



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

# Central Valley Chapter THE PRISM

Up  
Coming  
Meetings!

**Date:** January 25, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

**Speaker:** Alex Calder, San Francisco Chapter

**Topic:** Professional Practices Committee

**Date:** February 22, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

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

**Speaker:** Ron Nelms, CLSA President-Elect

**Topic:** CLSA and the Coming Year

## Announcements

### ADOPT-A-ROAD CLEANUP DAY

Due to lack of participation, the Adopt-A-Road Program will be discontinued after the next Clean-up Day, which is scheduled for April 8, 2017.

### 2017 FRESNO GEOMATICS CONFERENCE

The 2017 California State University, Fresno Geomatics Conference has been scheduled for January 27th & 28th. It will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Downtown Fresno.

[Click for more information](#)

### 2017 CLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2017 Annual Conference has been scheduled for March 24-28. It will be held at the Wyndham Anaheim Garden Grove. Presenters are still needed. If interested, please contact the 2017 CLSA Conference Committee by December 1, 2016.

[Click for more information](#)

### SURVEY TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

Chapter Executive Committee has sent out a survey for Chapter membership. This is your opportunity to make suggestions and give guidance on our monthly meetings. If you have not participated in this opportunity, please take a moment and go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2B7R2ST> and share your thoughts about the direction the Central Valley Chapter should take.

#### 2017 Chapter Officers

President: Will Paul

Vice President: Rich Fultz

Secretary: Rich Brown

Treasurer: Warren Smith

Chapter Director: Warren Smith

Chapter Director: Kevin Genasci

Alt. Chapter Dir: Will Paul

Alt. Chapter Dir: Rich Fultz

#### 2017 Chapter Committees

By-Laws Committee:

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Construction Committee:

Open (Chairman)

Education Committee:

Kevin Genasci (Chairman)

Membership Committee:

Rich Brown (Chairman)

Monument Preservation Committee:

Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)

Newsletter:

Rich Brown (Editor)

Professional Practices Committee:

Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)

San Joaquin County Liaison Committee:

Kevin Genasci (Chairman)

Stanislaus County Liaison Committee:

Rich Fultz (Chairman)

Website:

Keith Spencer (Web Master)

#### 2017 Chapter Programs

Boy Scout Merit Badge:

Zachary Wong (Coordinator)

TrigStar:

Bill Koch (Coordinator)

Workshops:

Rich Brown (Coordinator)

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## Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level I (3-Day Course)

Jan 17-19, 2017, Walnut Creek  
 Jan 30-1, 2017, Sacramento  
 Feb 13-15, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Feb 27-1, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level II (2-Day Course)

Jan 19-20, 2017, Sacramento  
 Feb 6-7, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Mar 2-3, 2017, Sacramento

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### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III (1-Day Course)

Feb 2, 2017, Sacramento

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# Mark Your Calendars

2017 Fresno State Geomatics Engineering Conference  
 January 27-28, 2017, Double Tree Hotel, Fresno

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D Intro (3-Day Course)

Jan 9-11, 2017, Walnut Creek  
 Jan 23-25, 2017, Sacramento  
 Feb 6-8, 2017 Walnut Creek  
 Feb 21-23, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

2017 CLSA Annual Conference

March 24-28, 2017, Wyndham Anaheim, Garden Grove

[Click here for more information](#)

2017 National Geodetic Survey Geospatial Summit  
 April 24-25, 2017, Silver Spring, Maryland

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D Adv. (2-Day Course)

Jan 17-18, 2017, Sacramento  
 Jan 23-24, 2017, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Civil 3D for Surveyors(2-Day)

Feb 13-14, 2017, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

If you have information about a training or class, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## Editor's Message



