

YEAR IN REVIEW

Clay M. Conway, Past President

This will be short – but sweet! Short, because in two days I leave for Saudi Arabia on a two-month mineral exploration contract (*and I'm a little frenetic!*), and Sweet, because I think we had a pretty good year in the Intermountain Region. There is room for improvement, but we've been making some progress. Main improvement needed: meetings and workshops; please send in your ideas and volunteer your time.

The highlight of the year, of course, was the ASPRS National Annual meeting in Reno co-hosted by the Intermountain Region and the Northern California Region. Our own George Hepner was co-chair and numerous people in our region were involved in helping to make this meeting a success. We received compliments from the folks in Headquarters and, as you've read in earlier newsletters, our region earned about \$11,000.

We are taking good care of this money and hope to use some as seed money for conferences and workshops from which we can build up our coffers. We are providing the new University of Utah chapter with some financial support and will be willing to do the same for other new chapters (University of Idaho, Moscow, is working on forming one). We intend to use some of these funds for scholarships, and it appears that we will take advantage of the recently created opportunity to place some IR funds with the National Scholarship endowment funds to take advantage of management at the National Level and especially a higher interest rate than we could obtain with a small separate investment at the local level.

We want you to be aware that the Executive Committee determined to turn back our annual membership rebate (about \$700) to the National Scholarship Fund.

I am pleased that we have a number of new people involved in leadership in the region. We've announced some of them in earlier newsletters or bulletins and you will read about them elsewhere in this newsletter. I'm particularly pleased that we've gotten increased activity and interest from areas distant from the Wasatch Front region (where about one-third of our nearly 100 members live). In 2006 we had remarkable growth in our region in student membership, increasing from 15 members in late 2005 to 29 student members in late 2006. Student growth is great growth – that's how ASPRS will be kept a viable and vibrant organization.

On March 24, 2007, in Salt Lake City, we had an expanded Executive Committee Meeting following by our first annual Intermountain Region Dinner and Business Meeting. New officers were installed, as duly elected, and announced elsewhere in this newsletter. We had a nice evening, a great dinner, listened to a few remarks from incoming and departing officers and received suggestions from members for activities and improvements for the region.

Last year we put out three newsletters. This year our goal is four –March (oops, we're a little late), June, September, and December. We have run articles on private companies; we'd like to do more. We'd also like to have articles on programs and endeavors at university and government institutions. Please send them in – don't be bashful.

Well, I'm off to map in Saudi (no 7.5' quads and little low-level imagery) where I will daily download extensive GPS data into MapInfo – which I have yet to learn! I'll be in close touch with e-mail. Good luck to new officers and to the IR in 2007!