

OZARK CHAPTER MSPS NEWSLETTER

April, 2008

OZARK CHAPTER, MSPS ANNUAL SURVEYOR RECOGNITION

*Peter W. Stevens, PLS
MAI*

At the April meeting of the Ozark Chapter, a discussion was held concerning the establishment of an Ozark Chapter "Excellence in Surveying Award". Various aspects of the award were discussed in response to an article I wrote for last month's newsletter. The following is intended to present the conclusions of the discussion for presentation as a motion at the May meeting.

The name of the award will be:

**Ozark Chapter - Missouri Society
of Professional Land Surveyors
Excellence in Surveying Award"**

The intent of the award is to recognize a member of the Chapter who has demonstrated a dedication to the profession through a donation of time and effort to the betterment of the practice of Land Surveying in the Ozarks.

The opportunity to present the award is to be made available once each year at the Chapter's annual Christmas dinner. However, there will be no obligation to present an award each year.

The selection process will begin with a call for nominations from the general membership. Nominations should be accompanied by a statement of why the individual is deserving of the award. Factors to be considered can include:

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USING GIS RECEIVERS IN A SURVEYING ENVIRONMENT OR WHY RAVING LUNATICS SMELL BAD.

Jack Dill, PLS

City of Springfield

You can't have too much GPS equipment. Having too much GPS is like having too much love or too many rainbows or too much luck or too much happiness or too many Christmas presents or too much deodorant soap. One of my favorite GPS receivers is the Trimble Pro XR/XRS, a GIS unit. I began to appreciate GIS level receivers when I started teaching GPS for Surveying and Navigation at MSU a few years ago. I think most surveyors have a low opinion of GIS grade GPS equipment but I love the stuff. Most of the time, GIS receivers are associated with urban surveying, and well, GIS. GIS receivers use some form of differential correction involving the Coarse Acquisition (C/A) code only. There are a few receivers out there that attempt to use the carrier wave(s) (Trimble Geo XH) but I've found them to be inconsistent in tree cover and urban canyons (just tall buildings but urban canyons sounds cooler). All receivers have trouble in tree cover but I've found that Coast Guard beacon receivers usually give me positions that are either pretty good or so wrong that the bad position is obvious.

Many surveyors have decided to embrace GIS as a "new" enterprise within their established business. As an example, take a look at Midland's GIS website (<http://www.midlandgis.com>). They have recently completed a GIS for Dallas County and, according to the website, the City of Republic. They started as a surveying and engineering enterprise that has expanded/divided into GIS and seem to be very successful. I know their work looks much better than most that I've seen, probably due to surveyors working on it. I think it's a good thing to learn about collecting points (features) and attributes (information about the features) to be used in a GIS. A GIS is a lot like an inventory of a variety of things. GPS allows a person to get an XYZ on the things in the inventory, at least accurate enough to find the things on an aerial photograph or on the ground. It's not intended to be at a surveyor's usual level of accuracy.

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get an XYZ on the things in the inventory, at least accurate enough to find the things on an aerial photograph or on the ground. It's not intended to be at a surveyor's usual level of accuracy.

Even though GIS units are typically used for GIS work, they can be a very valuable asset to rural boundary surveyors too. I own a Trimble ProXR receiver that is fabulous for certain things. If I'm working out in a rural area (especially wooded) and I have to divide a tract into smaller pieces, I can locate old ponds, trails, tree lines, barns, outhouses, and rickety old interior fence lines with plenty of accuracy to either avoid them or include them or just show them as an added value to my client. I can calculate search positions for section corners and know that I'm standing within a few feet of the place I intend to be standing. I can locate the top of brushy bluffs and the banks of streams accurately enough to help me plan future monument offset locations and use it for some topographic purposes (not elevation). I can even get an idea of where a property corner will be set later, tie flagging in the trees, and plan the best route for traversing to the point.

