking I’d get to witness first-hand the beauty of the Columbia River at canoe level, catching glimpses of Grebes and Loons rising off the surface of the still water, fish leaping across our bow, otters paddling along happily beside us and seagulls circling raucously overhead. *Wrong*, wrong, wrong! What I was doing was, and not necessarily in any order, switching from side to side in the canoe every minute, trying to maintain a constant paddle stroke in harmony with my fellow voyageurs, keeping from splashing the person in front and behind me with my errant paddle dips, staying hydrated, fueled, focused and effective—well, to hell with the aesthetic, this was work and for the sake of my mates, I’d better buck up and do it! Wait a minute; I’m getting ahead of myself. We haven’t left the boat basin yet, we’re paddling in circles and here comes a barge, the water is choppy, the wake is big and we’re rocking sideways, oh my God, I think I’m getting nauseous. Yeah, I guess I misjudged this adventure a bit. Upon safely reaching shore I sent a text to my girlfriend; something to the effect of “what the hell was I thinking?”

Our training exercise in the boat basin only served to add to my angst regarding my suitability to serve as a contributing member of the brigade. Surprisingly, though I tossed and turned most of the night, seemingly feeling every

[Continues on page 20 ►](#)



“Put your backs into it!” Pulling away from shore in the boat basin. Royce Hill is in the black hat!

microscopic undulation on the surface of the ground beneath my aging (and aching) back, I managed to awake at 5:30 Wednesday morning somewhat rested. I vaguely recall visions of demons perched amidships behind me in the canoe with their tridents jabbing my lower back at every opportunity while I was paddling, laughing uproariously with my every creak and groan.

After a hearty breakfast begun with coffee immediately after emerging from my mummy bag, I went through the lunch deli and prepared a customized repast for my noontime sustenance (does that paint a sufficiently vivid picture of the chuck wagon?). Delores DeMeyer was an absolute angel in this department. How she managed to prepare a delicious breakfast each morning for our team as well as lining out all the supplies for building our lunches, filling our water bottles, attending to first-aid needs and providing good humor besides was a testament to her many organizational skills. Not only that, she did it all from a trailer that was loaned to our team by one of our brigade members. *Amazing!* I think there are quite a few survey firms that could learn some valuable lessons on organizational skills from Delores. Come to think of it, I may have hit on a new workshop topic for our next conference! Now I understand why David Thompson's wife, Charlotte Small, accompanied him on many of his journeys!

We were scheduled to embark at 7:00 am on July 13. Please remember that *Koo Koo Sint* was only one of at least ten canoes. Think about logistics for a minute. 60 people are preparing to embark on a journey down the Columbia and hope to be simultaneously in the water, paddles up at 7:00 am. This means all 60 paddlers on the first shift (days were divided between two and three shifts) had to be fed, packed and in the canoes, all without interacting with any

of the other teams. Not only that, some of us were physically unable to paddle the entire day, if only for our lack of conditioning (or, dare I say age), so alternates rotated in and out of the canoes, trading duties of traveling in support vehicles on shore to move the whole operation downstream in concert with canoe progress. Transparent to all of this movement was Delores, unobtrusively securing necessary supplies for each evening bivouac, making connections with the folks where we were scheduled to stay, coordinating arrival times so visiting dignitaries could roll out the greeting carpets for us and so on. In addition, captains meetings were held each evening to settle on crew compositions, shift changes, rest stops and the like. The amount of planning and coordination invested in this journey was truly staggering and a real testament to the passion and devotion of the brigade veterans who made it happen.

Surprisingly, on that first morning we actually managed to depart within 10 minutes of our "scheduled" time. Had I been anything but a complete greenhorn, this would have proven to be no surprise at all. Nevertheless, it was "paddlers ready," followed by "paddles up," "switch" and "follow the lead of the person in the bow." At this point, my oar dipped into the water and we were under way. I quickly realized that I couldn't divert my attention without falling out of cadence with the rest of the paddlers in the boat, so from that moment forward I basically kept one eye on my paddle and the other on the paddle in front of me. The occasional splash of river water up my back let me know that I wasn't the only one having trouble executing "the three P's" (perfect paddling procedure). Heaven forbid that I should turn around to look at the person behind me as the canoe would have surely capsized with such a maneuver. Not being the strongest swimmer on the planet, I in no way wanted any river baptism to be a result of my error, even with the extra insurance of a Coast Guard approved life jacket, so I redoubled my focus.

