



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

# Central Valley Chapter THE PRISM



**Date:** January 27, 2016

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

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

**Speaker:** Ian Wilson, CLSA President-Elect

**Topic:** State CLSA

**Date:** February 24, 2016

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

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

**Speaker:** Ian Wilson, PLS

**Topic:** New ALTA Standards

## Announcements

### 2016 CHAPTER OFFICERS

- President - Landon Blake
- Vice-President - Will Paul
- Secretary - Rich Brown
- Treasurer - Blake DeLuca
- Chapter Director - Keith Spencer
- Chapter Director - Kevin Genasci

### STATE DUES INCREASED FOR 2016

Board of Directors have approved a 10% increase to the Regular Corporate Dues starting in 2016. New State dues are as follows:

- Regular Member Grade - \$174.00
- Sustaining Member - \$348.00 (200% of Reg. Membership Grade)
- Associate Member - \$87.00 (50% of Reg. Membership Grade)
- Out-of-State Member - \$87.00 (50% of Reg. Membership Grade)
- Affiliate Member - \$87.00 (50% of Reg. Membership Grade)
- CE Member - \$174.00 (Same as Reg. Membership Grade)
- Student Member - \$17.40 (10% of Reg. Membership Grade)

### NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jeff Burgess from California Advocates, Inc., Association Management Services (CAMS) is our new Executive Director.

Direct all association business to:  
California Land Surveyors Association  
2520 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
(916) 239-4083 (office)  
(916) 924-7323 (fax)

### 2016 Chapter Officers

- President: Landon Blake
- Vice President: Will Paul
- Secretary: Rich Brown
- Treasurer: Blake DeLuca
- Chapter Director: Keith Spencer
- Chapter Director: Kevin Genasci
- Alt. Chapter Dir: Landon Blake
- Alt. Chapter Dir: Will Paul

### 2016 Chapter Committees

- By-Laws Committee:  
Keith Spencer (Chairman)
- 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:  
Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
- San Joaquin County Liaison Committee:  
Kevin Genasci (Chairman)
- Stanislaus County Liaison Committee:  
Rich Fultz (Chairman)
- Website:  
Keith Spencer (Web Master)

### 2016 Chapter Programs

- Adopt-A-Road:  
Rich Brown (Coordinator)
- 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)

Feb 1-3, 2016, Sacramento  
 Feb 16-18, 2016 Walnut Creek  
 Feb 29-2, 2016, Sacramento  
 Mar 9-11, 2016 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Feb 16-17, 2016, Sacramento  
 Mar 7-8, 2016 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

### CAD Masters - AutoCAD Level III

Mar 3, 2016 Sacramento

[Register here](#)

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

Feb 8-10, 2016, Walnut Creek  
 Feb 22-24, 2016, Sacramento  
 Mar 7-9, 2016, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Feb 18-19, 2016, Sacramento  
 Feb 22-23, 2016, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Mar 14-15, 2016, Sacramento

[Register here](#)

**Mark Your Calendars**

### 2016 Fresno State Geomatics Conference

Jan 29-30, 2016, Fresno

[Register here](#)

### CLSA Central Valley Chapter Presents:

2016 ALTA/NSPS Standards Workshop with Ian Wilson

Feb 25, 2016, Modesto

[Click here for more information or to register](#)

### CLSA 50th Annual Conference

Mar 19-22, 2016, Rohnert Park

[Click here for more information](#)

### Point of Beginning—Land Boundary Master Class

Feb 29-Apr 17, 2016, Online

[Click here for more information](#)

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

## President's Message



Welcome to the current edition of the Prism! In my first message as Chapter President I want to briefly consider two (2) important and linked topics. The first is why our local chapter of CLSA is so important. The second is my goals for the next two year term as Chapter President.

