

DEEP EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6 NEWS

October 14, 1997

Texas Society of Professional Surveyors

Vol. 2, Issue 4

President's Column:

I am writing this column the day after returning from the annual TSPS convention in Dallas. This year's convention will probably go down as the biggest and the best. There were over 600 people registered through the four day convention with another 100 exhibitors in attendance as well.

It started off Wednesday with the usual golf tournament and skeet shoot under threatening skies. Needless to say, they got wet! The weather was poor the whole week. However, since all the other events were indoor, it did not matter much the rest of the week.

Thursday started with an all day meeting of the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying. I tried to attend, but the room was small and filled to capacity. The meeting time also conflicted with the Grand Opening and Keynote Address that was followed by the annual TSPS Business Meeting shortly after. TSPS continues to be a strong and growing organization that is financially stable.

Friday saw the first seminars to be held during the convention. Tree Identification was sold out, and attendees were treated to a field trip to the botanical gardens to get a hands on demonstration. Other seminars that day included sessions on Marketing and the Internet.

The TSPS Luncheon was also held Friday with Bobby Bragan as guest speaker. Bobby is a former professional baseball player and coach of the Los Angeles Dodgers. He is currently in the Texas Rangers organization. He was very entertaining to say the least. He kept everyone laughing with his jokes and anecdotal stories of Tommy Lasorda, Leo Durocher and company.

The exhibit hall opened later Friday and was packed out as usual. I was glad to see the GPS technology is improving and equipment getting smaller and more lightweight. I was also impressed with the Zeiss digital level. It is a worthwhile investment for long precise elevation loops. However, with the advancement in GPS's ability for accurate vertical height adjustment, the digital level may be too late on

the market. A lot of software vendors were hawking their wares as well. TSPS Publications was doing a brisk business with several items sold out in the first hour. TSPS has a couple of study guides for those taking the SIT and RPLS exams.

The highlight of the day, and perhaps for some the week, was the party held at Texas Stadium Friday night. Four full bus loads of TSPS members and family arrived a little early at the stadium to get a "Taste of the NFL". We offloaded at the tunnel entrance that led past the Cowboy locker room and directly onto the field below. As people arrived on the field, they heard the overhead speakers roaring with cheers and applause from the ghost crowd, giving participants a taste of what the players hear and feel as they enter the field.

The group was divided into three smaller groups that convened at different parts of the field for the punt, pass, and field goal kicking contests. Men, women and children of all ages and sizes participated in a very enjoyable event. Referees in black and white stripes were there to judge the contests while a camera crew filmed the events NFL style.

The group later passed through the players and coaches locker room, with many people taking the time to capture themselves with a snapshot in front of their favorite Cowboy's locker. We were then directed to the Clubhouse overlooking the field where we were treated to excellent dining. A live duo presented a range of music while we ate and enjoyed the video playback of the previous events on the numerous monitors. It was obvious that everyone there was having a truly great time. It was a real blast!

Saturday began at 6:15 AM with the Chapter's President breakfast. Our Chapter was to be presented the Star Chapter Award for our growth in members and activities. The award was announced earlier at the Annual Business Meeting. However, due to mechanical failure (or operator error depending upon your viewpoint) my alarm clock did not function properly at the appointed time. So, you guessed it, I was not functioning at the appointed time either.

Several other seminars as well as the final day of exhibits were on the agenda for the Saturday. I attended the Railroad Right-of-way seminar presented by Charlie Tucker from Colorado. It was an excellent presentation with a lot of valuable information gained, including how the railroads were laid out and where to get maps of old abandoned railroads. I heard that the Retracement and Evidence seminar was excellent as well.

The final event of the convention was the Awards Gala held Saturday night. Our own Gilbert Johnston emceed the event. Music was by the group "Nobody's Fool". It was a wonderful evening full of surprises, great food, dancing and music and good fellowship. I'll leave it to the TSPS publications *Metes & Bounds* and the *Texas Surveyor* to fill you in on the rest.

However, I will tell you that the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the "Surveyor of the Year Award" to a very surprised and deserving Gilbert Johnston. Gilbert has been active for many years in TSPS as well as this Chapter. He is a past president of TSPS and a current member of the Deep East Texas Chapter No. 6 Board of Directors. Our congratulations to Gilbert Johnston!

Next year's convention is in San Antonio. If you have not been to one, I highly recommend going. It is well worth the trip and you will not be disappointed.