With the changing of the calendar, comes numerous projects for several Chapter members. Renewal of sponsorships for the Chapter's newsletter & website, Chapter membership drive, scheduling of speakers for the coming years Chapter meetings, preparation for the Fresno Geomatics Conference and State's Annual Conference, as well as various reports to the State. These all affect the Chapter in one way or another, but the thing that I feel will affect the direction of the Chapter the most is the survey that was made available to Chapter members and supporters. I am asking everyone to please take a moment to complete this survey. It will be very helpful in giving direction to the Executive Committee as to how the Chapter should proceed. So, please show that you care about your profession and the Central Valley Chapter and let your voice be heard.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2B7R2ST>

If you would like to comment on this topic or suggest another, please submit it to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

## Local News

### Why Every City Needs a Strong City Surveyor

By Landon Blake, Redefined Horizons

#### Introduction

The first time I realized the importance of a good city surveyor, I was sitting across from a civil engineering technician who had completed the first review of a parcel map I was trying to get approved and filed. I had complied with all of the city requirements and done a good job on the boundary resolution, but the civil engineering technician was very adamant that I remove all of the boundary survey notes from the second sheet of my parcel map. I explained that those notes were a very important part of the boundary resolution of the parent parcel, and that removing the notes would make the map incomplete. My explanation didn't make a difference. The technician told me plainly: "The notes have to come off or we aren't going to file your map."

I asked her why the notes needed to come off the map, as I couldn't think of a legitimate reason for their removal. She answered: "Because our other standard plans at the city don't have anything like the notes you included." I imagine I had a stunned and stupid look on my face at that point in the conversation. I told her: "This parcel map isn't a set of standard plans. It is a boundary survey and a land subdivision, and every boundary survey is unique. You can't force it into a set of standard city details."

The technician still refused to budge. When I returned to my office and reviewed the conversation with my boss, his response was simple: "Tell the civil engineering technician that you want to talk to the licensed surveyor in responsible charge for the map review before you remove the notes." My boss knew the dirty little secret that I didn't. The city didn't have a licensed land surveyor in charge of parcel map review. There may have been a pre-1982 civil engineer up the chain-of-command at the city that was in charge only in name, but he didn't know or care anything about the process. That's why it had been delegated to the civil engineering technician in the first place.

A few days after I followed my boss's suggestion, my parcel map was filed with the boundary survey notes in place.

As I look back on this situation now, I realize how much I would have benefited at that point in my career from a high quality review of my parcel map and a bit of back and forth with another land surveyor engaged in the map review process. I didn't get that benefit, and my client had to pay for my time to deal with nonsensical map review comments. In this situation, without a real city surveyor, everyone lost. My client lost money, I lost the opportunity for valuable feedback, and the city lost an opportunity to be engaged in the land subdivision process.

The problems at this city (which still doesn't have a real city surveyor) have persisted throughout my career to the present. This includes widespread destruction of survey monuments on city street improvement projects, poorly written RFPs that often violate state law, and no comprehensive plan for survey control within the city.

It is my strong belief that every California city could benefit from an effective city surveyor in a strong city surveyor role.

#### What Is A City Surveyor?

What is a city surveyor? I believe it would be helpful to define the term for the purposes of our discussion in this article. Here is my short definition of a city surveyor:

*A licensed land surveyor working at a high level of municipal government to directly oversee land surveying activities performed by the city government. This includes the review and approval of private land surveying activities when authorized by law. It also includes have an advisory role in other activities of city government related to land use planning, land development, and public infrastructure.*

Continued on page 8

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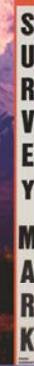
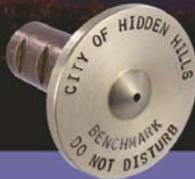
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# History

## Mount Boardman Expedition 2016

Written by Warren Smith, PLS

Four Counties - Alameda, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus - converge at a single point on Mount Boardman. The first field survey was performed in 1857 to establish this corner (see field notes). This was followed in 1867 by a joint three-County survey (see map). The Alameda County Surveyor was W.F. Boardman, the San Joaquin County Surveyor was John Wallace (a former GLO Deputy U.S. Surveyor), and the Stanislaus County Surveyor was A.G. Stakes.