### Why Is The Local Chapter of CLSA Important?

I can't remember how I first got involved in our local chapter of CLSA. It may have been in response to an invitation after I passed my LSIT. When I first started to attend chapter meetings, I had no idea what CLSA was about. After more than a decade of involvement with CLSA, I now understand just how important our local chapters are. These reasons include:

- 1) Professional networking. (My relationships in CLSA have brought me new job opportunities, new employees, and new clients.)
- 2) A voice for our expertise as land surveyors. (This includes a voice, not just for protecting the interests of our profession, but using our expertise to improve the economic welfare of our local communities.)
- 3) The opportunity to leverage local know-how and community relationships to bring about real change. (A great example of this is the hard work of Mike Quartarolli to improve the monument preservation practices of government agencies and utility service providers in our region.)

I certainly underestimated the value the local CLSA chapter would provide to me when I first started attending our chapter meetings.

### Goals for the Next Two (2) Years

My goals for the next two (2) years as Chapter President are based on this understanding of the important role our local chapter plays. I have three primary goals for our local chapter:

- 1) Improve attendance at chapter meetings.
- 2) Recruit young surveyors into our chapter.
- 3) Revitalize work of our hibernating committees.

I'd like to talk more about each of these goals in my future messages included as part of the Prism.

Landon Blake, Chapter President

## National News

### New 2016 ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey Standards Adopted by Societies

By Gary Kent, PLS

Two years of concentrated effort by their respective committees culminated in the adoption of the new 2016 Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys by the American Land Title Association on October 8th and the National Society of Professional Surveyors on October 9th. The new standards will become effective on February 23rd of 2016.

The official adopted 2016 Standards can be found at [www.nsp.us.com](http://www.nsp.us.com) (along the right hand side of the page is a link to the Standards). Also included is a "red-lined" version of the 2011 Standards showing the deletions and additions that resulted in the 2016 version. The Standards can also be found at [www.alta.org/forms](http://www.alta.org/forms) (click on "Related Documents Effective 02-23016 - Preview").

Following is a brief overview of what most surveyors will likely see as the most significant changes.

#### General comments

Surveyors will note that the title of the standards has changed to "ALTA/NSPS" from "ALTA/ACSM" in order to acknowledge the merger of ACSM and NSPS. The committees also made wording consistent throughout the standards (with one exception) when referring to the surveyor's obligation to locate certain objects and features ("observed in the process of conducting the fieldwork").

#### Section 2--Request for Survey

The list of unusual properties or interests in real property that can be the subject of an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey has been expanded so that it clearly includes easements.

#### Section 4--Records Research

In recognition of the purpose of an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey, the surveyor

Continued on page 4

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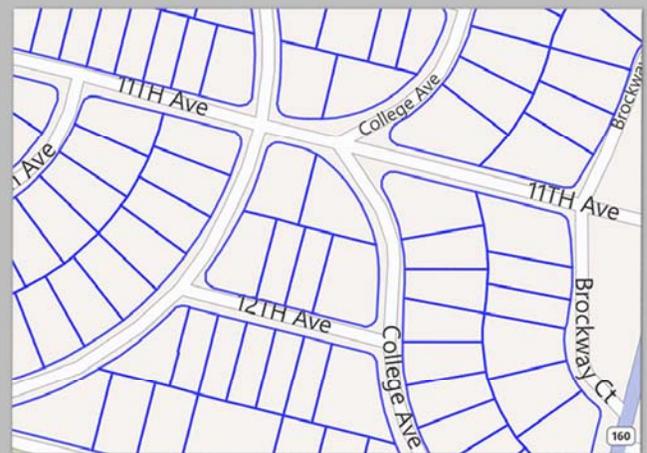


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## **New 2016 ALTA/NSPS...cont. from [page 3](#)**

must be provided with the most recent title commitment. However, if a title commitment is not made available, title evidence satisfactory to the title insurer, which might include an abstract of title, a title opinion, an old title policy or one of the various other types of products that title companies produce is acceptable.

Some of the documents referred to in the 2011 (and earlier) Standards as "Record Documents" were not actually documents recorded in the office of public record, thus the 2016 Standards have abandoned the term "Record Documents" throughout, in favor of merely referencing those documents that are "to be provided to the surveyor."

In several sections of the standards, what had previously been lists in paragraph form have been restructured into annotated lists for ease of reading. One example of this is in Section 4. This list of documents to be provided to the surveyor now includes "records established under state statutes for the purpose of imparting constructive notice of matters relating to real property (public records)" (e.g., deeds, copies of easements), and any unrecorded documents that affect the property and to which the client wishes the surveyor make reference.

