

# Intermountain News

ASPRS Intermountain Region

Fall 2006

## *Election for Intermountain Region Officers*

We have an important election coming up. Once every three years we elect a National Director from our region who then serves a three-year term on the ASPRS National Executive Committee; this is an important liaison position. Lloyd Blackburn's term expires at the end of this year. Additionally, we need to elect a president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer for the coming year.

We recently received a reminder from Jim Plasker, Executive Director, that we are to abide by both National and Regional bylaws in nominating and electing the National Director. National bylaws state:

"(1) Nomination for the position of National Director for each Region shall be made by the Region's Nominating Committee, which shall ensure that the Region's membership has an opportunity to nominate additional candidates.

(2) Elections shall be by ballot by a plurality of members of the Region voting. The name and biographical data of the elected National Director shall be submitted by the Region to the Executive Director not later than forty days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Society."

Since the Annual Meeting will be May 9, 2007, we must provide the name of the new National Director to the Executive Director no later than March 30, 2007.

We are getting started a bit late in the elections process this year and, as of now, we have no Nominating Committee. We will be forming the Nominating Committee in the next few weeks. This committee will then select a slate of candidates. More information will be forthcoming on nomination procedures, election deadlines, etc. The Executive Committee and Nominating Committee will have further deliberations.

In the meantime, nominations are open. You may nominate yourself or someone else for any of the four offices. Send nominations to [Lloyd Blackburn](#) (see contact information for Intermountain Region officers, last page), who will serve as interim chairman of the Nominations Committee. After the Nominating Committee has selected a slate of candidates this will be published to the full electorate and the membership will then have the opportunity to nominate additional candidates who will be added to the ballot. An election ballot will be prepared with biographical data.

It would now appear that the actual election will not take place until sometime in January. We will likely have our first annual meeting and dinner to install the new officers in late January or February. Final decisions on these things are forthcoming.

It is anticipated that as the election process unfolds the bylaws will be re-written to better define the roles of the individual Executive Committee members, and to clarify the processes, procedures, and rules under which the Intermountain Region will operate.

-- Clay M. Conway, President

## *The 'Golfball' Has Landed*



*It just looked like it was a spaceship. The USDA Forest Service [Remote Sensing Applications Center](#) (RSAC) recently installed a new X-band dish antenna and receiver for its MODIS ground station. RSAC uses this satellite imagery to map wildfires. See our Fall 2001 newsletter for an article about MODIS.*

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## Message from the President

I have fallen short the past few months for which I apologize to the membership of the Intermountain Region (IR). I was sick for several months early in the year and my wife had cancer surgery and has been in chemotherapy. Additionally, business has really taken off the past four months and heavy client demands had to come first. Having put a lot of time into ASPRS and also into marketing my business over last winter and spring, I was hurting somewhat financially and now really appreciate the business!

Now to report on activities in the IR and then on to some IR matters that need our attention.

As reported earlier, IR and Northern California Region co-hosted the ASPRS Annual Conference in May in Reno. The first pay-off was scientific and technical; the second was monetary. On September 21, I received a letter from Jim Plasker, ASPRS Executive Director, from which I quote: "Under the leadership of Co-chairs George Hepner and Alan Mikuni, the Regions produced a truly first-class show. From the content of the technical program, to the organization and logistics, to the budgeting and financial management, everything was accomplished in a most professional and credible manner. As provided by the ASPRS bylaws and Board policy, the Regions have collectively earned a conference rebate equal to ten percent of the net proceeds from the 2006 meeting in recognition of this outstanding effort. The net conference revenue, after expenses, was \$227,847.39. Ten percent of this amount is \$22,784.74 and your Region's share is \$11,392.37. A check in that amount is enclosed."

Again we express thanks to Co-chair Hepner and the others in the IR who helped to put on the meeting in Reno. Our bank account in recent years has been running only about a tenth of what we now have. Our only other income has been an annual rebate on membership dues which amounts to about \$700.

