



Central Valley Chapter - California Land Surveyors Association
www.californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

THE Central Valley Chapter PRISM

Volume 2, Issue 5

September 2012

2012 Chapter Officers

President: Bill Koch
koch1313@yahoo.com
Vice President: Kevin Genasci
kgenasci@hawkins-eng.com
Secretary: Rich Brown
rich.brown@stancounty.com
Treasurer: Bill Jones
bllnjudy@gmail.com
Chapter Rep: Keith Spencer
kspencer@nseng.net
Chapter Rep: Jon Scarpa
jscarpa@modestogov.org
Alt. Chapter Rep: Mike Turnrose
mikels7454@verizon.net
Alt. Chapter Rep: Bill Koch
koch1313@yahoo.com

2012 Chapter Committees

By-Laws Committee:
Keith Spencer
Construction Committee:
Landon Blake (Chairman)
Education Committee:
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)
Membership Committee:
Keith Spencer (Chairman)
Monument Preservation Committee:
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
Newsletter:
Rich Brown (Editor)
Professional Practices Committee:
Josh Elson (Chairman)
San Joaquin County Liaison Committee:
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)
Stanislaus County Liaison Committee:
Rich Fultz (Chairman)
Website Committee:
Keith Spencer (Web Master)

2012 Chapter Programs

Boy Scout Merit Badge:
Scott DeLaMare (Coordinator)
TrigStar:
Bill Koch (Coordinator)
Workshops:
Chris Martin (Coordinator)

Up
Coming
Meetings!

Date: September 19, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Speaker: Keith Spencer & Guests, Education Foundation

Topic: 2013 Scholarships and the Fresno MOU

Date: October 24, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

Speaker: Pat Tami, BPELSG

Topic: NCEES, new testing methods and National Surveying issues

Announcements

State/NCEES Announces 2013 Examination Information

	<u>Exam Date</u>	<u>Final Filing Date</u>
FE/FS (EIT/LSIT) Exams*	April 13, 2013	TBA
Principles of Surveying (PS)	April 12, 2013	New — November 1, 2012 Refile — January 22, 2013

* The FE/FS (EIT/LSIT) Exams scheduled to be given via computer-based testing beginning in 2014. When that happens, they will be given during assigned windows of time rather than specific April and October dates.

President-Elect Resigns

Tom Taylor, CLSA 2013 President-Elect, resigns. CLSA Executive Committee has placed this action on the November Board of Directors agenda. At that time action will be sought to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the year, and the year to come.

Chapter Waives 2012 Dues for Unemployed Members

At the October, 2011 meeting the Central Valley Chapter voted to waive 2012 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 2012 Dues are waived.

[Click here for the 2012 Membership Application](#)

Table of Contents

Classes, Training &	State News	Page 5
Continuing Education	Technology & Info	Page 8
President's Message	Classified	Page 10
CAD Tips & Tweaks	Picture of the Issue	Page 10
National News	Puzzle Page	Page 11

Classes, training, and continuing education

CAD Masters — AutoCAD Level I — [Register here](#)

September 17, 2012, Sacramento
 October 1, 2012, Walnut Creek
 October 15, 2012, Sacramento
 October 29, 2012, Walnut Creek
 November 13, 2012, Sacramento
 November 19, 2012, Walnut Creek

CAD Masters — AutoCAD Level II — [Register here](#)

September 24, 2012, Walnut Creek
 October 18, 2012, Sacramento
 October 22, 2012, Walnut Creek
 November 26, 2012, Sacramento

CAD Masters — AutoCAD Level III — [Register here](#)

October 26, 2012, Sacramento

CAD Masters — Civil 3D Introduction — [Register here](#)

September 24, 2012, Walnut Creek
 October 1, 2012, Sacramento
 October 22, 2012, Walnut Creek
 November 5, 2012, Sacramento
 November 19, 2012, Walnut Creek

Mark Your Calendars

CLSA-CSRC Workshop — Sacramento

October 5, 2012 — [Register here](#)

CLSA Webinar — Quality Control for the Land Surveyor

October 10, 2012 — [Register here](#)

Lorman Education Services — CEQA — [Register here](#)

October 31, 2012, San Jose

ESRI — Designing Maps with ArcGIS — [Register here](#)

October 16-17, 2012, Online
 November 1-2, 2012, Online
 November 15-16, 2012, Online

CLSA/NALS Conference 2013

March 23-27, 2013
 Silver Legacy Resort & Casino, Reno NV

Central Valley CLSA Workshop—Survey Report Writing

October 12, 2012, 11am to 1pm
 Isadore's, Manteca

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

President's Message

A CALL TO THE CHAPTER

Recently, I was on the CLSA website and navigated over to the Professional Development page and reviewed the list of members that were participating in this program. I was shocked to see only 3 members of our chapter listed: Landon Blake, Keith Spencer and myself. Was it not our chapter that was a big driving force to have the Professional Development Program a benefit of CLSA membership?