The most important change to Section 4 is the last paragraph. All previous versions of the Standards--dating back to 1962, avoided outlining exactly who was responsible for obtaining other necessary documents. That stance likely had its origins in trying to adapt widely varying state standards and standards of practice to a national standard, but regardless of the reason, it was past time for the Standards to address the issue.

The 2016 Standards direct the surveyor to look to his or her jurisdictional standards (whether statutory (as they are in a few states), or administrative/regulatory (as they are in most states)) when either (a) the documents that were to be provided by virtue of Section 4 are not forthcoming, or (b) the surveyor needs other documents to complete the survey.

For those states that have no jurisdictional standards, like California and a few others, surveyors need to be familiar with the normal standard of care as referred to in Section 3.D. Given the variations across the country (and the fact that surveyors must comply with the laws and the normal standard of care in their areas), the committees felt this was the most logical and viable approach to this issue.

### **Section 5--Fieldwork**

The introductory sentences to Section 5 address precision when locating the various features in the field. This issue had also been ignored since 1962 and, again, it was past time to address it. The degree of precision pursuant to the 2016 Standards is to be based on the surveyor's professional judgment when taking into account "(a) the planned use of the property, if reported in writing to the surveyor by the client, lender, or insurer, or (b) the existing use, if the planned use is not so reported..."

A number of fairly minor but important modifications were made to Section 5; however, one major change is in subsection 5.E.iv. Essentially, what used to be Table A Item 11(a) has now been made a required part of an ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey.

This will eliminate the conundrum caused by the dynamic between former Table A item 11(a) (evidence of utilities) and Sections 5.E.i. and ii. (observed evidence of easements) in the 2011 Standards. If Table A item 11a (or 11b) was not checked, the surveyor did not need to locate any observed evidence of utilities. However, if that utility evidence fell within an easement for which documentation was provided, or if that utility evidence represented the possibility of a prescriptive easement, the evidence did need to be located. Thus, there was confusion over whether or not utility evidence needed to be located; and if the wrong decision was made in that regard, there could be a very serious problem for the surveyor. (Readers who have attended one of this writer's ALTA/ACSM programs have heard mention of a million dollar lawsuit against a surveyor revolving around this very issue.)

### **Section 6--Plat or Map**

Section 6 now addresses the issue of dimensioning--leaving it to the judgment of the surveyor based on the planned use of the property as reported (or not).

When the surveyor decides it is appropriate to prepare a new description based on the results of his or her survey, Section 6.B.ii. now requires a note explaining how the new description relates to the record description (i.e., if it describes the same property and, if not, how it differs).

Subsection 5.E.ii. requires a summary of the plottable easements and servitudes listed in Schedule B2 of the title commitment, and a statement as to whether or not each item is shown. This will help eliminate unnecessary calls to surveyors from reviewers of the survey who have trouble interpreting or finding certain items.

[Click for Complete Story](#)

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## State News

### Bring the Scout to the Scullery!

#### Toward a CLSA Recipe for a Successful Scouting Merit Badge Event

By Stephen Hughey, PLS, PhD

Some of the earliest records from Mesopotamia, the very birthplace of writing and record making, have to do with beer recipes ([http://cdli.ucla.edu/pubs/cdlj/2012/cdlj2012\\_002.html](http://cdli.ucla.edu/pubs/cdlj/2012/cdlj2012_002.html)). So what does that have to do with CLSA's Scouting Merit Badge program, you ask? Think about it! The human race learned early on that you may get lucky and brew a single good batch of beer, but if you want to replicate, improve on it and even export that success, planning based on a few notes from past successes is absolutely indispensable. Subconsciously thinking along these lines for the article John Wilusz asked me to submit for the Cal Surveyor, and not having the good judgment to avoid mixing themes of brewing and Scouting, I called up Jim Dickey, Eagle Scout, P.L.S. and past chair of the CLSA Boy Scout Surveying Merit Badge Committee, and asked him to share his basic recipe. I want to thank him for taking time out of the grueling work schedule he is currently under to not only answer all my questions, but also to read through this article and make sure I got most of it right. Two CLSA chapters are already using the draft of this article to plan their events, and will hopefully help me elicit feedback in a sort of after action report. I will continually pull together whatever I see or hear by way of "tweaks" to make available for other chapters through links on the CLSA web pages (<http://www.californiasurveyors.org/meritbadge.html>).

