



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association  
[www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](http://www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

# THE Central Valley Chapter PRISM

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2011

## 2011 Chapter Officers

President: Mike Turnrose  
mikels7454@verizon.net  
Vice President: Bill Koch  
bkoch@siegfriedeng.com  
Secretary: Landon Blake  
lblake@ksninc.com  
Treasurer: Kevin Genasci  
kgenasci@hawkins-eng.com  
Chapter Rep: Michael D. Jones  
MikeJones@PHSurveys.com  
Chapter Rep: Keith Spencer  
kspencer@nseng.net  
Alt. Chapter Rep: Mike Turnrose  
mikels7454@verizon.net  
Alt. Chapter Rep: Rich Fultz Jr.  
rfultz@turlock.ca.us

## 2011 Chapter Committees

By-Laws Committee:  
Keith Spencer  
Jill Van Houten  
Education Committee:  
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)  
Keith Spencer  
Membership Committee:  
Keith Spencer (Chairman)  
Rich Brown  
Monument Preservation Committee:  
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)  
Bill Koch  
Crolie Lindsay  
Dave Schlosser  
Keith Spencer  
Landon Blake  
Larry Fontana  
Mike Turnrose  
Rich Fultz  
Tom DeLaMare  
Zachary Wong  
Newsletter:  
Rich Brown (Editor)  
Keith Spencer  
Professional Practices Committee:  
Josh Elson (Chairman)  
James Ryan  
Keith Spencer  
Mike Quartaroli  
San Joaquin County Liaison Committee:  
James Ryan  
Kevin Genasci  
Landon Blake  
Stanislaus County Liaison Committee:  
Rich Fultz (Chairman)  
Crolie Lindsay  
Keith Spencer  
Website Committee:  
Landon Blake (Chairman)  
Keith Spencer

**Next Meeting!**

**Date:** May 25, 2011

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Perko's @ 901 North Carpenter Road, Modesto

**Speaker/Topic:** Frank Lehmann, CLSA President-Elect

**This is a joint meeting with the Mother Lode Chapter**

## Editor's Message

### Expand, Expand, Expand!!!

As we continue to grow, let's not forget that this newsletter is available for all to contribute to. If you have information on an upcoming event, training or class, please submit it to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)  
Together we can make this one of the best resources of information for surveyors in the Central Valley.

## Announcements

Stanislaus County moves closer to GIS. The County's Survey Department is working with the GIS Department to get recorded documents online for easy access. Currently all recorded Parcel, Subdivision and Records of Survey are online, with hope to have County Surveys and other information added in the near future. Go to the [County GIS](#) site for viewing.

### Just Announced!!!

CLSA-NALS Conference 2012  
March 23-28, 2012  
Silver Legacy Resort & Casino  
Reno, Nevada

The final filing date for the October, 2011 Exams:

PLS/PE Exam is July 8, 2011.

LSIT/EIT Exam is August 12, 2011.

Dates for the [2011-2013 Land Surveyors Exams](#) have been posted

### Chapter Waives Dues for Unemployed Members

At the December meeting the Central Valley Chapter voted to waive 2011 chapter dues for any members (or new members) who have become victims of the current economic downturn and are unemployed. Please fill out the Membership Application, enter "Unemployed" on Line 7 for the Name of Firm, Agency or College, submit your application, and your 2011 Dues are waived.

[Click here for the 2011 Membership Application](#)

# Mark Your Calendars

## SURVEY SUMMIT



**ACSM Annual Conference  
& Survey Summit  
San Diego, CA  
July 7-12, 2011**

July 7–12, 2011 • San Diego, CA  
San Diego Convention Center



## Classes, training, and continuing education

CalTrans — LS/LSIT Video Exam Preparation Course

Online Video Course — [View online videos here](#)

Land Use Navigators — Subdivision Map Act in California

May 26th, 2011, Best Western Plus Heritage Inn, Stockton — [Register here](#)