Paddling a freight canoe (which is basically what this craft represented) is a different exercise from recreational canoeing across a lake in your "Old Towne" (a popular brand of canoe for those of you who haven't heard of this manufacturer). The type of canoe you might purchase from the likes of your local REI only requires the use of your arms for paddling (at least in my experience). Virtually every canoe trip I'd completed prior to this adventure was in such a canoe, paired with someone else, both of us being equally inexperienced, but nevertheless able to get around on a lake without much difficulty. A freight canoe with six paddlers represents *work* for a beginner such as me, though I'm sure at some time on a future experience scale it might translate into recreation, though I doubt such a mental picture often crept into David Thompson's consciousness



"The Chuck Wagon." Bob Butler regaling us with stories and Denny DeMeyer getting ready to shoot him!



Greg Crites still has a smile on his face! Bob Butler is in the foreground.

during his adventures. The paddle stroke consists of the reach, involving bending at the waist, keeping the arms relatively straight and parallel with the surface of the water; the dip, as the blade of the paddle is inserted into the water at a place alongside the paddler in front of you; and the pull, from the waist, as the paddle is pulled through the water, whereupon the blade is turned slightly away from the side of the canoe and extracted from the water alongside your own waist, whereupon the process is repeated, over, and over, and over, ad nauseum. As I said, 50 times per minute, 300 times per hour, 60 switches per hour, for however long this particular “shift” happened to be. Without the zealous singing of the “Corvee Kids”, I might have gone mad. From the perspective of the original David Thompson Brigade, and all the participants of the North American Fur trade that plied the rivers, lakes and streams of this continent, I now understand how all the songs of these voyageurs came to be. To pass the leadened drudgery of paddling all day long, I’m sure singing soon entered the tool kit of each member of an expedition, both for cadence and camaraderie. It couldn’t have been long before such songs passed from one team to another, as the labor pool was small, the work was hard, and you had to love this life in order to continue it. The “Corvee Kids” taught us perhaps the most valuable lesson of this voyage, something to do with the character of this hard life.

Heralding from a home base in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, the “Corvee Kids” were seasonal employees of Fort William Historical Park, operated by the provincial government. They were participants in period reenactments of the great fur period in North America, dressed in authentic costumes, well versed in songs of the fur trade (all in French of course), and most assuredly physically fit enough to withstand the rigors of the entire 1,100 mile journey, still smiling at the end! My first impression was these folks didn’t have all their oars in the water, so to speak, but after watching them paddle a canoe as they blew past our boat within 30 minutes of leaving shore that first morning, I realized they knew what they were doing, and the character they brought to the expedition soon made me realize their role as the part of the glue that held the whole thing together. I was quick to observe the reactions of tourists/locals every time we came ashore upon first sighting these young people in their unusual costumes. There were the sidelong glances, the skeptical hesitations of even standing near them, along with all the other behaviors that prejudice manifests. They were revealing my own ignorance! These kids were teaching me a lesson in three days that I had never stopped to think about during my previous 60-plus years on this planet. They were so remarkably focused on the journey and being true to it, that I never once felt a sense of malice emanating from them. What I did notice was their dedication, their enthusiasm, and the sheer joy on their faces during such rigors. I began to anticipate hearing them come along side our canoe as we were out on the river. Each time, their songs, their antics and their youth lifted our spirits. I sensed immediately how each paddler in every canoe bent to their task with renewed vigor. Well done team “Corvee!” The trip would have been far less memorable without them!

Team “Corvee” wasn’t the most significant part of my education during this voyage. That hinged on the work. Thanks to Jack Nisbet (*Sources of the River*), Stephen Ambrose (*Undaunted Courage*) and Bernard Devoto (*The Journals of Lewis and Clark*), I had some knowledge of this period in history and some appreciation for the glories witnessed by explorers like David Thompson while traveling through the western wilderness of this beautiful part of North America. What I didn’t have was an appreciation for what it meant, in terms of the work, to be the first European (at least documented one) descendant to lay eyes on the headwaters of the Columbia River. Surely standing there must have been breathtaking, but now I can imagine something of the relief Thompson must have felt as well, as if the weight of all his labors had been eased a bit. It is doubtful he could have then realized the significance that mighty river would play

Continues on page 22 ►



Team Corveel

in an unprecedented period of westward expansion, but he certainly knew that more lands lay at his feet, lands that could provide abundant opportunities to expand the operations of the North American fur trade and assure his continued value to his employers. I know something of that relief as we paddled into Astoria at the end of our journey, glad in the knowledge that the work was finished. I can smile inside when I look at the pictures of our journey scattered through various tabloids, simply because I know a different story than the one those pictures attempt to convey.