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### STUDENT MEMBER MATTERS

Congratulations to the new University of Utah student chapter. Bylaws have been written and student officers elected: Richard Medina – president; William Clark – vice president; Laura Siebeneck – Secretary; Desmond Heyliger – Treasurer. Prof. George Hepner is faculty advisor. Lloyd Blackburn, as National Director, has submitted the Student Chapter Petition for approval at the National Executive Committee Board meeting at the ASPRS Fall Meeting in San Antonio.

We need to carefully husband these funds and not let them dwindle away – in fact we should grow this nice nest-egg. The Executive Committee, in a recent meeting, approved providing some financial support to help renew ESRI licenses for K-12 schools throughout Utah and Idaho. We are considering setting up a small scholarship fund. We are also considering the implementation of workshops and a major technical meeting every few years from which we can earn a profit. Please forward your suggestions for worthy expenditures and for stewardship and growth of our funds.

In June, IR had a booth at the Utah Geographic Information Council (UGIC) annual meeting in Moab, Utah, where we promoted ASPRS membership and IR activities. Lloyd Blackburn, David Maxwell, and I, from the Executive Committee, were at the meeting. ASPRS National provided us with big signs and ample literature and handouts.

It is urgent that we take care of the following needs for our Region. It is my intention to see that the following are largely done or at last well-begun before my term expires.

1. Form a Nominating Committee for elections. This is particularly important this year because we are electing a new National Director (see separate article on Elections).
2. Revise IR bylaws. We have operated in the past three years with little attention to bylaws – partly because our bylaws are inadequate. This must be changed. No professional organization can operate properly without adherence to a high-quality set of bylaws. I encourage you to check the bylaws on our website, provide suggestions for improvement, or better still volunteer to serve on a bylaws committee to re-write them.
3. Form a Communications Committee for the purpose of providing information to the Executive Committee, to select a newsletter editor, to set policy for the newsletter, and to help provide content for the newsletter. Again, volunteers would be welcome.

I will be contacting individually about 25 IR members that I know or who have been recommended to me as persons who could capably serve as an officer or member of a committee. Please don't wait to hear from me or be offended if you are not on my list. I'd love to hear from each of you on the above matters!

-- *Clay M. Conway, President*

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# Aero-Graphics Provides High Quality Mapping

Looking back to 1965, when they began mapping work for a gas pipeline company, executives at Aero-Graphics never imagined that they would grow into the best equipped full-service photogrammetry company in the state.

Kelly Francis, Aero-Graphics' Marketing Manager, is proud of the company's philosophy, which stresses providing accurate, high-quality mapping on schedule at competitive prices. This is accomplished by investing in the best available equipment and by having well-trained employees committed to providing excellent service to customers.

Aero-Graphics has a Cessna 207 turbocharged aircraft equipped with GPS navigation and an ASCOT computer-controlled flight guidance system. Flight crew experience exceeds 10,000 hours. Photography is acquired with a Leica RC-30 camera system which incorporates the latest

features such as forward motion compensation (FMC), high-resolution optics, gyro stabilization, and airborne GPS capability. FMC allows for the use of low speed, high-resolution film that is essential for high accuracy in mapping projects. Plans are now in the works to purchase a second aircraft which is scheduled to be on-line in early 2007 to accommodate increasing demand.

Aero-Graphics pairs AGFA Aviphot Pan-80 and Aviphot Color XI00 films with advanced equipment to produce the kind of images that give the company a competitive edge in the industry. After imagery is processed, aerial negatives are roll-scanned using a DSW700 precision film scanner. This scanner offers superior geometric and radiometric resolution as well as the fastest photogrammetric production available. Surface models created from the stereo photography are used to orthorectify the imagery. The latest photogrammetric software suites are utilized to remove distortion in the imagery, and then mosaic and tone match the adjacent areas for even quality. Aero-Graphics has generated color orthorectified digital imagery with 2' pixel resolution of the entire Wasatch Front, St. George, Las Vegas, Nevada and Boise, Idaho.