This survey began at the corner common to Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Joaquin Counties on an island in Old River, and proceeded south to the ridge line of the coastal range pursuant to the statutory description of the Counties. It then followed the ridge line to a high point, previously established. From there, the survey between Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties progressed in a straight line to the confluence of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers.

A subsequent resurvey in 1931 by Stanislaus County perpetuated the Oak tree at the corner location by setting four iron pipes at roughly 20' offsets. In 1970, a resurvey of the Alameda-San Joaquin County line by Curtis Brown found the iron pipes and established state plane coordinates on them. All four Counties are in Zone 3 of the California Coordinate System, and the Brown survey utilized CCS27 values.

In order to determine CCS83 SPCs, a joint venture was proposed between the four County Surveyors to occupy the four iron pipes with GPS receivers and calculate coordinates for the center of the Oak tree. On November 18, the crews met at the gate to the N3 Cattle Company's ranch, and were escorted to the location by ranch foreman Ken Chaulet via a seven mile drive over fire roads.

Present for the expedition were Warren Smith, San Joaquin County Surveyor; Michael Rubner, Alameda County Surveyor; Bill Slepnikoff, Santa Clara County Surveyor; Gwen Gee, retired Santa Clara County Surveyor; Chris Wilson, Deputy Santa Clara County Surveyor; Larry Fontana, Assistant Stanislaus County Surveyor; Chad Johnson, Deputy Stanislaus County Surveyor; and Mike Quartaroli, longtime local land surveyor.

Three receivers (Trimble R8, Leica 500, and iGage X90) collected static data for 30 minutes on each pipe. The post-processed coordinates were derived, and the center of the Oak tree was determined to be:

N 1 999 379.80

E 6 279 635.00

Orthometric height: 3488 ft. (est.)

These values have been inserted into each County's GIS basemap for purposes of commonality.

One of the iron pipes was missing its cap, so a brass washer was affixed with LS 4450 and LS 4842 stamped on it. A Corner Record was filed in each of the four Counties.

A lower peak is named Mount Wallace, and currently has a CORS station situated on it.

As it turns out, the summit is southerly of the corner by about 250 feet. The 1857 survey was run from the east edge



*Pictured above from Left to Right: Bill Slepnikoff (Santa Clara Co Surveyor, Chris Wilson (Santa Clara Co), Chad Johnson (Stanislaus Co), Gwen Gee (Santa Clara Co Surveyor-Retired), Mike Rubner (Alameda Co Surveyor), Warren Smith (San Joaquin Co Surveyor), Larry Fontana (Stanislaus Co Surveyor), & Mike Quartaroli (Quartaroli & Assoc)*

**Continued on page 7**

### Mount Boardman Expedition, *cont. from page 6*

of the San Francisco Bay due east until it reached the ridgeline of the coastal mountains. The white Oak tree is currently in a state of distress from drought conditions.

The weather was clear and dry – the following day was rainy, which would have precluded access. The next site visit is likely to be by an unmanned aerial vehicle. At the ridgeline, discussion and amazement was had about the rigors and stamina of the first survey crews in running line up and down canyon walls through manzanita, scrub brush, and rattlesnakes.

The site visit was the culmination of a nearly ten year effort, begun by Santa Clara County Surveyor Gwen Gee.



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APN MAP

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## City Surveyor, *cont.* from [page 3](#)

Note some key parts of this definition. An effective city surveyor is:

1. A licensed land surveyor that can take responsible charge of surveying activities.
2. Placed in a high-level of municipal government. (Not buried 7 levels deep in the public works org chart and reporting to an engineering tech level 3.)
3. In direct control of map review and other land surveying activities.
4. Able to fill an advisory role in related city activities.

### Typical Activities of a Strong City Surveyor

The list of activities performed by a strong city surveyor will vary from city to city. However, I've put together a basic list of city surveyor activities below. The list is separated into two sections. The first is activities that should be directly supervised by the city surveyor. The second is a list of activities in which the city surveyor may only have a support or advisory role.