Since January 2010, the CLSA as well as our chapter has taken a renewed focus on promoting the Professional Development program. California is only one of a handful of states that does not *require* participation. What does that say about the state of California's perception of surveyors as professionals? CLSA and our chapter has made it really easy to participate in the program. On our chapter website under the "PDH Schedule" link, there is a list of all past chapter meetings going back to April of 2010 with the number of Professional Development hours earned at each meeting. Our chapter website also has information on upcoming workshops and webinars. The CLSA website has a "Manage PDH" page that lets you keep track of the hours you have earned. You can also print out the form that lets you track your hours if you prefer paper to computer. Once you have met the minimum number of hours, you can print and email to CLSA.

All you need is 30 hours within a 2 year span. To make it even easier, not all 30 even have to be survey related. The number of hours earned from chapter meetings in 2011 was 16.5 and so far this year it is 12 hours with 3 more meetings still left. As you can see, if you attended each meeting for the last 2 years, you would have the minimum hours needed. I know most of you have also attended workshops, seminars, conferences and webinars as well. I believe a majority of members have the hours necessary, but have just not taken the time to complete the form.

Let us remove the stain of being a chapter that will "Talk the Talk," but not "Walk the Walk". I call on every member to participate in the Professional Development Program by completing and submitting your hours to CLSA. If you are not sure of how to or where to get the form, please contact me.

Thank You,
 Bill Koch, Chapter President.

CAD Tips & Tweaks

An Introduction to AutoLISP—Part 1, *By Landon Blake, PLS*

Welcome to the first installment of CAD Tips and Tweaks. CAD Tips and Tweaks is a new regular feature of The PRISM, the CLSA CVC Newsletter. This column will teach you how to customize your CAD software. This knowledge will allow you to be more efficient in your drafting and mapping work, and will give your organization the ability to work with data types that you can't manipulate currently.

All of the source code we discuss in this column will be released under open source licenses. All of the media content for the column will be released under a Creative Commons license. You can download the source code, text, and graphics for these articles from <http://www.cadprogrammermagazine.com>. You can visit that same site to view video tutorials that supplement the articles and to find links to resources where you can learn more about the topics discussed in the articles.

Although the lessons published in CAD Tips and Tweaks may consider custom line types, custom hatch patterns, GUI customizations, and programming in Visual Basic .Net or other programming languages, the main focus of the column will be on the AutoLISP programming language. In this first article I want to provide you with a gentle introduction to AutoLISP. We won't write any code in this time. We are just going to answer some common questions about the programming language instead.

WHAT IS AUTOLISP?

AutoLISP is a programming language used to customize and extend CAD software. It can be used in Autodesk AutoCAD Products, IntelliCAD Products (like AcceliCAD and MicroSurvey), BricsCAD, and Ares Commander. AutoLISP is a simple LISP like programming language.

LISP is an abbreviation of "list processing". In LISP programming languages program data is typically stored and manipulated in structures that resemble lists. LISP is also a slang abbreviation for "lost in stupid parentheses", since most LISP programming languages used parentheses symbols as a marker in their source code.

WHAT ARE ITS ADVANTAGES?

LISP programming languages are beautiful in their simplicity. AutoLISP is simple and easy to learn because it is a LISP programming language. It is much easier to learn than the other programming interfaces for CAD programs. You can execute AutoLISP statements directly from the command line in your CAD program, and you can write AutoLISP programs using nothing more complicated than a text file editor. AutoLISP allows you to manipulate all sorts of drawing entities. You can also integrate your custom AutoLISP commands directly into the CAD program's graphical user interface.

WHAT ARE ITS LIMITATIONS?