Studying the official Surveying Merit Badge Pamphlet is a must for even the most qualified instructor, and at \$5 each they may be distributed at cost in an advance visit to the Scout Troop. Jim uses the advance visit as an opportunity to show the CLSA "Choose Your Path" video, and mixes in enough back and forth afterward so that by the time he leaves the prospective participants have already accomplished requirements #1 and #6-8. The eight requirements for the badge may be Googled from various sites and published articles with much helpful advice. The following list is from Meritbadge.org:

Continued on page 8

# Carlson for Surveyors

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# Education

## Mentorship & Continuing Education

Written by John “Steve” Parrish, PLS

*I have been mentored (past). I am a mentor (present). I still need mentoring (future). Continuing education is a life long endeavor.*

Every accomplished land surveyor has gained their knowledge and skills from a variety of mentors and continuing education opportunities. Mentorship and continuing education are intertwined throughout any technical vocation and are indispensable processes that stretch from our earliest learning experiences to our final departure from this earthly life.

**“Mentor: Someone whose hindsight can become your foresight.”** – Anonymous.

My survey career began with the U. S. Forest Service in June of 1963 as a survey aid. My supervisor was a cartographic technician skilled in the use of aerial photography to find PLSS corners. He spent two weeks showing me how to view aerial photos stereoscopically and navigate my way to pre-plotted search areas. Within the subject search area we were supposed to find a thing called a government survey corner. He taught me how to read government survey notes and introduced me to marked stones, scribed posts and bearing trees – along with a number of failed search attempts. He was my first survey mentor. At the end of the two weeks he assigned me to teach two other survey aids the same thing – on my own, in the field, without his oversight. I was then the mentor – and didn’t really know anything about what I was doing. It has all been uphill since then – and I am still climbing that hill.

The second mentor in my surveying career was Lawrence (Larry) J. Young, a skilled surveyor from Arkansas, who was in charge of the U. S. Forest Service land surveying program in Nevada and western Wyoming in the 1960s. I worked for the Bridger National Forest (Wyoming) during the summers and was having a difficult time finding a wood post corner on a Homestead Entry Survey in Star Valley, Wyoming. I contacted Larry for some advice and he joined me in the field and taught me more in one day than I could have learned on my own in many months – or possibly years. The details would take several paragraphs and will be saved for another time.

As I reflect back on 51 years of exposure to our land surveying profession I could fill a few pages full of the names of mentors and I am grateful for them all. Many have passed away in recent years but I still have a full list of colleagues that I call on for advice and opinion on a regular basis. Mentoring is a two-way exchange of knowledge and skills between persons with common interests and goals. It is often difficult to separate the mentor from the mentee.

At a recent Lahontan Chapter meeting I posed four questions:

*Have I benefitted from mentors in my life?* Without a doubt! They were responsible for my initial interest in land surveying. A civil engineer mentored me in my decision to study for the survey exam. Numerous surveyors guided me through office and field survey procedures. Several attorneys coached me as an expert witness. Countless colleagues have shared their time and advice upon my request.

*Have I been a mentor to others in my life?* I believe so and plan to continue. The frequent inquiries I get about survey related issues confirm that I have been, and continue to be, a mentor in our profession. I firmly believe that all land surveyors are mentors, to varying degrees, either by silent example (observed by others) or active participation in teaching opportunities.

*How can I contribute as a mentor?* Adopt the attitude of “Pay It Forward” and look for opportunities to share what you have been taught. There aren’t many things that we learn totally on our own. Actively share what you have generously been taught.

*Do I still need a mentor?* Absolutely! With almost every project I get involved with, I seek confirmation of my findings, proposals and advice from colleagues I know that have expertise in the subject matter. When we close the door to seeking advice we open a wider door to liability and under informed conclusions.

