



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

Central Valley Chapter THE PRISM



All Chapter meetings are
 "To be Determined at this time."
 Below is a list of scheduled dates:
 September 23, 2020
 October 28, 2020
 December 2, 2020

Please see the Chapter website at
<https://californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org/printing-press>
 for more information.

- 2020 Chapter Officers**
 President: Will Paul
 Vice President: Landon Blake
 Secretary: Mike Dorsey
 Treasurer: Rich James
 Chapter Director: Tristan Higgins
 Chapter Director: Landon Blake
 Alt. Chapter Dir: Will Paul
 Alt. Chapter Dir: Rich James
- 2020 Chapter Committees**
 By-Laws Committee:
 Open (Chairman)
 Education Committee:
 Open (Chairman)
 Membership Committee:
 Rich Brown (Chairman)
 Monument Pres Committee:
 Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
 Newsletter:
 Rich Brown (Editor)
 Professional Practices Committee:
 Mike Quartaroli (Chairman)
 Website:
 Landon Blake (Web Master)
- 2020 Chapter Programs**
 Public Outreach Committee:
 Zachary Wong (Coordinator)
 Workshops:
 Rich Brown (Coordinator)

Announcements

CHAPTER HAS NEW WEBSITE

The Central Valley Chapter has new website and Mail List. Go to <https://californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org/printing-press/> to check out the new site and sign up for the new mail list.

SURVEY EXAM SCHEDULE

FS (LSIT) - Computer based, offered year round
 PS (NCEES LS) - Computer based, offered year round
 CA LS - **ANNOUNCED APRIL 3, 2020** - As a result of the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19, and in a continuing effort to protect the public health and well-being, the California State Professional Land Surveyor examination scheduled to be administered at Prometric test centers on April 16, 2020, has been cancelled. All fees for eligible examination candidates will be automatically forwarded to the next scheduled administration of the examination on October 27, 2020. Prometric will contact eligible examination candidates in the next several weeks to reschedule the examination. If you are unable to attend the October 27, 2020 examination, please contact the Board's Licensing Manager, Candace Cummins, at Candace.Cummins@dca.ca.gov or (916) 263-2254 for further assistance.

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If you have news or an event that you would like to announce, send it to: editor@californiacentralvalleysurveyors.org

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Classes, Training, and Continuing Education

Mark Your Calendars

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

Sept 21-23, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Oct 5-7, 2020 Sacramento
 Oct 19-21, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Nov 2-4, 2020 Sacramento
 Nov 16-18, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Nov 30-2, 2020 Sacramento
 Dec 14-16, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Dec 28-30, 2020 Sacramento

[Register here](#)

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

Sept 28-29, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Oct 19-20, 2020 Sacramento
 Nov 9-10, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Dec 3-4, 2020 Sacramento
 Dec 14-15, 2020 Sacramento
 Dec 21-22, 2020 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Sept 24, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Nov 12, 2020 Sacramento
 Dec 23, 2020 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

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

Oct 21-22, 2020 Sacramento
 Nov 30-1, 2020 Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Introduction (3-Day Course)

Sept 28-30, 2020, Sacramento
 Oct 12-14, 2020, Walnut Creek
 Oct 26-28, 2020, Sacramento
 Nov 9-11, 2020, Walnut Creek
 Nov 23-25, 2020, Sacramento
 Dec 7-9, 2020, Walnut Creek

[Register here](#)

CAD Masters - Civil 3D Advanced (2-Day Course)

Nov 2-3, 2020 Walnut Creek
 Dec 14-15, 2020 Sacramento

[Register here](#)

Lorman Training - Subdivision Map Act in California

On Demand, Webinar

[Register here](#)

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

Message from the Editor



As I sit at my desk wrapping things up for the day, I start to think about all that has happened this year. Can you believe that this year is almost 3/4 over? What have we accomplished as a profession? Several factors need to be taken into account as we think about this.

First we have "COVID-19". No new Licenses were issued due to the cancellation of the State Exam in April. I know of several individuals that are not working due to age, health, or position cutbacks. Will those positions be brought back, or are they gone for good? Many people are working from home, so does this eliminate the need to live close to work, or are businesses opening up "Satalite Offices"?

Now, what about Wildfires? Over 3.6 million acres have burned from over 8,000 wildfires this year. 5 of the top 20 largest fires in State history, 26 fatalities, and over 6,500 structures have destroyed. But, after the devastation is over and the rebuilding begins, there will be work that only our Profession can do, LOTS OF WORK!!!!