AutoLISP lacks some of the functionality of more powerful general purpose programming languages. (For example: AutoLISP doesn't support what is known as multi-threaded programming, and it is hard to use AutoLISP to communicate with other programs running on your computer.) However, this simplicity and limited functionality makes the language easier to learn.

Autodesk has shifted its focus from AutoLISP to its .Net Programming interfaces, so you can't currently use AutoLISP to access and manipulate complicated drawing entities created by Autodesk's vertical CAD products like AutoCAD Civil 3D.

AutoCAD doesn't have an integrated development environment, or software program that helps you to write AutoLISP source code. Many modern programming languages do.

WHAT ARE SOME SIMILAR PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE?

NewLISP is an easy to learn LISP programming language that runs on both the Microsoft Windows and Linux operating systems. It is open source, which means it is free to install, modify, and distribute.

Clojure is a relatively new LISP language that runs on the Java Virtual Machine.

SNEAK PEEK

In our next installment of CAD Tips and Tweaks we will learn about the fundamental building blocks of AutoLISP programs and will start to work on some example code to work with route alignments in CAD.

National News

Frames for the Future

Replacing NAD 83 (Part 4 of 4): By David H. Minkel and Michael L. Dennis

The Need for a New Geometric Datum

To support improved GNSS positioning a new geometric datum is required. An excerpt from the aforementioned NGS 10-Year plan states "NGS [will redefine] the national horizontal datum to remove gross disagreements with the ITRF" (the ITRF is defined below). While the benefit from aligning NGD to ITRF is significant, the deployment of NVD requires a new geometric datum.

The geoid is one of an infinite series of progressively enveloped (essentially parallel) non-intersecting gravity geopotential surfaces, whose limit in the minimum is Earth's mass center. To use a geometric datum that is not accurately referenced to the Earth's mass center for ellipsoid heights, such as NAD 83, reduces the effectiveness of NVD (being geoid-based) and will continue to introduce error in the determination of orthometric heights with GNSS technology. To best implement and utilize the NVD, the NGD origin must be at the best estimate of the Earth's mass center. Otherwise an ellipsoid height transformation will be required.

Note that the NGD datum will not be another realization of NAD 83, e.g. NAD 83(2022), but rather an entirely new datum.

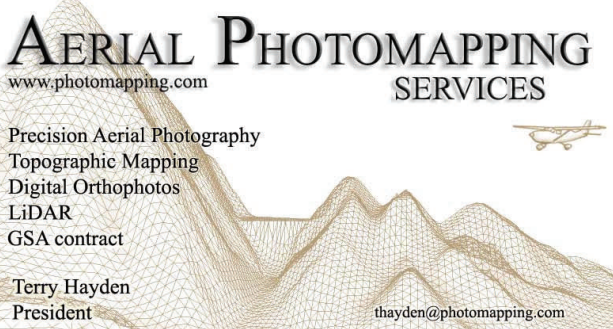
In the early 1980's, when the NAD 83 and WGS 84 datums were originally defined, our knowledge of the location of the Earth's mass center was at an uncertainty of about one to two meters. Since then improved technology (e.g., more artificial satellites and more accurate tracking of those satellites) has allowed a refined estimate of the position of the Earth's mass center. The offset between the location adopted for NAD 83 and the most accurate contemporary location is 2.2 meter (as defined by ITRF 08, or the International Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2008). The magnitude of the position shift between NAD 83 and the ITRF 08 at time 2022.00 (January 1, 2022) is shown in Figure 10. Note that this shift does not necessarily indicate the final horizontal position difference(s) between NAD 83 horizontal positions and NGD horizontal positions, but it does indicate the impact of changing the origin to the current best estimate of Earth's mass center. Other factors, such as crustal motion or a change in the definition of ITRF, will affect the magnitude of the horizontal shift from NAD 83 to NGD. Additional information on ITRF in particular (and global reference systems in general) can be obtained from the International Earth Rotation and Reference System (IERS) at www.iers.org, and from the International GNSS Service (IGS) at igsb.jpl.nasa.gov/.

Since ITRF is a truly global reference system that is entirely compatible with GNSS, there is great benefit from minimizing the differences between the ITRF and a contemporary national geometric datum. Because of this, NGD will be defined to be as coincident as practicable with a modern realization of ITRF.

