

Chapter News

Volume 4, Issue 1

January 15, 1999

Famous Quotations:

- **The Peter Principle, Dr. Lawrence J. Peter:**

"Everyone rises to their level of incompetence."
- **H.L. Mencken, "Prejudices: Fourth Series," 1924:**

"The difference between a moral man and a man of honor is that the latter regrets a discreditable act, even when it has worked and he has not been caught."
- **Thomas Jefferson:**

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."
- **Gordon R. Dickson:**

"Some people like my advice so much that they frame it upon the wall instead of using it."

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1998 Sporting Clays Event

The Chapter held its annual sporting clays shoot on October 31st at the 100-in-1 Gun Club in Lumberton, Texas. This exciting format included 3 pairs shot at the Wobble Trap, 3 pairs of Skeet Doubles, four pairs shot at the Duck Pond, four pairs of Decoying Ducks, four pairs of Wild Quail, four pairs of Crow Crossings, and 3 pairs of Turbo Rabbits. The weather was excellent with an air of anticipation awaiting the shooters.

Thirteen shooters from four area surveying companies participated in this popular event. Area surveying companies represented included; Arceneaux & Gates, Carroll & Blackman, Howell & Davis, and Wortech Land Surveyors. Awards were given to Mitch Brackin for a 1st Place score of 34; Brady Girouard took 2nd Place with a score of 28; and Robert Sutton won 3rd Place with a score of 27. Ty Becker and Jack Meaut finished tied for 4th with scores of 25 each.

It was evident by all the smiles present that everyone really had lots of fun. All participants were treated to a delicious buffet lunch at the Red Onion in

Lumberton, courtesy of Wortech Land Surveyors, Inc . Participants also received hats, tee shirts, pencils, and cups courtesy of the sponsors; Academy, Ashtech, Leica, Pentax and Transit and Level Clinic. Proceeds of the event went to the Texas Surveyors Foundation, Inc. fund that grants scholarships to surveying students in Texas.

You certainly do not want to miss this event this year.



The Shooters .tough competition

President s Column

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

Hoping that each of you had a terrific holiday, I want to welcome everyone to a new year. I, for one, resolve to make no resolutions.

By the time of receipt of this newsletter, you should have received my notice of our January 21 chapter meeting to be held at Tuffy's Eatery in Mauriceville. On December 17, I met with the officers and di-

rectors, outlined the tentative schedule for 1999 and presented my goals and objectives for the upcoming year. We had a very informative and productive meeting and I look forward to sharing those same items with you during our upcoming meeting.

Nedra Foster has arranged for Galen
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President's Column

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Greaser from the General Land Office to be our guest and speaker. I would encourage each of you to attend, not only in support of Mr. Greaser, but also for what I am sure is to be a very informative presentation.

Gilbert Johnston, Richard Worthey and myself attended the annual leadership orientation at the Guadalupe River Ranch on December 5 and 6.

Unfortunately, Richard and I also attended every Christmas parade within a 73 mile radius of San Antonio (ask Richard, he was driving). Some of us will also be attending the State Quarterly Board meeting on February 19 and 20 in Austin, as in Hook em Horns; the same Horns who wup d that team from across the Mississippi who is coached by some guy who used to coach some team here in Texas .

Hope to see you on January 21 and I wish the very best for all of you in 1999.



Minutes of Meeting

The Chapter held its quarterly meeting November 9, 1998 at the Schooner Restaurant in Nederland. Ten members were in attendance. Business meeting started at 7:00 PM.

- Meeting called to order and opening remarks by Vice President Mitch Brackin.
- Invocation by E.C. Jones.
- Minutes of Meeting of last quarter accepted.
- Financial report given by Secre-

tary Treasurer Joe Breaux.

- Reports of special committees and projects given.

Old Business

- Motion to contribute the proceeds of the Sporting Clays Event along with additional money totaling \$250.00 to TSFI. Discussion of TSFI and its goals ensued. Motion passed.
- Motion to contribute funds to Surpac. Discussion of Surpac and its goals ensued. Motion ta-

bled.

New Business

- Discussion of committees and the need for volunteers to serve. Excellent opportunity for younger members, especially associates or affiliate members to become involved and have a voice in the direction of the Chapter.
- Discussion of programs for future meetings. Program Committee Chair is Nedra Foster.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Nominations for Annual Surveying Awards

The TSPS Awards Committee asks for all Chapters to nominate one qualified person in each awards category.

- 1 Hugh L. George Award
- 2 Surveyor of the Year Award
- 3 Young Surveyor of the Year Award
- 4 Vern Wayne Hanan Memorial Community Action Award
- 5 Chapter President of the Year Award

6 Any special award.

The Awards Committee does not make nominations for the various awards. We only review your nominations.

ALL NOMINATIONS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED to the Awards Committee at TSPS, ON OR BEFORE THE SECOND QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING on June 12, 1999. Nominations must include a resume of the nominee. If you have any questions

or comments, please feel free to contact Richard Worthey, (409/866-9769), Alan McLain (281/558-8700), or Gilbert Johnston (409/385-5266) Committee Members.