Minutes of Meeting:

The Chapter held its Annual meeting September 16th at the BPM Club in Beaumont. Guest speaker was TSPS President Greg Smyth who installed the Officers of the Chapter for 1997-1998 and gave a review of the statewide activities of TSPS.

Other items on the agenda discussed or presented:

1. Financial Report
2. Review of past year's Chapter activities
3. Announcement of new Chapter programs
4. NGS Calibrated Baseline project update

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

NGS Calibrated Baseline Project Update:

The training for the final calibration of the baseline has been rescheduled for November 18, 19 and 20th in Houston. Ron Davis (*Howell & Davis*), Peter Lawley (*Transit & Level Clinic*), and Doug Hayes (*Wortech Land Surveyors*) are three of the designated team members. We are still looking for commitments from two other people to participate.

You may have heard already that there has been an attempt made by the current administration in Washington to do away with NGS. The current budget passed by Congress does not include funding for the NGS. It is unclear who, if anybody, will pick up NGS responsibility or if funding will develop later.

Therefore, it is imperative that we complete our project before the end of the year or we may never see it completed.

Annual Financial Report:

Savings Account (Community Bank)

- Balance as of June 1996 \$1294.49
- Balance as of Sept 1997 \$1325.24

Checking Account (Community Bank)

- Balance as of Sept 1997 \$473.06

Chapter Website Under Construction:

The Chapter website is undergoing some new changes that members can expect to see soon. Until then, you can still see it in its old format at:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/rworthey>

Star Chapter Award:

Deep East Texas Chapter No. 6 was awarded the Star Chapter Award at the TSPS Annual Convention in Dallas. This award goes to a deserving Chapter in special recognition of its activities within TSPS and the local community. Chapter President Richard Worthey accepted the award on behalf of the Chapter members

from TSPS Executive Director Anne Glasgow.

This Chapter has experienced a tremendous growth in the level of enthusiasm and involvement within TSPS through its various projects and programs. We have seen our membership more than double over last year's numbers.

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication, cooperation and efforts of its officers, directors and many members. Congratulations Chapter No. 6!

Planning Ahead:

The Chapter Officers and Board of Directors will be meeting shortly to establish an annual budget and schedule activities for 1998. The intent is to set goals for the future growth and direction of the Chapter.

Several of the ideas already mentioned include the presentation of our own seminar with a local theme, production of a commemorative map of the Spindletop area in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary of the Lucas Gusher in 1901, and a project to model the local Geiod using GPS to provide area wide monuments and benchmarks.

These projects or programs will be discussed at the next several Quarterly Chapter meetings. Your input is needed. Please make an effort to attend.

Websites of Interest:

Trimble: www.trimble.com
Leica: www.leica.com/usa
Tripod Data Systems: www.tdsway.com
Schonstedt: www.schonstedt.com
Ashtech: www.ashtech.com

Upcoming Events:

Mark your calendar as a reminder of the following Chapter events:

November 10 - Quarterly Chapter Meeting (Monday)

Location: Tuffy's in Mauriceville
Social Mixer: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Meeting: 7:45 PM - 8:30 PM
Speaker: None

Agenda: Chapter Activities Workshop

November 18-20 NGS Calibrated
Baseline Training
Seminar - Houston, TX

TSPS Historical Committee Contest:

The History Committee has proposed a year-long contest among the 23 statewide chapters of TSPS to devise and describe the most interesting and/or unique set of historical surveying artifacts within each Chapter area. These artifacts can be surveying instruments, books, maps, old records, survey of a historical project, etc. The winning entry will be displayed at the History Booth at the annual meeting in 1988.

Anyone wishing to become involved with this project should contact:

Richard Worthey @ 409/ 866-9769

Welcome New Chapter Members:

Roel "Roy" Rodriquez

Get Well Soon:

Darrell Shine of Silsbee is recovering at home from recent quadruple heart bypass surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

1997-1998

President - Richard Worthey
Vice President - Charles Lawley
Secretary/Treasurer - Joe Breaux
Director-at-Large - Steve Boucher
Director-at-Large - Gilbert Johnston

Congratulations for another successful convention and sincere appreciation for the hard work to Anne Glasgow, Kathy Whatley, Lisa Moliski, the members of the Dallas Chapter and this year's convention planning committee. Job well done!