#### Activities Under the Direct Supervision of the City Surveyor

1. Manage city right-of-way and easements. (This includes maintaining land records, establishing locations, monitoring/ preventing encroachments, and overseeing dedications.)
2. Manages land title and boundary surveying of city owned parcels. (This includes maintaining land records, establishing locations, and monitoring/preventing encroachments.)
3. Prepares and/or reviews survey documents (legal descriptions and maps) for acquisitions and disposal of city property, right-of-way and easements.
4. Prepares and/or reviews survey documents (legal descriptions and maps) for agreements and other legal documents.
5. Manages selection and implementation of contract surveying services for the city.
6. Helps integrate accurate data into city GIS.
7. Manages the city wide horizontal and vertical control network.
8. Managing linear referencing (route stationing) and street address systems.
9. Provides a primary point-of-contact for private surveyors/engineers working in the city.
10. Provides information to the public regarding property boundary issues. Responds to citizen and business questions about property boundaries.
11. Designs and implement a system for monument preservation on both public and private projects within the city.
12. Prepares or reviews accurate administrative and regulatory boundaries (for example: annexation boundaries or land planning boundaries).
13. Supervise the land subdivision process and other aspects of land regulation within the city. (This includes lot-line-adjustments, parcel mergers, elevation certificates, LOMA/LOMR applications, pad certifications, and building set-back verifications.)

#### Support Activities Provided By the City

1. Provides land surveying services for capital improvement projects.
2. Advises the city on real estate transactions involving city parcels or public funds.
3. Provides property and/or right-of way acquisition services.
4. Helps shape development and land use policies and regulation.
5. Provides support for predevelopment projects (projects in the entitlement stage).
6. Provides advice on property related issues to other city departments. (For example: Is this sewer line in an easement? Which parcel is this document connected with?)

[Click for Complete Story \(Issue #184, Fall 2016\)](#)

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## Classifieds

### O'DELL ENGINEERING HAS SURVEYOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

O'Dell Engineering has several survey positions available in it's Modesto, Fresno, & Pleasanton Offices. If you are interested in joining our amazing team, please submit a completed application (<http://www.odellengineering.com/profile/employment/>) and your resume to [careers@odellengineering.com](mailto:careers@odellengineering.com). Candidates without a completed application and resume will not be considered.

### MID-VALLEY ENGINEERING LOOKING FOR SURVEYOR/L.S.I.T. TO FILL POSITIONS

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Duties Include: Setting up survey site control, looking for boundary markers, collection of topographic data, run precise levels, collect GPS observation data, and set new property corners/right of way points.

Ability to gather and organize survey research and records would be an asset. Knowledge of office software such as Adobe, Excel, and Word is desirable.

Experience requirement: 2 to 5 years surveying experience at rodman/instrumentman level and/or 2-year Surveying Certificate or BS degree in Surveying/Geomatics or related field is preferred.

Contact: Kristy Comerer, Cross Land Surveying, Inc. (408) 274-7994 for more information.

Please send resumes to: [xlsi@msn.com](mailto:xlsi@msn.com)

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The logo for VISTA INTERNATIONAL Insurance Brokers Ltd., LLC features the word "VISTA" in a large, bold, serif font at the top. To the right of "VISTA" is a small globe icon. Below "VISTA" is a large, stylized graphic of a checkmark or a large letter 'V' in a teal color. To the right of this graphic, the word "INTERNATIONAL" is written vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "Insurance Brokers Ltd., LLC" is written in a smaller, serif font.