However, there is a complication. ITRF is fixed with respect to the overall Earth (using a no-net-rotation condition with regards to horizontal tectonic motions over the whole Earth), rather than to any specific tectonic plate. Because of this, tectonic movement of the North American plate causes ITRF coordinates to constantly change throughout the conterminous United States and Alaska, not just in locally tectonically active areas, such as western California. Similar issues exist for Hawaii and American Samoa (on the Pacific plate) and Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (on the Mariana plate). Clearly there are significant advantages to a national datum whose coordinates do not constantly change. Because of this issue, there is currently a debate as to whether or not NGD will be fixed to the North American plate (also referred to as the Stable North American Reference Frame, or SNARF), so that most locations within the United States would not be subject to constantly changing coordinates (note that the horizontal rate of change of current ITRF coordinates within the stable part of the U.S., i.e. the part located on the North American plate rather than the Pacific plate, is about 2 cm/year). Another option to avoid continuously changing coordinates is to define NGD with respect to a specific date or "epoch" of ITRF.

[\(Click for Complete Article\)](#)

Reprinted with the permission of The American Surveyor Magazine, Issue April 2012 Vol.9 No.4



AERIAL PHOTOMAPPING SERVICES
www.photomapping.com

Precision Aerial Photography
Topographic Mapping
Digital Orthophotos
LiDAR
GSA contract

Terry Hayden
President
thayden@photomapping.com

2929 LARKIN AVE. • CLOVIS, CA. 93612 • 559-291-0147



SAFETLITE
of Modesto Inc.

Construction, Engineering, Safety Supplies & Signs
Sales • Rentals • Service

1051 N. EMERALD AVE. MODESTO, CA 95351
www.safetlite.com E-Mail sales@safetlite.com

209-522-8913
Outside Modesto 1-800-851-6262
Fax 209-522-1918

State News

The BPELSG Chronicles

First Results of Computer-Based Testing for the Professional Land Survey Examination

By Ric Moore , PLS

A new era in how the Board measures the competency of individuals desiring to practice land surveying in this state has begun. The first ever results of computer-based testing (CBT) administration for the California Professional Land Surveyor exam have just been released by the Board. There are many opinions on what format (multiple-choice, design essay, etc.) is the most appropriate for this type of measurement and as you can imagine when it comes to land surveyors, opinions are never lacking. The California Professional Land Surveyor exam has taken several forms over the years. But the underlying goal of the task was the same throughout all these iterations.

In the normal course of our daily activities as land surveyors, we encounter many different "instruments", all of which are designed to provide us with measurement data so we can make intelligent, educated decisions in regards to accuracy and precision. Over the last century and a half, land surveyors used a variety of instruments that have changed with advancement of new technologies. The one aspect shared by all those generations of land surveyors is what was the expected measurement tolerance, or precision, when using the various forms of equipment. Regardless of when the surveys were conducted or which generational instruments were utilized, land surveyors generally had a preconceived idea for the tolerance level that was acceptable for meeting the minimum requirements of their survey.

The licensing exam is essentially a measurement instrument which serves a very similar purpose. The questions are developed in concert with the published test specifications (http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/ls_test_plan.pdf), which was developed as a result of an occupational analysis and that was developed by surveying practicing professional land surveyors throughout the state. Subject matter experts evaluate the test specifications to determine if each question (and the overall exam on a whole) meets the criteria for minimum competency standards. Then when the actual measurements are performed (candidates taking and answering the exam), those responses are evaluated to determine how accurate the measurements (questions) were in relation to the expected tolerances (minimum competency).

I believe that I can state pretty accurately that many individuals, including those who work at the Board, those who provide expert ser-

Continued on page 7

58 Counties. 13 Million Parcels.

All of **CALIFORNIA**. Updated **DAILY** - at your Fingertips!



The advertisement features three overlapping images. On the left is a technical survey plat with property lines, bearings, and distances, including a circled number '403'. In the center is an aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood with a white callout box containing contact information for Ferguson Catherine & Christopher. On the right is a red-bordered graphic with the text 'DOWNLOAD GIS Shape Files' and a downward arrow icon, overlaid on a street map showing 11th Ave, 12th Ave, College Ave, and Brockway Ct.

Call us today to begin
your **FREE** 2-day trial!

Call us Toll Free: 1-888-217-8999
Located in Folsom, CA

Visit us at: www.ParcelQuest.com



CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Land Surveying Photo Gallery

Unique Historic Photos Now Available for Purchase! Order Today!