Mentoring has many forms – direct contact with mentee, by example, by writing articles, by formal teaching and by pro-active participation in our profession.

**“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”** – Sir Winston Churchill.

Continuing education comes in many forms - from higher academic endeavors to reading related subject matter. Mentorship is certainly part of the continuing education process. Continuing education has had its share of pros and cons in our profession but recent data reveals that 45 states require some form of continuing education to maintain licensure.

**Continued on page 11**

# Picture of the Issue

ACED (Architecture, Construction, Engineering + Design) Festival  
October 2, 2015



Submitted by Zachary Wong  
Wong Engineers, Inc.

150 high school students were involved with the survey portion of the festival. Pictures were taken on Weber Avenue, Stockton



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)

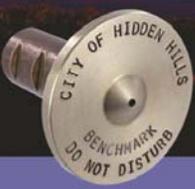
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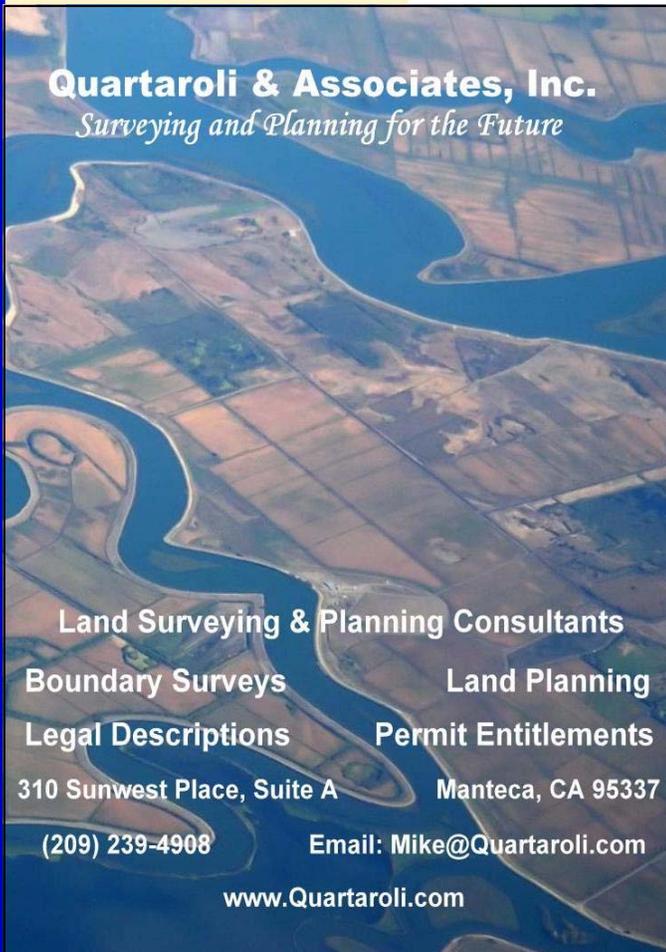
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## Bring the Scout to the Scullery...cont. from [page 5](#)

### Surveying merit badge requirements

1. Show that you know first aid for the types of injuries that could occur while surveying, including cuts, scratches, snakebite, insect stings, tick bites, heat and cold reactions, and dehydration. Explain to your counselor why a surveyor should be able to identify the poisonous plants and poisonous animals that are found in your area.
2. Find and mark the corners of a five-sided lot that has been laid out by your counselor to fit the land available. Set an instrument over each of the corners and record the angle turned between each line and the distance measured between each corner, as directed by your counselor. With the assistance of the counselor, compute the error of closure from the recorded notes. The error of closure must not be more than 5 feet. From the corners, take compass readings or turn angles to trees, shrubs, and rocks and measure to them. All measurements should be made using instruments, methods, and accuracies consistent with current technology.
3. From the field notes gathered for requirement 2, draw to scale a map of your survey. Submit a neatly drawn copy.
4. Write a metes and bounds description for the five-sided lot in requirement 2.
5. Use one of the corner markers from requirement 2 as a benchmark with an assumed elevation of 100 feet. Using a level and rod, determine the elevation of the other four corner markers.
6. Get a copy of the deed to your property, or a piece of property assigned by your counselor, from the local courthouse or title agency.
7. Tell what GPS is; discuss with your counselor the importance of GPS and how it is changing the field of surveying.
8. Discuss the importance of surveying with a licensed surveyor. Also discuss the various types of surveying and mapping, and applications of surveying technology to other fields. Discuss career opportunities in surveying and related fields. Discuss qualifications and preparation for such a career.