Additional Civil Coded Signals on Future Global Positioning System (GPS) Satellites

The Interagency Global Positioning System Executive Board (IGEB) announced March 30, 1998 a decision to place expanded civil capabilities on future Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites. A new civil signal will be added to the current military GPS L2 signal. This additional signal will provide significant improvements in GPS positioning and navigation services to worldwide users.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen said, "This IGEB decision reinforces the continuing U. S. commitment to provide the most capable, efficient and reliable satellite navigation system for use by all the world's nations well into the 21st century." In addition to reaching a decision on

the second civil coded signal, the IGEB recognized that civil GPS users can benefit from the implementation of a third coded signal. Consequently, the IGEB further directed that efforts continue to define an additional frequency in the L band for a third coded civil GPS signal. Although no decision has been made for the location of the third frequency, the IGEB did indicate that the areas of interest are in the proximity of the current frequency allocations used by GPS.

- The IGEB will finalize the configuration for the additional civil GPS signals early this fall in order to support GPS satellite contract timelines. To assist the IGEB in this effort, the
- U.S. Air Force is working closely with civil agencies in completing GPS modernization analyses. This effort is focused on making enhancements to the system to improve GPS services for both civil and military users. The addition of these frequencies will greatly enhance the accuracy, reliability, and robustness of the civilian GPS service.

The IGEB was established to implement President Clinton's GPS policy, and is jointly chaired by Jacques Gansler, the under secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, and Mortimer Downey, the deputy secretary of Transportation.

Website Survey Results

Results of recent member survey concerning the usage of the internet and the Chapter website are in. Only 15%, or 10 members out of 65 members responded. However, that is about average for most surveys. The questions and their response were:

What is your preferred method of receiving the quarterly newsletter?
Email - 5 Fax 0 Mail 5

Do you currently use the Internet?
Yes - 8 No 2

If not, do you plan to use the Internet in the next 12 months?
Yes - 0 No 2

Were you aware that the Chapter has a website?
Yes - 8 No - 2

Have you ever visited the Chapter website?
Yes - 5 No 1

How often do you visit the Chapter website?

Daily - 0	Weekly - 1
Monthly 1	Quarterly - 4
Never 2	

Does your company have a website?
Yes - 1 No 7

Would you like your Email address added to the member Whitepages on the Chapter website?
Yes - 7 No 1

Would your company be interested in the Chapter hosting a company webpage on its website for a small sponsorship fee?
Yes - 2 No 2 Don't Know 1

It looks like we can probably draw a least a few conclusions. First, members are split down the middle on receiving the newsletter either by email or mail. No faxes please! Second, members are logging on to the Internet; are aware of the Chapter website and access the website quar-

terly, most likely to check the meeting schedule information. Third, email is popular and fourth, webpages for surveying companies aren't quite there yet. Thanks to everyone who took the time to respond.

On another note, the website is getting a lot of attention outside of the Chapter area as members in other Chapters are logging on as well as surveyors around the world. The website is averaging 50 to 60 hits per week with a total 1230 visitors counted since January 1997.

A lot of new additions and changes have been made in recent weeks. You can find survey books, or any books via Amazon.com bookstore. Need directions and a quick map? No problem. The Mapblast search banner will show you the way.

Other additions include a fast comprehensive search engine interface and local weather radar for scheduling field crews. Logon and check it out!

**TEXAS SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL SURVEYORS DEEP
EAST TEXAS CHAPTER NO. 6**

P.O. Box 20815
Beaumont, Texas 77720

Phone: 409-866-9769
Fax: 409-866-7075
Email: surveyor@tsps-6.org



Sighting on 2000



Calendar of Events

January 21; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at Tuffy's Eatery on Hwy. 12 at Hwy. 62 in Mauriceville. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Galen Greaser who heads up the Spanish Archives for the General Land Office will be guest speaker. He is quite a historian as well as very knowledgeable on the workings of the Land Office.

January 24-29; SURVEYING I

Basic Short Course to be held at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

February 19-21; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark - Austin, Texas

March 21 - 27; Texas Surveyors Week

April 14; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

To be held at J&J Steakhouse in Beaumont. Lunch meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

May 13; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at Stinger's Restaurant on North 5th Street in Silsbee. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Justice Earl 'Smokey' Stover of the Nineth Court of Civil Appeals in Beaumont will be guest speaker.

June 11-12; Annual Heart of the Big Thicket "Gradient Boundary" Seminar

Field exercise at Village Creek State Park - Silsbee, TX. Classroom and hotel accommodations at the Hilton Hotel on IH-10 in Beaumont.

June 18-20; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark - Austin, Texas

June 24; Chapter Board of Directors Meeting

To be held at J&J Steakhouse in Beaumont. Lunch meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

July 22; Chapter Quarterly Meeting

To be held at the Schooner Restaurant on Hwy. 69 in Nederland. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Speaker and topic to be announced.

July 25-30; SURVEYING II

Advanced Short Course to be held at Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

August 6-8; TSPS Board Meeting

Omni Southpark - Austin, Texas

August 19; Chapter Board of Directors

Meeting

To be held at J&J Steakhouse in Beaumont. Lunch meeting begins at 11:30 AM.

September 1; Election of Chapter Officers

Election of officers for 1999. Ballots mailed out to members August 10th. Must be received by September 1st. New officers to be announced in September newsletter.

September 20; Chapter Annual Meeting

To be held at the Don's Seafood & Steakhouse Restaurant on IH-10 in Beaumont. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Speaker and topic to be announced.

October 23; 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 26-31; TSPS Annual Convention

El Paso, Texas