I have also staked the center of roads through the woods with the Pro XR. I know it sounds crazy but instead of traversing through the woods and setting stakes that will be destroyed on the first dozer pass, I can roughly stake it with the Pro XR. Once I have a clean line to work with, I go back and stake it with grown up surveying equipment. It also works well if two property owners are cooperatively building a fence through the woods and intend to have it dozed. Once the line is cleared, I can set real line stakes that will stay in place. A GIS receiver is not accurate compared to survey grade receivers but in certain specific situations, it can still be an awesome tool for a rural boundary surveyor. You have to develop methods and techniques for this sort of thing but I've done it several times with excellent results.

The critical thing to remember is: don't be stupid. Only an idiot would use a GIS receiver to set a property corner or use a sub-meter coordinate on a section corner as if it were accurate or establish coordinates on traverse nails or establish vertical control at a nuclear power plant. That sort of faving lunatic would also claim to have too much love or too many rainbows or too much luck or too much happiness or too many Christmas presents or too much deodorant soap (that's why they smell bad) or... too much GPS.

Service to the Chapter
Service to the MSPS on the State level
Service on the State Board
Teaching college courses
Seminar presentations
Community outreach
Long distinguished career

Nominations will be reviewed, and a selection made, by the Executive Committee.

The award will be accompanied by a plaque that will state the name of the award, the recipient's name, and the year presented.

The presentation of the award at the annual Christmas dinner will be made by the outgoing President and will be formalized with a short statement of the purpose of the award and an appreciation of the recipient's accomplishments and service to the profession. An opportunity to make a statement by the recipient (if they so desire) will be made available. Hopefully, this statement can be discussed and modified at the May meeting and voted on by the membership to finalize the establishment of the award.

The design of the plaque is open to suggestions. I will try to visit the trophy shop and have some ideas for designs ready for the May meeting. See you there.

5 Ways To Beat The Heat This Summer

1. Start out the day well rested, if you are under the age of 25 that means sleep in the truck whenever it is moving. The chief will wake you.
2. Start the morning out hydrated. Your body is a machine that runs on water. I said water.
3. Wear loose fitting, light colored clothing. Please do not wear tank tops. The farmer's tan alone screams out no.
4. Get an early start. Remember the old saying "beat the heat". It is an old saying because it is true.
5. Quit your job on the survey crew and get a job at the local video store. Those cats never leave the air conditioning, plus they get free movie rentals.

OZARK CHAPTER MSPS MINUTES OF APRIL 2008

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:04 PM AT THE WESTERN SIZZLIN, APRIL 8TH ,
BY REF BAGLEY.**

**CALL TO APPROVE MINUTES: CHRISTOPHER STRONG HAD TWO CORRECTIONS
IN THE NEWSLETTER AS FOLLOWS: THE SPELLING OF MATHEWS NOW CORRECTED.
HE ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE BEING CALLED CHRISTOPHER IN THE NEWSLETTER.**

OLD BUSINESS

**ONGOING DISCUSSION ABOUT THE AWARD GIVEN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL FOR DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE IN OUR FIELD. PETE AGREED TO PUT OUT AN ARTICLE DISCUSSING THE SPECIFICS IN
THE NEWSLETTER.**

**CHRISTOPHER STRONG GAVE THE SPECIFICS OF THE TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS BEING
HELD THIS SUMMER. JUNE COOKOUT WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND TUESDAY AND WILL FEATURE
JERRY BAKER FROM CITY UTILITIES. 1 PDU
JULY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 8TH AND FEATURE TREE IDENTIFICATION. THERE WILL BE
A FEE FOR ATTENDANCE . 2PDU**

LETTER TO ASSESSOR TABLED UNTIL MORE TROUBLE ARISES.

SCHOLARSHIP DISCUSSED AND AMOUNT AND RECIPIENT SET. LETTER SENT TO RECIPIENT.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:22 PM

ATTENDANCE

**PETE STEVENS
LOYD TODD
KEVIN TYLER
STEPHEN NELSON
CHRISTOPHER STRONG
JACK DILL
PAUL TAYLOR
REF BAGLEY**