Lorman Education Services — Prevailing Wage Law

June 14th, 2011, Holiday Inn, Sacramento — [Register here](#)

Land Use Navigators — Subdivision Map Act in California

September 22nd, 2011, Pardini's Catering & Banquets, Fresno — [Register here](#)

## National News and Info

### Protecting America's Heritage:

**From the deserts of New Mexico to flooded Lake Pontchartrain, archeological surveyors work to document valued American history. March 2, 2011**

The protection of American heritage resources has been a vital function of the United States' government and law since president Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act of 1906. Since then, many additional laws protecting America's archeological, architectural, and historic treasures have been enacted, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Abandoned Shipwrecks Act, and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. These acts have created the necessity for specialty firms to survey locations that are about to undergo changes due to construction or that have

undergone changes due to natural disasters. With an eye towards historic preservation, these firms use the techniques and tools of the surveyor in order to complete their work.

The 30-year-old firm [R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.](#) specializes in surveying for and the protection of American heritage resources. Headquartered in New Orleans with five additional offices around the United States, the Goodwin team is comprised of about 150 professionals, primarily archaeologists, historians, and architectural historians specializing in prehistoric and

historic, nautical, and architectural work.

In addition to documenting heritage resources with specialized methods, the company applies a suite of conventional surveying tools and techniques in its daily operations, including data collectors, total stations, hydrographic survey instrumentation, geographic information systems (GIS), global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), and computer-aided design (CAD) systems.

[Click for full article](#)

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## President's Corner

By Mike Turnrose

Hello Chapter members! My name is Mike Turnrose, current Central Valley Chapter of CLSA President and owner of Turnrose Land Surveying in Ripon. I wanted to take this opportunity to write a column for our recently created newsletter. I hope to write a column for each of our newsletters in the remaining part of my term. I encourage my predecessors to continue thereafter.

For those of you who don't know me, here is a little background on myself as far as my surveying career and involvement in CLSA. I started out very green in land surveying in 1989 working for my uncle's company in the Bay Area. I didn't even know what either a plumb bob or a prism was! I worked for him for approximately ten years until I became licensed in 1998. In 1999, I set out on my own in Redwood City, California working out of my uncle's house. In 2000, I moved out to the Modesto area with my family and within a year moved into my current office in Ripon. It's been quite a ride. When I was in the Bay Area, I joined the San Mateo/Santa Clara CLSA chapter and served as secretary and chapter rep. I have been a member of the Central Valley chapter for 10+ years and have served as chapter rep, secretary, treasurer, vice president and now president.

I want to thank Keith Spencer and Rich Brown for the phenomenal job they have done putting together this newsletter. I also want to thank all the officers for the hard work they have put in, especially Keith Spencer and Landon Blake. Keith and Landon have shown tremendous dedication and leadership for their work on the chapter website, membership, local government agency issues, speaker meeting topics, etc. just to name a few. Thank you gentlemen! Also, I am very encouraged by our increase in membership recently and also at the high attendance rate at the chapter meetings. This is great to see! I hope it can continue. Thanks for the opportunity to serve as president and I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Regards,

Mike Turnrose, Chapter President

## The More Things Change...

By: David E. Woolley, PLS

The following quote was taken from a paper titled "What Should be the Education for Land Surveying?" by Curtis M. Brown (1957). For the complete paper and full context of Mr. Brown's statements, see [LSACTS.com](http://LSACTS.com).

