

# Chapter News

Volume 5, Issue 3

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**Famous Quotations:**

- *Archie Griffen:*  
It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog.
- *Anonymous:*  
We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails.
- *Casey Stengel:*  
Most games are lost, not won.
- *Ralph Waldo Emerson:*  
People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character.
- *Oscar Wilde:*  
Experience is the name that everyone gives to their mistakes.
- *Anonymous:*  
If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks.
- *Albert Einstein:*  
I want to know God's thoughts; the rest are details.

## Jefferson County Benchmark Map Online

*By Richard L. Worthey (email: rworthey@wortech.com)*

The Jefferson County Engineer's office recently announced the completion of the first phase of its county wide horizontal and vertical control monumentation network. Marking the completion of this phase is the publication of the network data on the Internet, making it available to the public including engineers and surveyors. Users can access this data at the following web address: **<http://co.jefferson.tx.us/eng/benchmarks/z2.htm>**.

Users will find an interactive road map of Jefferson County with symbols marking the location of the control monuments. A legend is provided in the margin denoting the various FEMA designated flood zones.

Users can access the data by two different methods. One method allow the user to click on the map, which will then zoom in to the area. By clicking on the monument icon, the data for that benchmark will then appear.

The other method allows the user to find benchmarks by using a street or road index. Users can click on the name of the road or street and the map will appear showing the closest benchmarks. Once again, the user can then click on the monument icon to obtain the data.

The data for each monument includes the WGS84 Latitude/Longitude coordinates, orthometric height, geoid height, and a photograph of the benchmark site. Each monument has an assigned named.

The network consists of all Jefferson County Appraisal District (JCAD) monuments, selected FEMA benchmarks, and USGS/NGS monuments and benchmarks. All monuments are GPS observable. Current plans are to expand the network to include more existing benchmarks as well as to install new monuments in areas where none exist.

The network is a minimually  
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## President's Column

*By Lequin Hilderbrand (email: lequin.hilderbrand@lpcorp.com)*

As I pen this column, I am winding down my final term as President of our TSPS chapter. At the same time, I reflect on the past two years in an effort to determine where we are versus where we were. I look forward to the future of TSPS and our chapter, and would encourage each of you to

attend the annual meeting to be held Monday, September 18 at Don's Seafood and Steak House.

Admittedly, I recognize the shortcomings of my efforts but also recognize the great accomplishments of the chapter  
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## President's Column (*"in closing"*)

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ter. Of course, if not for the people who make up our membership we would not be able realize the successes we have enjoyed to date. Hopefully I was able to maintain some stability and growth to an already improving chapter.

What I am most proud of is our commitment to grant scholarships to qualifying and deserving applicants. By the time we gather for our annual meeting and officers installation, we will have granted \$1,500.00 in scholarships to two of the most deserving candidates, both of whom happen to be chapter members. The only way our profession grows and earns the respect of others is by and through educating our people.

I am also proud of the way our members responded to the many cries for help in the way of contributing to SURPAC, the political action committee that bird-dogs legislative plans, proposals, etc. that affect the surveying community. One needn't look far to find the answer to "what does TSPS do for me"? Or, "why should I contribute to SURPAC"? "What's in it for me"? It goes beyond our payment of membership dues and can probably be best described as simply being the cost of doing business.

The entire chapter can be proud of our fiscal position, which allows us to commit to the granting of scholarships and to fund other legitimate activities. Each of the past two years the chapter, as a whole, worked to put about \$3,000 to \$4,000 into our accounts. As of this writing, we are looking at generating another \$3,000 to \$4,000 through our annual "Heart

of the Big Thicket" seminar.

We have also committed to participate in the November Southeast Texas Annual Career Fair for High School Students. This is our opportunity to flaunt our wares and impress upon local students our profession. If we are sincere in educating our future professionals, we can't grant scholarships until we promote the profession and the many opportunities that exist therein. Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this career fair.

More importantly, I appreciate the opportunity to have been your President and getting to know each of you. No amount of income generated or no number of accomplishments can outweigh the friendships I have developed over the past two years. Some of you have shared in my joy and laughter; some in my pains and frustrations. All of you have shared in my enthusiasm and desire to do the best job I could for our chapter. I always appreciate the opportunity to agree to disagree. After all, disagreement is not disrespect and it is through disagreement that we sometimes learn the most. My philosophy in all that I do is that decisions aren't supposed to be popular, just right. All that we do should be unconditional; without strings. If we can't operate unconditionally, we aren't making the right cisions.

In closing, try to always make the right decisions. Not for yourself, but for your family, your employees, your profession. Try to see the big picture and not just your little piece of the puzzle. After all, as the surveying profession goes, so you go.

## Control Network

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constrained network adjusted by least square methods in accordance with NGS standards and specifications. Vertical datum is tied to the USGS benchmark at the Southeast Texas Regional Airport hangar. This familiar benchmark has historical value as it has been used by local engineers and surveyors for many years as the basis of control.