So, I guess what I deduce from this is that you can always find bad, but if you look, you can also find good. Take this time to enjoy what really matters. Spend time with your loved ones, Do something fun, learn a hobby. Make your life complete with whatever is missing. Take care of yourselves and be careful.

Rich Brown

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

Monument Obituaries

By Mike Quartaroli, PLS



CLSA CENTRAL VALLEY CHAPTER Survey Monument Conservation Committee Roberts Road and Mathews Road San Joaquin County, April 3, 2020



On the left is NGS “R-474”, PID No. HS0308. I recently successfully found this benchmark with numerous battle scars but intact and solid. This is a testament to the “Greatest Generation” of Land Surveyors. The last time I used this benchmark was on August 13, 1999. On the right is NGS Control Monument “Matthew”, PID HS0118. “Matthew” as set in 1959 and is a popular monument to tie into. “Matthew” is finding itself in the middle of a construction zone. Is there a corner record filed?

Ask about the “Adopt A Monument” program. Make a lasting contribution to the Land Surveying Profession.

Paid for by the Survey Monument Conservation Committee

State News

Things are Moving Fast

By Keith W. Spencer, CLSA 2020 President

I must admit that this is not my first attempt at this column. I have scrapped the first several versions as being out of date and/ or irrelevant before I reach the end of my message. I had expected to be writing about the Las Vegas conference and spending time with all of you. That did not happen. But, we are putting together a new conference for you scheduled for Aug 21-25, 2020. This is obviously a dynamic and unpredictable process with ever changing variables. We have two excellent management companies working together to pull this off. I have worked with both Executive Directors – several years with each of them respectively. I have complete confidence in their abilities and am confident they will come through with the best possible outcome for us. And, the Joint Conference Committee is made up of experienced and knowledgeable representatives from each state. We are in good hands.

A few weeks ago, I was among the first to be directed by the Governor to self-quarantine, having met at least three of the quarantine triggers (but after two, why keep track). With that, it took a very short time for my employer to approve telecommuting and I have since been kept very busy. Among my duties are providing training for our not yet licensed staff. In my search for training materials to recommend to my staff, I discovered once again the benefits of the California Land Surveyors Association online resources. If you or your co-workers find yourself looking for resources during slow times, remember that CLSA has an archive of webinars available in the members-only portion of our website. Also for those looking for study materials for the FS, PS and state-specific exams, we have copies of many years of past exams and our exam guide. While these were from before the current computer-based exams, they do still provide a place to find references and excellent study materials. Now would also be a good time to join our voluntary professional development program and update your training record.

For our Chapters, social distancing does not mean we should be cancelling our meetings. Instead, use the available programs like Cisco WebEx, GoToMeeting, TeamViewer, Skype, Zoom and many others. The Board of Directors has already successfully transitioned to two virtual meetings annually. Follow our lead, use this opportunity to involve a different audience. Experiment with different time slots, bring in the speakers that you could not ordinarily invite to a live meeting. There are many advantages to including virtual meetings as part of your chapter activities. Use this time as an opportunity to work the bugs out. You might find that this will expand your audience.

Above all, Safety First! You have seen these many times. Take care of yourself and protect those you contact.

- ◆ Stay home if you can and avoid any non-essential travel.
- ◆ Avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people.
- ◆ Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet away from others.
- ◆ Stay connected with loved ones through video and phone calls, texts and social media.
- ◆ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect surfaces daily and high-touch surfaces frequently throughout the day. High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets and bedside tables.
- ◆ Cover your coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth, throw used tissues in a lined trash can. If a tissue isn't available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- ◆ Cover your face with a mask when in public. Even a cloth bandana helps protect others.
- ◆ Wash your hands.
- ◆ Wash your hands.
- ◆ Wash your hands.

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Classifieds

PARTY CHIEF IN CITY OF OAKLAND

The City of Oakland has an open position for a Party Chief. The City of Oakland is currently recruiting to fill a Chief of Party vacancy within the Oakland Department of Transportation. The ideal candidate will be an experienced, forward thinking, technological Land Surveyor Intern or Professional Land Surveyor with a strong understanding of mapping review, construction layouts, and how to create necessary supportive AutoCAD drawings.