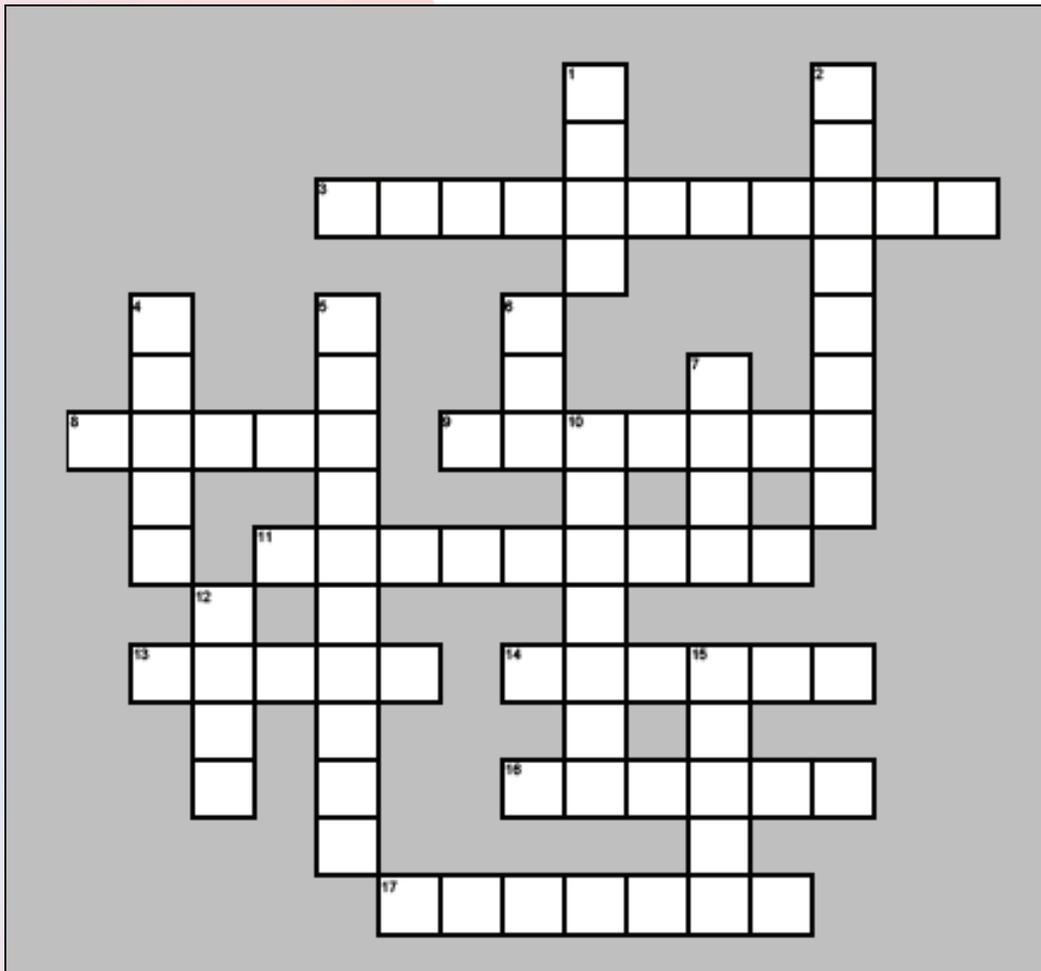
"I think of boundary surveying as including many technical levels and also a professional level. We must distinguish among the chainman, instrument man, technician, and the professional surveyor. The doctors have laboratory assistants who are called technicians, not doctors. Unfortunately, the professional surveyor has many assistants who are often thought of and are considered by many to be surveyors.

### Commentary by David E. Woolley, PLS

I am particularly struck by the quote: "... if the surveyor fails to set his boundaries in that position that a reasonably prudent surveyor would, he must pay damages." This begs the question, what place is there for a "record boundary?" Some in our profession use this term to mean: a calculated boundary based on available records and rotated to two field located monuments without consideration of all other evidence. The definition of "record boundary" does not exist in case law nor in any text books on land surveying. Brown emphasizes that "The only correct location for a boundary line is in the position that a court of competent jurisdiction will uphold". I have yet to find a definition of "record boundary" which may be referenced to determine a written standard of care. Please note that an unlicensed planner's opinion, written or spoken, is of no value. The surveyor's defense against a negligence claim is showing he or she has met the standard of care. How will the surveyor prove these "record boundaries" have met the standard of care without any substantiation except perhaps the fact that many in the industry produce these same "record boundaries?"