Proceeds from the sale of photos benefit California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation (CLSA EF) and will be used to fund scholarships for land surveying students.

CLSA would like to thank Bryant Sturgess for generously donating his collection of historic images.



Order online at: clsaphotos.smugmug.com

The BPELSG Chronicles, *cont. from page 5*

vices to the Board in the form of examination development, those who have diligently provided examination preparatory classes, and those who simply are part of the land surveying profession in California all had reservations on how accurately this “instrument” called an exam would perform using multiple choice format and the uncertainty inherent with implementing CBT delivery methods. After progressing through exam development over the last year and seeing the results of this all too important measurement process, I can easily say that the level of focus, effort and dedication provided by the land surveying experts, Board staff and the CBT vendor proved to be a worthwhile endeavor towards the ultimate goal of fair and appropriate licensure. By the time this article is published, the April 2012 exam results (<http://www.pels.ca.gov/applicants/ap12stats.shtml>) will be public knowledge and I would hope that those previously mentioned individuals share my satisfaction in the process. The team of experts gathered to perform standard setting was representative of a wide range of knowledge, abilities, geographic regions, and experience. One of the better discussions I have had the opportunity to be a part of was when I witnessed newly licensed individuals from the previous April banter with seasoned veterans as they keenly collaborated on the definition of minimal competence as it related to the new test plan specifications. Beginning with these exam results, candidates will only receive a “Pass or Fail” notification. The issuance of a numerical score will be discontinued, in similar fashion as the remainder of the California state exams, as it is no longer relevant to this format. Candidates failing the exam will receive a diagnostic that describes their performance relative to the published test plan.

While we were not able to attend every preparation seminar throughout the state and provide individual attention to each and every concern, we did attempt to visit some of the scheduled classes, including ones at the recent CLSA State conference, and through CLSA’s Central Office coordinated a webinar attended by many members. As 2012 progresses, we hope to be able to reach many more who have an interest in the Board maintaining a successful licensure program and we hope to move towards offering the California Land Surveyor exam more often beginning in 2013. In closing, we appreciate all the feedback provided by candidates and several other individuals and thought we would share some of those comments:

“Testing environment was much better than sitting in a large building with many thousands of other applicants trying to listen to the echoes of the proctor announcements.”

“Liked how I was able to skip or mark questions so I could return and review before ending the exam.”

“I think the CBT format was much less stressful than the previous format and the manner in which the graphics were distributed helped in easily understanding the questions.”

“I think it was the appropriate level of difficulty.”

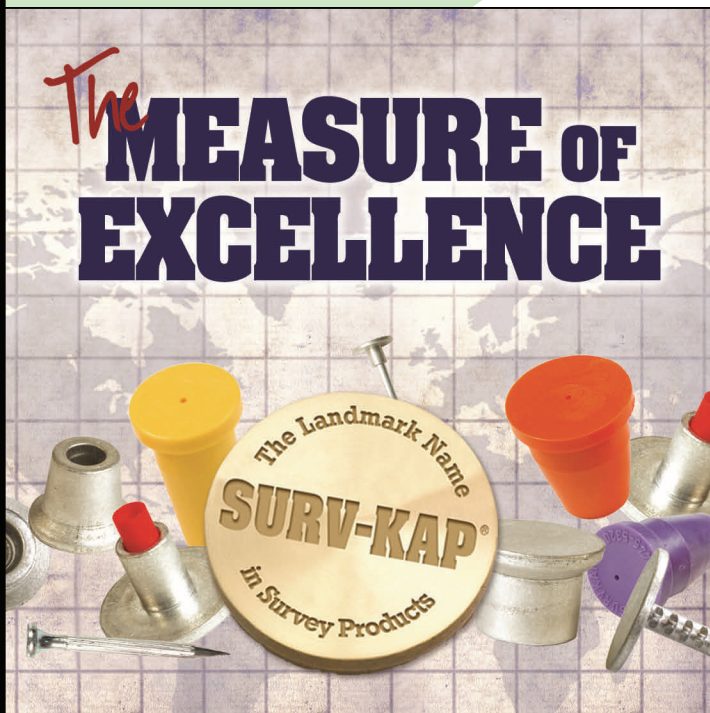
“The testing center wasn’t used to having all of the reference materials and calculators. This way of testing was certainly a lot less stressful, which I feel enabled me to stay much more focused throughout the exam - All-in-all, a good experience.”