As I already noted, I paddled for 3.5 hours on my first day. Doing the math, that's 10,500 paddle strokes, more or less. At our first "potty" break, we pulled ashore at some island in the Columbia River about 17 miles downstream from our point of embarkation. The mosquitoes were as thick as anywhere I'd ever been and they were hungry. I spent the next two days scratching the itch left from all the bites I received in the five minutes we were ashore. We couldn't get away fast enough! The little vampires followed us out into the river, so we really had to put our backs into it in order to get away. I wondered then if Thompson's crew had the same experience? Pulling ashore to idle away an hour or so for rest while enjoying a few handfuls of trail mix or a pull on the water bottle filled with some sports drink? I don't think so!

After a fitful night of writhing in my cocoon called a mummy bag trying to find that elusive sweet spot where all the dimples, bumps and pebbles beneath me weren't making an imprint on my back through my meager sleeping pad, I awoke to a beautiful sunrise, albeit misty. I wandered over to Delores and the coffee pots, grabbed a cup and walked over to a bench along the river bank to spend a few quiet moments watching life on the river from up close. Some large waterfowl was paddling slowly up river, leaving a tiny wake as the only evidence of its journey. The leaden gray surface of the water reflected the trees growing on the opposite shore, forming a dark line beneath the otherwise white sky. Due to the width of the Columbia at this point, that line was quite narrow. Soon, a large freighter plying its way toward Portland completely blocked my view. Civilization had intruded on my reveries, reminding me it was time to muster for the day. My silence during my brief walk back to the mess tent (cook trailer, actually) was broken by the stirring of other paddlers rousing to the day's activities. My paddling on Thursday, July 14 would mean only 105 minutes on the river. That represented only 4350 paddle strokes, more or less. Sore as I was, I was wondering whether I'd even be effective for that long on the water. Needless to say, I was glad for the opportunity to be part of the shore team. Helping to break camp, get groceries and



Seeking shelter behind Tongue Point.

greet paddlers as they arrived at the daily moorages seemed a welcome respite from the work, but even shore duty proved to be work, so by the end of the day I was actually feeling some renewed vigor and looked forward to a longer shift on the water for my last day of the voyage. Dinner that evening brought a special treat; one of the brigade members cooked up a batch of Bannock for our team. Bannock is an unleavened bread cooked in a skillet. Slathered with butter and a little honey. Yum! This was period food, and it really satisfied my inner man! I think I actually slept that night, though I can't recall how well.

Friday, July 15 dawned with the heavy foreboding of rain, the air pregnant with the proposition of moisture. The rain fell over my tent was covered in heavy dew, the grass was wet and even though I was nestled snugly in my mummy bag most of the night, it felt damp from the humidity. At this juncture, I didn't care what condition they were in. I knew I could dry the stuff at home, so I shoved everything into my knapsack, dampness and all. The anticipation of seeing my girlfriend standing on shore to greet me upon our arrival in Astoria was all I needed to kick me in gear and prepare for the day. From the perspective of David Thompson's crew, I doubt such thoughts were in the forefront of their consciousness. After all, their adventure was part of work, and they were at it for months at a time, without benefit of support vehicles on shore, warm showers, Thermarest mattresses, dry clothing or any of many creature comforts we took for granted that were entirely absent from the original journey. I was beginning to gain a new, more "rational" understanding of the life of an explorer, thankfully without having to endure every one of their hardships, which undoubtedly were many.

After another wonderful breakfast served up by Delores and extra rations for my waterproof "possibles" bag (carried with me on the canoe), I stowed my duffle and knapsack in our support vehicle and headed for *Koo Koo Sint*. This day would prove to be the most arduous of my entire journey. Weather would play a significant role, so much so that I had daydreams of Lewis and Clark making their final assault on Fort Clatsop over two centuries before me and their palpable unease over the incessant rains and stormy weather. I would learn firsthand what their dismay felt like, even with only a tiny glimpse of it. I was scheduled to paddle the entire final leg of the journey. What with the weather, the river currents and the distance, this

worked out to be about 7.5 hours on the water. No, we weren't paddling the entire time as we pulled ashore for a crew change and again to hole up in the lee shore of Tongue Point before beginning our final assault on Astoria. Conservatively, I logged another 18,000 paddle strokes—representing a total of around 33,000! That seems like a ridiculous number to me, but pales in comparison to those members of the brigade who journeyed the entire 1,100 miles! Wow, have they earned my respect!