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If I may continue my recipe analogy, Jim's first advice had to do with "filtering" the "ingredients" with respect to maturity. He has found that Scouts younger than 14 have trouble with the tripods and are typically more interested in climbing trees than accomplishing the requirements. Jim also pointed out that the older scouts generally have more experience with land navigation skills and orienteering which are closely related to the new skills they will learn. I think it is a good idea to plan to arrive early at the advance meeting to set up some robotic equipment or a scanner for a "wow" factor. My contacts with both private and public surveying professionals indicate a willingness to make even the most expensive equipment available for this excellent recruiting opportunity. The only danger I can think of is adding too much so that the actual requirements are not accomplished. I am also a counselor for both the Astronomy and Fishing Merit Badges, and I can tell you that what is not accomplished at the event itself will almost certainly never be finished. Keep the focus on the requirements!

Jim's recipe calls for accomplishing requirements #2-5 at a single day-long event. Those of us who have been responsible for two dozen engineering students taking an Introduction to Surveying lab know the drill: any more than four students to a group means someone will be left out of actually engaging and learning very much if anything at all.

[Click for Complete Story](#)

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If you would like to get involved with the next Scouting Merit Badge Midway contact Zachary Wong at [wongenginc@aol.com](mailto:wongenginc@aol.com)

## Classifieds

### SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT (SMUD) HIRING FOR LAND SURVEYOR

Ideal candidate will have 7+ years' survey experience and Professional Registration with the State of California. Thorough understanding of the Professional Land Surveyor's Act, survey practices and procedures, legal descriptions, and Subdivision Map Act. Deadline to apply: March 16, 2016

For more information or to Apply [CLICK HERE](#)

### LAND & STRUCTURE HIRING FOR FIELD/OFFICE POSITION

Land & Structure is a surveying, engineering and design firm based in the Sierra Nevada foothill community of Sonora. We are seeking a California Licensed / certified PLS or LSIT for a full time position.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

### WELTY ENGINEERING HIRING FOR LAND SURVEYOR

Welty Engineering, Inc. is seeking a seasoned Land Surveyor who is proficient in all aspects of field surveying and able to assist in survey project management responsibilities. Position requires 5+ years of field surveying experience & possession of current California driver's license. L.S.I.T. or P.L.S. not required, but definitely a plus. For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

### O'DELL ENGINEERING HIRING FOR MULTIPLE SURVEYING POSITIONS

O'Dell Engineering is looking for several positions at the Modesto and Pleasanton Offices. Positions include but not limited to:

Survey Technician  
Field Surveyor (Party Chief)  
Field Surveyor (Chainman)  
Project Surveyor

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

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

# THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT

## A One-Day Seminar

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

- New Legislative and Judicial developments in 2014
- When the Map Act applies (and when not)
- What kind of Map (tentative/final or parcel map) to use
- Exemptions and Exceptions under the Map Act
- Life of Tentative Map
- Conditions of Approval/Exactions/Dedications/Fees
- Creative mapping approaches
- And more...



# Monument Obituary

By Mike Quartaroli, L.S.

**Locally know as “CM”**

**Life: 1954-?**

**Found: 2012**

Concrete Monument at Station 130+00 East, locally known as “CM”, was set in 1954 by the California Division of Highways with the widening of State Highway Route No. 99. CM was set during an era when 1,000-foot stations were routinely monumented with 6”x6”x4’ concrete monuments with a brass stud in the center. CM’s purpose in life was to forever mark the Easterly right-of-way of the East Frontage Road. CM was located 3,700 feet south of Arch Road on the east side of Highway 99, just south of Stockton. Sometime between 1954 and 1965, perhaps on a gloomy rainy winter night, CM was victim of a catastrophic blunt force trauma crime perpetrated by person(s) unknown. In 1965 Chas. H. Widdows (LS 896 but better known as RE 1014) worked on several surveys for the Stockton Airport expansion and does not document finding CM. CM had a short 11 year life.