# Just For Laughs

## Sudoku Monster

	E		B	F	6			A				7	3	
F		3				D	4					C		6
A				B				4				F	9	
	7	8			C	E	A	6		F	9			5
2			E	5		8		B		7	C		D	
						C		A						
	9		0			F		D	E		8	5	6	4
	1	D						0	F	6	5	3		
			9	2	D	A	F						3	C
E		B	D			4	8		5			F		6
						9			7					
		2		0	5		1		D			A		E
0				E	9		B	4	8	C			5	3
	D	C				0					3			B
6			4					9	1				0	8
1	F						5			0	B	9		4

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and 4x4 box contains 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, and F

## Picture of the Issue

Submitted by Mike Quartaroli

1" Rebar "Tagged" LS 2239 (Clement A. Plecarpo) set at the North-westerly end of the Northeasterly snipe at the intersection of Jack Tone Road and Copperopolis Road San Joaquin County, dated approximately April 1959.



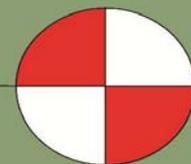
If you have a historic or interesting photo you would like to see in a future edition of The Prism, please submit to: [editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org](mailto:editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org)

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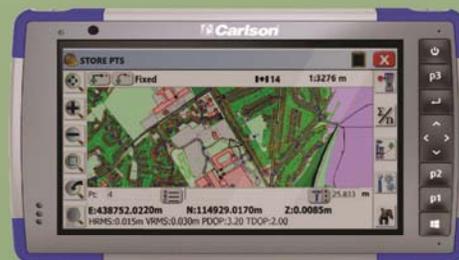
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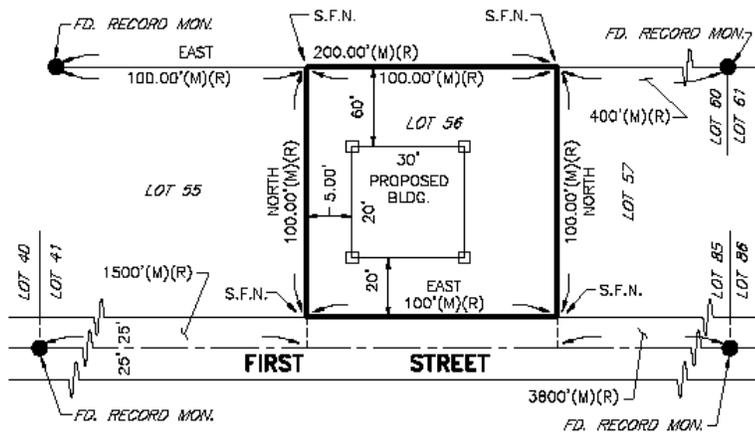
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# Monument Obituary

## A Land Surveying Dilemma

**PROPOSED NEW BUILDING  
LOT 56,  
RECORDED SUBDIVISION MAP  
ALL LOT CORNERS MONUMENTED IN 1988**

- SCOPE OF WORK: 1. STAKEOUT PROPOSED BUILDING  
2. STAKEOUT BLOCK WALL (LEFT, RIGHT SIDES & REAR)  
3. STAKEOUT CURB, GUTTER AND SIDEWALK (FIRST STREET)



- QUESTION: 1. HOW MANY LOT LINES ARE ESTABLISHED?  
2. CAN I STAKE ALL FOUR CORNERS OF PROPOSED BUILDING?  
3. DO I NEED TO SET SURVEY MONUMENTS AT LOT CORNERS? WHICH CORNERS?  
4. DO I NEED TO FILE ANYTHING WITH THE COUNTY SURVEYOR?

ALL CENTRAL VALLEY CLSA CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEND THEIR ANSWERS TO THE CHAPTER EDITOR:  
editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org  
BY: FEBRUARY 15, 2017

The Monument Obituaries is taking an issue off. Please enjoy this problem solving quiz

Donations of your time to the CLSA Central Valley Chapter Monument Conservation Committee is requested in memory of Southeast. There are many tasks with which you can help. Ask about the "Adopt a Monument" program. Make a lasting contribution to the land surveying profession.

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*Land Surveying Photo Gallery*



California Land Surveyors Association Education Foundation would like to thank Bryant Sturgess for generously donating his collection of historic images.

The proceeds from the photos sold on this website will be used to fund scholarships for land surveying students.

# Sponsors

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