“I think it was a pretty fair test and a good mix of real world problems.”

“Even though I had to page back and forth through the graphics pamphlet, it was still easy to read and understand.”

“After observing attendees at my exam preparatory classes for many weeks, I can tell you that the people that I thought would pass the exam, did and the ones that did not put in the effort and dedication it takes to prepare, didn’t. So from my perspective the exam appeared to be accurately targeted.”

Reprinted with the permission of California Surveyor Magazine — Summer 2012 Edition



EASY ORDERING ONLINE!

SURV-KAP.com

SURVEY MARKERS, CAPS AND ACCESSORIES • 800-445-5320

Gary Ochsner
Sales and Support

ESC

ENGINEERING SUPPLY COMPANY
The Leader In Precision Positioning Systems Since 1985

TOPCON

Factory Authorized
Factory Certified
Sales, Repairs, Rentals

1030 Riverside Pkwy. Suite 150
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Toll Free: 800.788.3307
Local Phone: 916-375-1429
Cell: 209.483.6969
Email: gary@escsurvey.net
Web: www.escsurvey.com

Technology & Info

Right Tool for the Job

By Francis "Frank" D. Romano, Jr., PLS

In 1999, I went to work for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 12, Right of Way Engineering in Orange County. Shortly thereafter, my supervisor, Greg Grant, LS, asked me to take on the role of Relinquishment Coordinator. At the time, I had no idea what a relinquishment was, let alone how to coordinate one. As with any large governmental organization, there were plenty of references, manuals and, even, state laws that I could look to for answers.

What is a relinquishment anyway?

A relinquishment is a type of quitclaim usually involving the preparation of a Relinquishment Map – a form of exhibit. (Figure 1) When Caltrans widens a freeway, it can purchase land from neighboring property owners in order to reconfigure or create surface streets, frontage roads and/or cul-de-sacs. As the project nears completion, any right, title, or interest, in and to, these areas are passed on, or relinquished, to the local agency (i.e. city, county, transportation authority, etc.) Our District currently has over four hundred filed relinquishments and more than twenty proposed relinquishments within District 12.

How do you keep track of all those maps?

In 2001, Caltrans decided to have all of their Right of Way (R/W) maps (including relinquishments) in District 12 converted to a digital format. Each map was scanned at 200dpi. Each image was saved as an uncompressed TIF image file and a compressed SID image file (These were later converted to PDF files as Adobe Acrobat's compression technology improved.) They were cataloged and linked to a Microsoft Access database along with information about each map.

In order to find a scanned relinquishment map when researching, the system required one or more of the following pieces of information: the map scan number, route number, post mile, city or project number. With only had general information like the nearest cross street, it became a little more complicated. This would require looking at a Thomas Guide marked with the limits of each R/W map that was kept in the District map file room. Having identified the correct R/W Map number for the area in question, a look at the R/W map would show the relinquishment number.

Continued on page 9

THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT

A One-Day Seminar in Several Locations

This seminar provides guidelines for effective use of the Subdivision Map Act.

- New Legislative and Judicial developments in 2012
- 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 (incl. Vesting Maps, Development Agreements and Common Law Vesting)
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- Appeals/Judicial Actions

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

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.

Qualifies for 6.0 hours of California MCLE Credit.

\$195 - Discounts available for Groups & CLSA members
Time 9:00 am - 4:30 pm • Registration opens at 8:30 am
Includes: **the Map Act Navigator 2012 a \$49.95 value**



LAND USE
NAVIGATORS
in association with

Allen Matkins

Register by calling 415-273-0310
or at LandUseNavigators.com
or register and pay at the door

Thank you for a
great year.
2013 Schedule
Coming Soon!

Sept 10 San Diego Upper Room

field
Ave

Cooper Aerial Surveys Co. Mapping Experts

Cooper Aerial Surveys Co. has been providing Aerial Survey services to the survey community since 1966. We are a full service aerial survey company that has the technical resources and experienced staff to help achieve your aerial mapping and survey needs.

Aerial Photography
Topographic Mapping
Digital Rectified Imagery
Mine Topography Updates
Roadway and Corridor Mapping



GIS Services
Airborne LIDAR
Volumetric Services
Mapping and Survey Forensics
Airborne GPS and Ground Targets

Phoenix

Tucson

Bakersfield

Philadelphia

quote@cooperaerial.com

800-229-2279

CooperAerial.com

Right Tool for the Job...cont from [page 8](#)

There has got to be a better way.