The crime went unreported for decades. In 2012 a highway improvement project initiated a survey monument conservation effort in compliance with Sec. 8771. But the history records showing that CM existing were overlooked and CM continued to be forgotten. Local knowledge and experience were not investigated. After 61 years of obscurity, a specially trained forensic survey monument search team was brought in at the request of an elderly nearby landowner that remembered playing with CM as a child. The elderly landowner wanted to know the fate of his long ago friend before he passed away and to provide closure to the land surveying community. The forensic team had knowledge of the history of Highway Route 99 and the monumenting practices of each highway expansion.

On a pleasant fall day, after a couple of hours of researching the Highway records together with a couple of hours of field investigation, the skeletal remains of CM were found 22” deep in an agricultural field. The positive identification of CM was made by an obscure local land surveyor known as “LS 4450”. The destruction of CM was so severe that a positive location of CM could not be made. CM’s remains were left in place out of respect to the other monuments. CM’s death notice was posted on R.S. 38-147, San Joaquin County Records.

Donation of your time to the CLSA Valley Chapter Monument Conservation Committee is requested in memory of CM. There are many tasks that you could help with. Also, ask about the “Adopt a Monument” program. Make a lasting difference to the surveying profession.



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California Land Surveyors Association  
**Education Foundation**  
Or another Charity of your choice.

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## Mentorship... cont. from page 6

(Note: A map showing the status of continuing education in the U.S. with links to CE requirements, by state, can be found at - <http://www.californiasurveyors.org/profdev.html>)

I have never questioned the need for continuing education. It is an essential part of any learned profession. I recall a quote from an adult friend of our family when I was about 16 years old – *“There is no standing still in life. You are either falling behind, or moving ahead.”* We have an endless source of continuing education materials and opportunities and owe it to our clients to keep up to date with the advancements, changes and challenges in our profession.

You may think that you know every thing there is to know about the work you do, feel you don't have time to read published articles within our profession or are unwilling to spend the time and money on college classes, formal workshops or survey conferences. Consider what it would cost you, in time and money, to defend yourself from a law suit generated from your lack of information about a property boundary you just defined on the ground (and on paper) that contained a major error costing your client thousands of dollars. You might have dodged this error by keeping up on related court decisions, having done more extensive deed research and/or consulting with colleagues having more experience with the subject project.

***“It's what you learn after you know it all that counts.”*** – Kin Hubbard (1913) and frequently quoted by President Harry Truman and John Wooden.

I have dealt with several land surveyors who have had limited training but successfully passed the survey exam. They have felt emboldened with their newly acquired license and started their own private land surveying practice. They were too busy to seek additional training, seldom contacted the more experienced surveyors in their community and frequently “low bid” survey jobs to get new business. These actions often led to disaster, affecting the profession as a whole and creating doubt in the minds of the public.

*Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location* (First edition by Brown & Eldridge) was one of several classic survey textbooks that I studied in preparation for my first land survey exam in Utah in early 1973. This text remains as one of my favorites and I have referred to it on many occasions for general advice and support in preparation as an expert witness. I direct your attention to *Chapter 17 Professional Stature* wherein Section 17-3 (page 457) states the following Principle: *“Professional stature cannot be attained by self-proclamation; it must be earned, and others must bestow the title on the profession.”*

I will conclude with a few comments of concern about our land surveying profession:

We used to have crews of two to four persons where members of the crew could learn from the crew chief. We now have a crew of one where the learning opportunity has been greatly diminished. This requires more personal incentive to seek mentorship and participate in continuing education efforts.

I believe that we wasted a lot of time, and lost progress as a profession, during the years that we resisted the GIS/LIS evolution. We should have embraced the emerging technology and adopted it as an additional niche in our bag of tools. When “land surveying” became more commonly referred to as “geomatics,” we should have recognized the changing perception of land surveyors that has steadily emerged.