Due to the weather that Friday, we didn't make very good time paddling to Tongue Point, so we were late on the tide change. As we navigated among several islands upstream, I noticed the telltale signs of slack tide as we saw foam floating by, along with blades of beach grass and more frequent evidence of branches and twigs. I was certain our final approach to the East End Mooring Basin would be work, but just how much work was unknown at this point. I couldn't help looking to see whether Tongue Point was getting any closer, and by so doing, I was making more than my share of errant paddle dips. Poor Denny, sitting in front of me, was getting bathed by as much river water as rain. After what seemed an interminable passage of time, we finally reached the back side of Tongue Point and settled in among the bushes so some members could change into their brigade regalia and Denny could load the musket to punctuate our shore greeting with gunfire. I snapped a couple of pictures and dined on a few energy bars prior to pulling out into the channel. I was not prepared for what that meant.

Pushing away from shore, we quickly rounded the tip of Tongue Point and entered the main channel of the Columbia River. As if to remind us of the danger of this

Continues on page 26 ►



# News from the Chapters

## Central #1

■ Erik Huffman, Secretary

**January 25, 2012**

**Chapter President:** Andrew Huston

**Location:** Bend Brewing Company

**Called to Order:** 5:45 pm      **Adjourned:** 7:45 pm

**Attendees:** 11 members      **PDH credits:** 1

### Highlights

Andrew Huston and Dave Williams attended the PLSO Board Meeting on January 21 at the Red Lion, Jantzen Beach. Topics included:

- Membership drive and renewals
- Potential term limits on the length of membership on PLSO committees
- 2012 Conference update
- Website update
- Legislative Updates (Scott Freshwaters and Parneli Perkins)—There is newly enacted legislation which requires that every recorded document must contain the name and address of grantee and grantor. Impacts to surveys is not fully known yet. Also, the Oregon Association of Realtors is attempting to gather signatures to place an action on the next ballot to eliminate all new fees on property transactions.

### Good of the Order

- Bill Ham reported that his surgery was successful! Spirits are high, and recovery is going well.
- Scott Freshwaters stated that Light Squared is on hold indefinitely until interference issues raised by the FCC can be resolved.
- The chapter will ask the Deschutes County Surveyor's Office if they can add a link to the PLSO website on their website. The Washington County Surveyor's Office has done this on their site. ◉

## Rogue River #4

■ Pat Barott, Secretary

**January 16, 2012**

**Chapter President:** Stephan Barott

**Attendees:** 12 members      **PDH credits:** 1

### Highlights

- PLSO Foundation 501c(3). James Hibbs, owner of Friar and Assoc. volunteered to be a Board Member for the new foundation.
- Spring/summer workshop. The tentative date for flood workshop (Elevation certificates, flood studies, LOMA and eLOMA) is June 16, 2012 in Grants Pass.
- Potential workshop is ORGN/OCRS in the April–June timeframe, also in Grants Pass or Medford.
- Discussion on prior Boundary Line Agreements and/or Property Line Adjustments in Jackson County. Many of these have been completed without the benefit of County or City Planning (no official planning action). Recent activities of Bank repossessions have discovered issues with legal ownership of several “adjusted” parcels. The chapter would like the legislative committee to once again work on a solution to address the issue.

### Presentation

Dick Bath of Hardy Engineering gave a presentation on dedication and vacation of a city road across county property (airport authority) in the City of Medford. In addition, they had issues with an official BLM survey adjacent to the County property. More information is available if requested. A lively discussion followed on why the BLM does not record their plats with the County Surveyor, and how to find BLM surveys online. ◉

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## We owe a debt to David Thompson and his ilk that is almost incomprehensible, unless you've paddled with him in spirit.

journey, the wind picked up, the rain intensified and the chop on the surface of the water seemed to grow by the paddle stroke. Robert Allen, a valuable member of our team and a British Columbia Land Surveyor, likened this experience to paddling in a washing machine. I might have exaggerated that thought, but he expressed it pretty well. Thinking I was the only one having any trepidation, it's reassuring to know Bob was sharing some of my experience!

We were now navigating actual waves, some of which crested the bow of our canoe, forcing us to crab our attack angle on each wave. I was silently thankful for the skill displayed by our captain while steering our craft, though I couldn't help feeling worried, as the swells were higher than our craft and the rain was attempting to drown any jubilant



Greg Crites and Bob Butler look very tired!

spirit we might have held in reserve. The incessant head wind made it seem as though we were standing still on the surface of this mighty river. This was work. My heart was beating quickly, mostly from fright, but also due to the required extra exertion.