In 2005, another tool came along, Google Earth. I had a little prior experience with ESRI's ArcGIS (an extremely powerful and useful GIS tool); however, my experience with ArcGIS was a program with a high learning curve with use and data retrieval dependent upon having an experienced user and costly software. Google Earth, on the other hand, was easy to learn and use, accessible to anyone with a computer that had internet access, and . . . it was free!

As I mentioned, we had over four hundred filed relinquishment maps in our District. I decided it would be more productive to index them in Google Earth. In addition to indexing the existing relinquishments, it made sense to start tracking new relinquishments in Google Earth as well. Since there are a number of personnel and departments involved in the relinquishment process, such a system would not only allow them instant access to existing relinquishment maps, documents and data, but also to information, data and preliminary maps of proposed relinquishments in progress.

An old dog learns new tricks.

I commenced learning the basics of Google Earth. These included learning the KML language; how to insert placemarks, populate information balloons, and insert image overlays; and create links to the map overlays and the PDF files containing the map and documents. (It is not as hard as it sounds since there are many good tutorials and discussion groups on the internet.)

The end product was a file that had a placemark for every relinquishment that had been recorded within District 12 along with those that were currently in-progress. Each placemark was color-coded according to a Legend, for quick and easy status recognition (i.e. YELLOW - Design issues, RED - Protested, GREEN - Relinquished, etc. See Figure 2). Maps in progress contained information regarding the location, local agency, current status and a link to view the preliminary map in Acrobat. A link to where the actual project files are located on the network server was also added. (Figure 3) Anyone who works for a large organization can appreciate how nice such a link is verses searching here and there on this network drive or that one, trying to discover which folder or subfolder the files were stored in.

[\(Click for Complete Article\)](#)

Reprinted with the permission of California Surveyor Magazine, Issue #170 Summer 2012

Classifieds

Senior CAD Technician

Stantec is currently looking for a Sr. CAD Technician in their San Francisco Office. Our Transportation group provides comprehensive planning, design, and engineering services for all phases of airports and aviation, bridge, rail, roadway, and transit projects. They are seeking a draftsperson expert in AutoCad with skills in Microstation a plus. The draftsperson will be providing drafting and drafting support to PC 1839s staff communications and transportation engineers. The draftsperson must have at least 5 years experience in civil engineering drafting of highways, roadways, land development, grading and utilities. The draftsperson will be also be drafting system level drawings for PC 1839 communications engineers including network diagrams, conduit and cable schedules, installation details, and facilities plans.

Go to www.stantec.com or [click here](#) to apply

(posted on Stantec.com 8-14-2012)

CAD Drafter wanted

Sims Metal Management is the global leader in metals and electronics recycling. They are looking for a CAD Drafter that can follow established technical specifications to prepare 2D and 3D drawings and perform design drafting. The CAD Drafter consults with SRS engineers regarding model accuracy, design, and drafting standards. The incumbent will be based in Roseville, CA, but travel occasionally to the other SRS North American sites as needed.

[click here](#) to apply

(posted on Monster.com 8-14-2012)

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

Picture of the Issue

Where: River Road @ Freitas Road, Section 29, T.6S., R.9E.

When: May 25, 2012

Description: Russell "Scotty" Atchinson Locating Post # 2 of the Wilmans Company Ranch