*Continued on page 6*

## Terms of the Profession ( answers located on page 8 )



### Down

1. California Land Surveyors Association
2. A physical structure, such as an iron post, marked stone or tree in place, which marks the location of a corner point established by a Cadastral Survey
4. a mark made upon a tree trunk
5. a precision surveying instrument for measuring horizontal and vertical angles. The graduated circles are usually read by means of optical microscopes and are more precisely graduated than are the circles on a transit
6. a survey connection to an existing station of corner from a point whose position is desired to be referenced
7. a claim or charge on property for payment of a debt or obligation
10. the inside of a curve
12. 43,560 s.f.
15. equivalent to 66 feet in length

### Across

3. appointed the first Surveyor General in 1796 (2 words)
8. a measurement used in the PLSS, consisting of a strip of land six (6) miles wide, running in a north-south direction
9. a tract of land approximately one (1) mile square and containing 640 acres
11. touching or contiguous
13. the relationship between a distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the earth
14. Orestimba, Pescadero, or Del Rio Estanislao
16. a line that cuts a geometric curve or surface at two or more points
17. The horizontal angle which a line makes with the meridian of reference adjacent to the quadrant in which the line lies

Have equipment to sell? Looking for a great deal? Check out the [CLSA Auction Site!](#)

# Using Google Earth

By Kenneth T. Mills, LS

I'm sure many surveyors like myself have downloaded and played with Google Earth. I have virtual map pins stuck in places where I've lived and worked, and pins placed at Air Force bases where I was stationed in the United States, Europe and North Africa. There are pins in the area around Asheville, North Carolina where I now live and a bunch in and around Wilson where I grew up—like the first house my folks rented in Wilson more than 50 years ago, which is still standing. With streets that have photo bubbles, I can pop in and see what the area looks like today.

Once Google Earth's photo bubbles began appearing in my area, I began using them to research survey proposals. In North Carolina, surveyors are required to tie into a grid monument if there is one within 2,000 feet of the property. Years ago I purchased Maptech's Terrain Navigator Pro software for the state of North Carolina. It provides the most recent quad maps in digital form, and the locations of all of the grid monuments are clearly shown. If a new monument is found that is not shown, it can easily be added to the program. The software has been very helpful for many years. Sometimes it was very difficult to locate a particular parcel of land. The drop down from the "Find" button in the program lists a search by coordinates. This actually is a search by latitude and longitude. The problem is, if you don't have the lat and long, where are you going to get them?

The North Carolina Geodetic Survey website has a page titled "NGS Software", which has a program titled "Corpscon 6.0". This program is a free download, which can convert State Plane Coordinates to latitude and longitude.

[Click for complete article as printed in The American Surveyor](#)



## The Subdivision Map Act: A One-Day Seminar in Several California Locations

Allen Matkins

*in association with*

LAND USE NAVIGATORS

### Cost: \$195

Group discounts available

### Time

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Registration opens at

8:30 am

### Includes:

Map Act Navigator 2011  
a \$49.95 value



### WHAT IS COVERED?

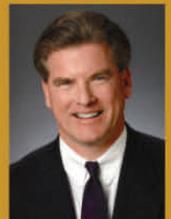
This seminar provides guidelines for effective use of the Subdivision Map Act. The instructor will discuss the responsibilities and powers of local agencies under the Act, as well as particular issues regarding when the Act applies.

### SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discussion of new Legislative and Judicial developments in 2010
- Relationship of Map Act to other planning, zoning and development laws, and to CEQA
- When the Map Act applies (and when not)
- What kind of Map (tentative/final or parcel map) to use
- Certificates of Compliance, Lot Line Adjustments, Contiguity, Remainder Parcels
- Exemptions and Exceptions under the Map Act
- Life of Tentative Map
- Getting the most out of Vested Rights (including Vesting Maps, Development Agreements and Common Law Vesting)
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- Appeals/Judicial Actions



Instructor



Michael P. Durkee

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This seminar is designed for public and private planners, surveyors, engineers, public works and utilities staff, developers, builders, environmentalists, attorneys, project managers, architects, planning commissioners, city council and board members, property managers, zoning board members, neighborhood groups, and all others involved with the land use process. This course qualifies for 6.0 hours of California MCLE Credit.