Imagine my utter relief when the barrier rocks around the East End Mooring Basin came into view. I had worked in Astoria for nearly five years, so I knew about the nature of life on the river there. Generally, sea lions are laying all over these rocks, but not in this weather! They knew better, probably opting for holing up under some wharf along the river front in downtown Astoria. We didn't have that luxury! We were so exhausted we had trouble even navigating the landing approach, which had been orchestrated for ceremonial effect. One of our canoes got stuck on top of a

piling hidden beneath the surface of the river. That proved to be a little dicey, but the skillful crew extricated themselves and we circled around, flags unfurled, collectively approaching shore as if we were some great expeditionary force coming ashore to claim this stretch of earth for our offspring. Though the rain tried to dampen the significance of our arrival, we were not to be denied. The level of our exertions was brought home to me when one of our team members collapsed from near hypothermia and exhaustion. The concern for her health dampened our spirits, but I'm sure every one of the brigade members sensed the elation and relief at the completion of this journey.

I hadn't realized until the closing ceremonies that two members of our David Thompson Brigade were direct descendants of the great man himself. I was humbled to be a small part of this and even more gladdened to know that our efforts to bring to light the accomplishments of this great explorer/land surveyor were witnessed by his progeny. We all participated in an effort that was, in part, expended to honor this unsung hero.

As time passes, I hope David Thompson's legacy plays a larger role on the stage of our history. Though he died penniless and alone, his contributions to the efforts at settling this great land are truly without parallel. I have a new appreciation for his journeys and feel humbled by the greatness of his accomplishments. I'm sure that my fellow brigade members feel the same, in spite of the number of their paddle strokes! Having had the chance to travel in this great man's footsteps, I can finally say I feel as if I've entered the stream, the one that carries all the great explorers who have influenced the development of our great nations, that of Canada and the United States. Though I would never presume to say that I could paddle with them, I've dipped my oar in their journey and now feel an unrivaled kinship with those who have come before me.

We owe a debt to David Thompson and his ilk that is almost incomprehensible, unless you've paddled with him in spirit. When I cross the great river, I look forward to finally meeting him, where I will surely have to take a number, what with so many people finally understanding what he'd accomplished. If you ever have the chance, relive a part of history by paddling with the brigade and come away from the experience with a new appreciation for Thompson and his accomplishments. As an added benefit, you'll meet some really great land surveyors from all over North America. That sense of kinship is...priceless! ◉



The North American Land Surveyors team on shore in Astoria! Hooray!

# The Lost Surveyor

Photos by Leonard Rydell

Lat. 45° 27' 45" N Long. 123° 58' 22" W



If you've never been to this spot, then "You Don't Know Jack."

Answer on page 1

## Chaining Oregon

by Kay Atwood

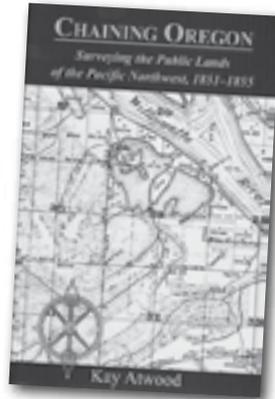
■ Renee Clough

*Chaining Oregon* is a historical account of the initial PLSS work in the Oregon Territory between 1851 and 1855. The book is written to be read by the common layperson interested in Oregon history, but to also be enjoyed by and informative to surveyors. I'm sure that anyone reading this has a good understanding of the equipment and terrain challenges encountered by the first surveyors. However, the book goes beyond this to challenges I had not realized they faced. In several instances, surveys had to be cancelled or delayed due to conflicts with Indians. I also had not realized the role politics played at that time in the hiring of government employees. The book makes it clear that political affiliations were much more important at the time. When the president changed, a new Surveyor General was appointed to be of the same political party as the president. In addition, the Surveyor General was pressured to hire only staff that was of the same political party.

The book presents information in great detail. It gives dates (and sometimes even the hour) that the surveyors were sworn in, names of the axe men, etc. At times this detail can get a bit tedious and feel like a dry list of facts, but for the most part, the author does an amazing job of presenting the information in a manner that is enjoyable to read and makes the reader feel a connection with the surveyors.

When I first decided to read the book, I had assumed that the author was a surveyor. However, it quickly became apparent to me in the introduction and through some internet research that she is not a surveyor. She lives in Ashland where she provides consulting services for cultural resource inventories, environmental histories, and National Register nominations. She became interested in survey history through using the original PLSS plats to find historical information relevant to her consulting services.

I strongly recommend this book for anyone. I typically do not enjoy books about history, but still found this one to be fascinating. ◉



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