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

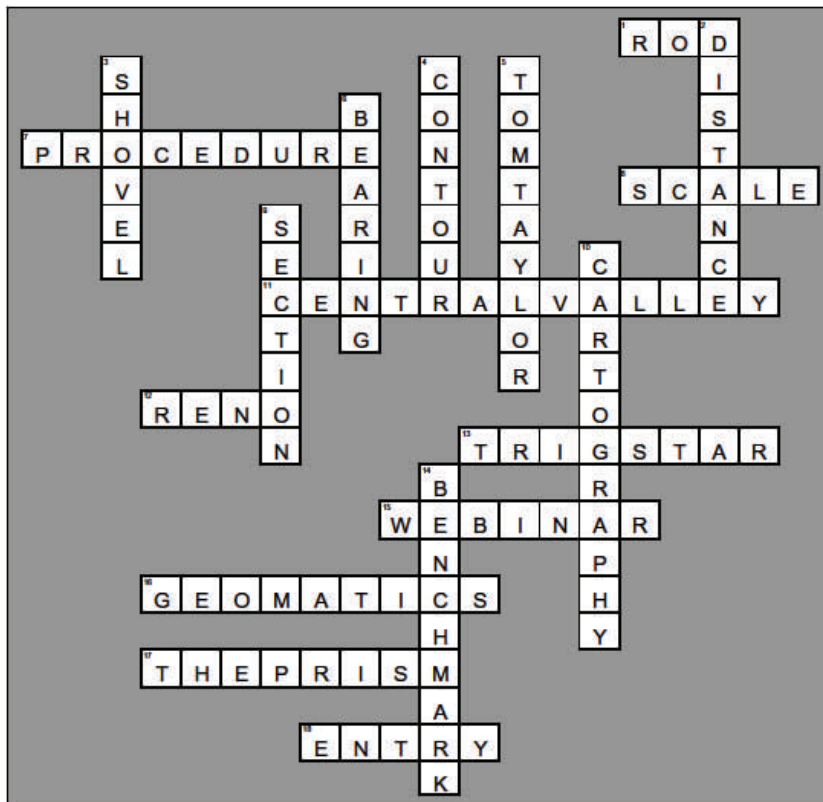
Puzzle Page

TERMS OF THE PROFESSION 2

T	L	I	C	A	R	T	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	L	C	R
O	R	E	O	P	R	O	C	E	D	U	R	E	H	C	O	A
M	F	U	N	A	C	P	U	O	T	N	O	C	E	Y	R	N
T	U	A	T	T	H	E	P	R	I	S	M	B	E	L	N	I
A	E	T	O	U	L	H	O	V	O	T	R	V	A	A	E	B
Y	K	G	U	Y	R	T	N	E	O	Z	R	U	C	C	S	E
L	R	J	R	Z	A	P	A	C	P	U	R	A	C	R	O	W
O	A	C	R	S	Z	B	U	N	S	B	A	A	S	E	R	E
R	M	E	K	N	H	E	A	A	L	K	T	P	C	H	N	N
S	H	O	V	E	L	A	I	T	N	U	S	G	I	I	R	O
C	C	T	A	A	N	R	O	S	W	A	G	N	T	A	U	R
Y	N	R	C	T	O	I	M	I	N	O	I	I	A	Y	T	O
E	E	S	L	F	R	N	T	D	E	Z	R	R	M	G	E	D
V	B	L	I	E	W	G	B	S	E	C	T	I	O	N	K	E
R	N	L	Y	S	C	O	N	S	E	A	Z	E	E	I	I	P
U	A	D	I	P	R	I	S	M	C	E	B	B	G	A	M	P
C	E	N	T	R	A	L	V	A	L	L	E	Y	O	E	H	T

Use the answers from July's crossword puzzle as a list for this month's word search

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.



Answers for July's puzzle



**CALIFORNIA LAND
SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER**

C/O Stanislaus County Public Works
1716 Morgan Road
Modesto, CA 95358



CORPORATE SPONSORS

Cooper Aerial Surveys Co.
Mapping Experts

quote@cooperaerial.com

800-229-2279

CooperAerial.com



PARCELQUEST



Your Online Source for
CALIFORNIA Property Data
and Parcel Maps

Call us Toll Free: 1-888-217-8999
Located in Folsom, CA

www.ParcelQuest.com



**CARTWRIGHT
AERIAL SURVEYS, INC.**

Bill Calmes
President

Executive Airport
5999 Freeport Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95822
www.casmap.com

916.421.3465
866.421.3465
fax 916.421.3469
calmes@casmap.com



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

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



QUARTAROLI & ASSOCIATES
LAND SURVEYING - LAND PLANNING
MANTECA, CA



**LAND USE
NAVIGATORS**

**K
S
N
INC.** | **KJELDSSEN
SINNOCK
NEUDECK**
Civil Engineers
and Land Surveyors



**The
MEASURE OF
EXCELLENCE**

EASY ORDERING ONLINE!



SURV-KAP.com
SURVEY MARKERS, CAPS AND ACCESSORIES
800-445-5320



Get Linked In

Linked in

or find us on Facebook



Find us on
Facebook

Want to be noticed? Advertise in the next edition of The Prism. [Click for Current Rates](#)