**How to Register for a seminar:** Call us: 415-273-0310 web: [LandUseNavigators.com](http://LandUseNavigators.com) or, register and pay at the door

### Red Bluff - January 27

Red Bluff Community/Senior Center Conference Room

### Sacramento - February 24

Sacramento Tsakopoulos Library Galleria

### Petaluma - March 24

Petaluma Community Center PCC Club Room

### Lafayette - April 28

Lafayette Library and Learning Center

### Stockton - May 26

Best Western Plus Heritage Inn

### Marina - June 23

Marina Airport Conference Room

### Santa Maria - July 28

Santa Maria Minami Community Center

### Rancho Cucamonga - September 15

Rancho Cucamonga Community Center

### Fresno - September 22

Pardini's Catering & Banquets

### Burbank - October 27

Burbank Moose Lodge

### San Diego - November, 17

San Diego Concourse

### *The More Things Change...cont. from page 3*

The property surveyor is given a deed and told to mark it on the ground. He makes measurements, observations and sets markers in accordance with his opinion, and he charges a fee. The only correct location for a boundary line is in the position that a court of competent jurisdiction will uphold. Thus, in setting his property marks, the surveyor is giving his opinion of where he thinks the court will uphold him. It takes superior knowledge to know where and how to set property lines. And if the surveyor fails to set his boundaries in that position that a reasonably prudent surveyor would, he must pay damages. He is a professional man.

A man may be a beautiful technician, a skilled mathematician, and an expert at making measurements, but of what value is his skill if he does not know where to place a legal boundary corner? Almost 100% of the fault we find with the men we employ is their ignorance of where to place property corners. Everyone is expected to obey the law and everyone is presumed to know the law. The property surveyor is licensed to set property corners [corners are not the same as monuments marking corners] and he is expected to set them in accordance with the correct principles of law. He is not practicing law; he is merely obeying law in the same fashion that you or I do when we obey the speed limit."

Now riddle yourself this, why would any surveyor show a "record boundary" in connection with a field survey if, according to the courts and standard of care texts, there is no such thing? If a client does not need a boundary survey, arguably they would be less in need of a "record boundary" survey (which could result in their harm). Nothing states every topographic survey needs a boundary. A record boundary is no substitute for a boundary.

The litmus test is to remove the boundary altogether and ask the following questions. Who is asking for the boundary and why? What is their understanding of a boundary survey? If the lines serve little purpose, why show them at all? Suppose the property has non-contiguous parcels, gaps, overlaps, improvements crossing the line, will the "record boundary" negatively impact the client? Clients (or planners), who are not licensed, do not dictate the acceptable practice for any licensee (engineer, surveyor or other). There are only a few legal exceptions in which a record boundary connected to a field survey is acceptable; for instance, some jurisdictions allow record data parcel maps. The recent legislation changes for record data parcel maps changed the criteria so it no longer fits the definition of a record boundary as defined herein.

Few surveys have more exposure to liability than an in fill project boundary, projects subject to setback minimums, or an ALTA survey. The surveyor must remember the client has several thousands, hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars to buy and/or develop a project, why would the surveyor be willing to break the law, and in so doing, jeopardize the project, the title company's insurance, and his license just to save the client a micro percentage of the over-all project cost? A boundary survey adds value to any property, whether it is developed at this time or a future date. There is only one true location of the boundary and yet there are a number of "record boundary" positions. Again, in law or in accepted treatise a "record boundary" does not exist in connection with a field survey, this is for good reason.