Plans also include installation of a new high-order monument at the airport to replace this old benchmark, as demolition of the airport hangar will begin within the next year. The new monument will be located near the existing airport manager's office for easy access. The location also affords GPS observation.

The monument is being installed according to NGS standards and specifications for horizontal and vertical control monuments. NGS personnel will assist in the analysis to ensure the order classification and NGS bluebooking of the data.

This project is a cooperative effort between the Jefferson County Engineer's office and Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 and provides a common datum throughout the county. Inconsistencies in elevations previously determined on various projects can now be rectified.

(Photo of JCAD 17)



## Minutes of Meeting

The Chapter held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly members meeting at the Hoffbrau restaurant in Beaumont. Seventeen members and three guests attended to hear Darrell Shine present an overview of how the courts have interpreted and ruled on cases involving original monuments versus calls for course and distance in legal descriptions. Nedra Foster followed with a humorous and entertaining story of the "case of the moving pine knot".

Other items discussed were:

1. Draft of the proposed rule by TBPLS regarding GIS. The GIS committee is writing a response to send to TBPLS by the July 24<sup>th</sup> deadline. Members were asked to forward comments to Richard Worthey as soon as possible.
2. The next meeting of the TSPS board will be August 5<sup>th</sup> in Austin. The Annual Meeting of TSPS will be held in October in Austin and promises to be perhaps the biggest yet.
3. The Chapter is sponsoring a legal seminar August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Beaumont Hilton Hotel. James N. Johnson will present "The Sometimes Magical Laws of Boundary and Title".
4. Members were reminded that elections for officers are coming up in August.
5. The Chapter sporting clay shoot will be held in October and the Annual Chapter Meeting is scheduled for September.
6. Laurie Leister has contacted Joe Breaux about additional volunteer survey/topo work for the Lucas Gusher Park. Members will be advised on the details when available.
7. Discussions were held on the status of the proposed title insurance rules regarding the survey exception deletion.

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The Chapter Board of Directors met August 10<sup>th</sup> at J&J's Steakhouse in Beaumont to discuss Chapter business as follows:

1. Minutes of last meeting were read by Secretary Treasurer Joe Breaux and accepted by the board.
2. Financial Report was presented by Secretary Treasurer Joe Breaux and accepted by the board.
3. Richard Worthey reported that the upcoming seminar is on track and is expected to be successful financially for the Chapter. Approximately one-third of the registrants are from other areas of the state.
4. The board approved funding for attending the upcoming Career Fair for area High School students. The fair will be held at the Beaumont Civic Center and plans call for the Chapter to have volunteer members present to exhibit the educational and professional opportunities available for prospective surveying students.
5. Nominating Committee presented its list of nominees for officers and directors for the next year.
6. The board approved the awarding of two \$500 educational scholarships to Allen Peloquin to attend Texas A&M at Corpus Christi beginning this fall.
7. Joe Breaux and Richard Worthey reported that the boundary survey for the

revised location of the Spindletop Park has been completed and the plat and legal description delivered to the county.

8. The board gave preliminary approval to the commemorative Spindletop map concept presented by Richard Worthey. The map will show the old survey lines overlaid on top of a color 1-meter resolution digital orthoquarter quad photo. Richard is checking on printing cost and details.
9. The board approved proceeding with making arrangements with the Gulf Coast Chapter in Houston to get our respective local baselines calibrated. Steve Butz will head the project and hopes to finalize details for the project to take place in the fall.

## Scholarship Awarded to Local Surveyor

The Chapter awarded its second scholarship to a local chapter member to attend the Texas A&M at Corpus Christi.

Allen Peloquin with the local firm of Shine & Johnson Surveying received a \$500 TSPS Chapter Scholarship as well as the \$500 Darrell D. Shine Scholarship for a total of \$1000. Allen will start the surveying program this fall as a full time student. He intends to make surveying his career and is a very deserving individual. Congratulations, Allen, and good luck with your studies!

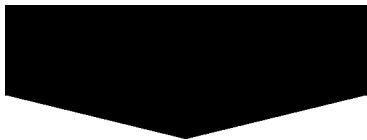
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*Sighting on 2001*



## Calendar of Events

### **September 1; Election of Chapter Officers**

Election of officers for 2001. Ballots mailed out to members August 15th. Must be received by September 1st. New officers to be announced in September newsletter.

### **September 18; Chapter Annual Meeting**

*Location to be announced.* Social begins at 6:00 PM. Meeting begins at 6:30 PM.

### **October 7; Annual Chapter Sporting Clays Shooting Event**

To be held at the 100-in-1 Gun Club on Hwy. 421 in Lumberton. *Details to be Announced.*

### **October 18-21; TSPS Annual Convention**

Austin, Texas

### **December 7; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting**

*Details to be Announced.*