We have traditionally been described as “measurers of land” and few outside of our profession really understand what we do “behind the scenes” to research, investigate, analyze and document a typical survey project. Anybody can purchase a GPS device that will provide measurements and there appears to be chatter about allowing non surveyor licensed disciplines to measure “properties”. How long might it be before State Boards and the Courts consider the same question? I recommend reading the POB article by Jeffery Lucas – *Why Should Land Surveying Remain Regulated* – October 2014 edition, pages 38-40.



CLSA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*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.

## Just For Laughs

My job as a land surveyor took me to a golf course that was expanding from 9 holes to 18 holes.

Using a machete to clear thick brush in an area I was mapping, I came upon a golf club that an irate player must have tossed away. It was in good condition, so I picked it up and continued on.

When I broke out of the brush onto a putting green, two golfers stared at me in awe. I had a machete in one hand, a golf club in the other, and behind me was a clear-cut swath leading out of the woods.

"There," said one of the golfers, "is a guy who hates to lose his ball!"

A man is flying in a hot air balloon and realizes he is lost. He reduces height and spots a man down below. He lowers the balloon further and shouts: "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised my friend I would meet him half an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

The man below says: "Yes you're in a hot air balloon, hovering 30 feet above this field between 40 & 41 degrees latitude and 120 and 124 degrees West longitude."

"You must be a Land Surveyor," says the balloonist.

"I am" replies the man. "How did you know?"

"Well" says the balloonist, "everything you have told me is technically correct, but it's of absolutely no use to me and I still don't know where I am."

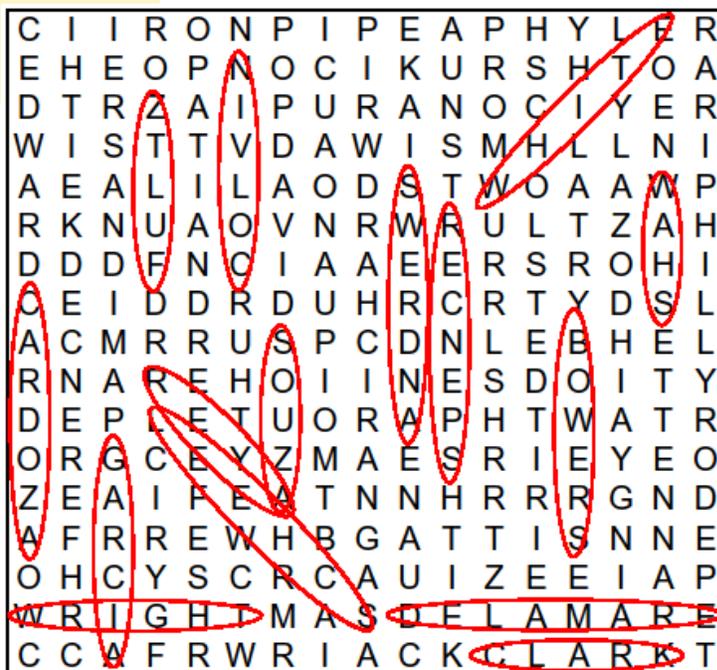
The man below says, "You must be a contractor."

"Well yes" replies the balloonist, "but how did you know?"

"Well", says the man, "You don't know where you are or where you're going. You've made a promise that you can't keep, but now you expect me to solve your problem. You're in the same position as you were before we met, but now it's my fault."

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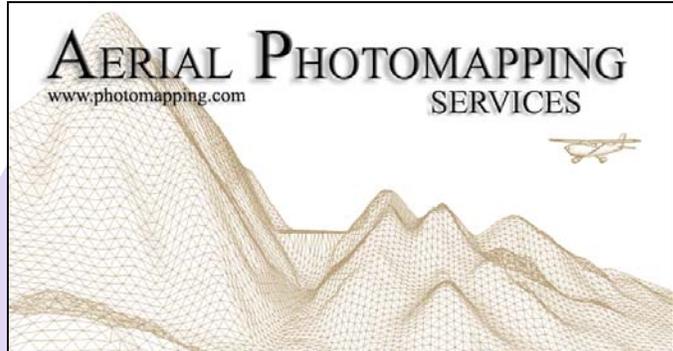
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