For more information and to apply go to:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/oaklandca/jobs/2838300/chief-of-party?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Position closes October 4, 2020

SURVEY POSITIONS AVAILABLE IN MODESTO

O'Dell Engineering has several Survey positions available in their Modesto office. For more information go to

<https://odellengineering.com/profile/employment/>

TRANSPORTATION SURVEYOR - (CALTRANS) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Department of Transportation (San Joaquin County), is currently recruiting for a Transportation Surveyor position (\$5,406.00-\$10,377.00 per month). Some of the duties include, but are not limited to: Analyzes field survey data, prepares Survey Requests and compiles supporting information for field surveys. Produces maps and documents, including legal descriptions, acquisition deeds, appraisal maps

San Joaquin County - Final filing Date: 10/13/2020

For further information, refer to the duty statement in the CalCareer link below.

<https://jobs.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=217193>

PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

Benchmark Engineering, Inc. has an opening for a Professional Land Surveyor. This position will supervise the preparation of boundaries, maps, legal descriptions, A.L.T.A.'s, construction staking, field set-up, and other survey related efforts. Performs project management; project quality control; and develops/promotes business relationships. Includes working with and overseeing survey technicians and field crews. Capable of strong organizational skills.

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Send Resume to: Michelle Cooper mcooper@bmeng.net

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Know of an available job. Please submit the position information to:

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National News

Ever Come Across a U.S.S.C. Stamped Cap?

By Bryant Ralston, PS



It is part of a Surveyor's field work to locate government monuments. An infrequently found monument is stamped "U. S. Supreme Court". These rare marks are set along state lines at the direction of the Supreme Court after settling interstate boundary disputes.

When one looks through U. S. Supreme Court cases over two centuries there are many interstate disputes. The Constitution directs the Supreme Court to original jurisdiction resolving interstate disputes. Such disputes can cover many topics and the locations of boundary lines between the states being frequent.

As soon as New Mexico became a state it sued Texas¹ over the location of its southern and eastern boundary lines. A United States Supreme Court (USSC) Boundary Commission was tasked to mark the Court determined New Mexico/Texas boundary line in accordance with the Court determination. Another USSC Boundary Commission was assigned to mark part of the line between Oklahoma and Texas² as discussed last year in American Surveyor magazine article by Nedra Foster, 'The Red River Flows On'. Vermont and New Hampshire³ after almost two hundred years of simmering dispute ended up at the Supreme Court in the early 1930's. In these cases, after the Court reached its decision it appointed a Special Master to oversee the setting of boundary line monuments along boundary lines adjudged to be correct. Caps stamped "U. S. Supreme Court" or two state boundary commission are the result of this process.



Over the years some of these caps have become part of the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) database as stations. Recently, assisted by Scott Lokken, Mid-Atlantic Regional Geodetic Advisor, a database search for monuments stamped USSC was conducted for the states mentioned above. His searches disclosed 47 PIDs. Then photos for these PIDs (NGS Permanent Identifiers) were downloaded from DSWorld.com application. There probably are many more USSC monuments to be identified but the search method is restricted to individual states. Because the Court sometimes would direct a joint state Boundary Commission to participate in overseeing the setting of directed monuments, the monuments are recorded as such as the "New Mexico/Texas Boundary Commission" even though they were set at the direction of the Supreme Court. Not all USSC monuments have been recorded as PIDs. However, where there is one along a state boundary there probably are more.



It is sobering to encounter a USSC cap in the field do to its rarity and significance. Your help is requested to identify more. Tell us cap locations. Photographs formatted to NGS standards would also help; the face close-up, the mark from eye-level, then a photo at a distance with a heading in the photo name.

A University Librarian in Pennsylvania has agreed to update and maintain a master list of USSC monuments in the format of the NGS datasheet database. Because the majority will be PIDs it will be in that format. Photographs will be uploaded to DSWorld if PIDs or stored in a separate PICTURES database.

¹ New Mexico v. Texas, 276 U.S. 558 (1928)

² Oklahoma v. Texas, 260 U.S. 606 (1923) and 'The Red River Flows On' by Nedra Foster, American Surveyor magazine, May 25, 2019.

³ Vermont v. New Hampshire, 289 U.S. 593 (1933)

Special thanks to New Mexico Civil Engineer/Land Surveyor, Ira L. Harding, whose discussions and article in Rhonda L. Rushing's 2006 book "Lasting Impressions" page 79 guided me to the USSC topic.

Sidebar:

Have you ever come across a USSC cap?

Please report any USSC monuments you have found to USSC.caps@gmail.com. Also upload your JPG photos to DSWorld.com for permanent storage. It is intended to share the list developed in a later issue of this magazine along with the photos of these unusual boundary line monuments found around the United States.

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