We'll occasionally encounter field work product with craftily worded record boundary disclaimer notes (among others) presumably meant to absolve the surveyor of liability. The courts have held that these notes will seldom meet the standard required for informed consent and, contrary to intent, these notes are often viewed as a signed confession to negligence. In California there is no alternative to a Professional Land Surveyor, and therein lies the liability. Liability is the hallmark of a profession. Liability separates us from tradesmen or vocations. Accept it, respect it, and manage it. To those that choose to ignore their liability, deliver your "record boundary" invention and hope the title company, your client, and other professionals do not recognize your negligence. Do not be surprised when either of them delivers it. □

## Classifieds

### SEEKING SENIOR MANAGEMENT

HJW Geospatial, a Division of Photo Science, is seeking a highly motivated professional for a senior management position in our Oakland, CA office. The successful applicant will be a licensed California Land Surveyor. This position requires familiarity with the Microsoft Office suite of software, knowledge of GPS, and good communication skills (both oral and written). At least ten years of progressive management experience with a professional surveying, mapping, or engineering firm is also required. Preferred qualifications include knowledge of LiDAR, Airborne Mapping, and Mobile Mapping.

Please send resumes to Rebecca Starr at the email address below.

Rebecca Starr  
Administrative Support Manager  
[rstarr@photoscience.com](mailto:rstarr@photoscience.com)

### SEEKING PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

The Community Development Department in Visalia, CA is recruiting for the position of Professional Land Surveyor (Contract). There is one position available and an eligibility list is being established. This is a contract position that offers City benefits. The position is expected to be available for 12 months and may be renewed annually thereafter.

[Please click for job information](#)

## Picture of the Issue

City of Modesto, Survey Crew - circa: February 1959  
Pictured (left to right): Frank Coleman, Tom DeLaMare, Neal Prichard



If you have a historic or interesting photo you would like to see in a future edition of The Prism, please submit to:  
[editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

**CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS  
ASSOCIATION  
CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER**

C/O KSN, Inc.  
711 North Pershing Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95203



**SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

**Keith W. Spencer, L.S. 6406**  
**Brian Jones, L.S. 7088**



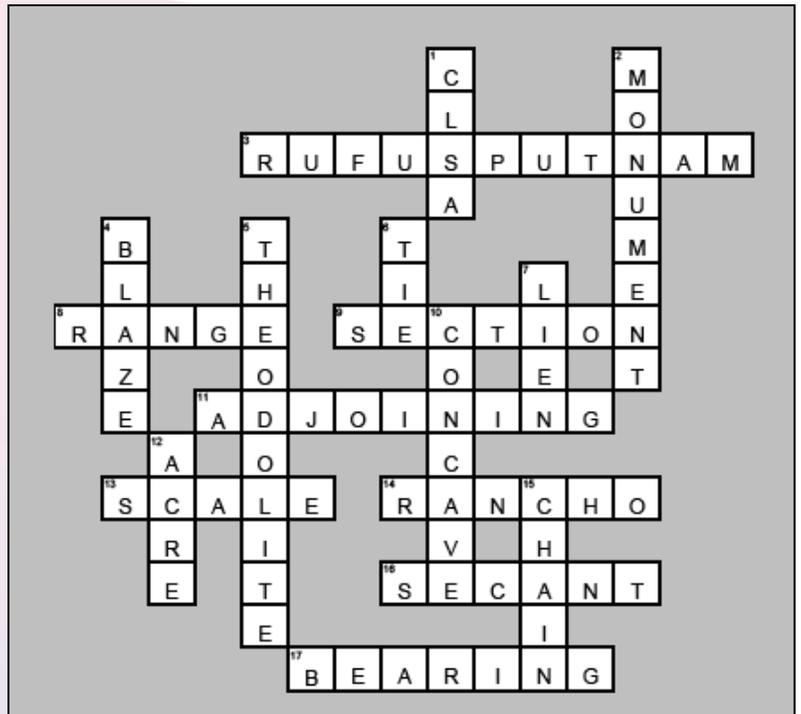
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