Aero-Graphics has been providing aerial photography and mapping for highway departments, consulting engineers, mines, oil/gas pipelines, and government agencies for nearly forty years. The company



stresses building long-term relationships with customers who value high-quality mapping products and exceptional service. Surveying and mapping typically represent a small percentage of the overall cost of an engineering project so it makes good business sense to invest in accurate, high-quality mapping products.

One of the most technically demanding mapping projects completed recently by Aero-Graphics involved a mapping update for the Bingham Canyon Copper Mine, one of the largest open-pit copper mines in the world. This project was challenging due to the size of the pit

itself, which is more than 30 square miles. Also making the job unique were the extreme changes in elevation of over 5,000 feet and the customer's demanding technical specifications.

A second unique project completed during the last year was for a large national gas transmission company. This involved airborne GPS imagery, surveying, and orthorectified

imagery of over 1,000 miles of pipeline right-of-way spanning six western states. These and other Aero Graphics projects require the latest equipment and a dedicated team with keen attention to detail. This is the kind of expertise that Aero-Graphics is able to give to their exacting clients.

More information about Aero-Graphics is available at: [www.aero-graphics.com](http://www.aero-graphics.com).



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## INTERMOUNTAIN GIS 2007 CONFERENCE

"GIS, Driving the Process" is the theme of Northern Rockies Chapter of URISA's 2007 Conference in Donnelly, ID at Tamarack Resort. The conference will feature two days of workshops, plus seminars, vendors and lots of time for networking. This year's conference will be held April 2-6, 2007.

The Call for Papers is going out soon and they are interested in presentations on remote sensing and photogrammetry as well as GIS. This is a great opportunity to share our knowledge with others in the geospatial industry. More information can be found on their website; [www.intermountaingis.org](http://www.intermountaingis.org) or contact Laurie Ames at [lames@nezperce.org](mailto:lames@nezperce.org).

# Utah in High-Resolution Color: The 2006 NAIP Program

The Utah geospatial community will receive an extraordinary gift this December: 1-meter resolution natural color digital ortho aerial photography for the entire state. The imagery was acquired during the summer as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [National Agricultural Imagery Program](#) (NAIP). The State Geographic Information Database (SGID) will serve the imagery on the Web, according to Dennis Goreham of the Utah State [Automated Geographic Reference Center](#) (AGRC).

Northwest Geomatics was the prime contractor, with EarthData International and Horizons, Inc. as subcontractors. The aircraft flew over Utah at 30,000 feet with Leica ADS40 airborne digital sensor, primarily during July and August. The Leica ADS-40 sensor has a 64 degree swath angle, and the width of the swath is about 30,000 feet. The sensor records eight bands: panchromatic (forward and backward-looking, for stereo), RGB (3 bands, downward-looking) and color infrared (3 bands). There is 12-bit radiometric resolution, which is reduced to 8-bit in the NAIP product.

There will be 6097 NAIP DOQQs, covering approximately 85,000 square miles. Up to 10% cloud cover is allowed. The government requires georeferencing to fit existing USGS DOQQs to  $\pm 5$  meters, however the contractors expect to rectify the new imagery within  $\pm 3$  meters. The public release of data follows the completion of the USDA QA/QC process.

The USDA Farm Service Agency provides about two-thirds of the funding for NAIP, with the rest coming from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, state and county governments, the USDA Forest Service, the US Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the US Air Force Space Command.

In addition to the NAIP quads, some enhanced products may be acquired by the State of Utah AGRC, especially the color infrared imagery. Horizons, Inc. also offers stereo imagery in full radiometric resolution for high-end stereo workstations. They may use the stereo to create new DEM and DSM/bare earth datasets in the future.

According to Dave Vincent of the U.S. Geological Survey, the USGS also acquired 1-foot resolution imagery for the Salt Lake-Ogden area this October (leaf-off) using a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. This will update the existing 2003 high-resolution dataset. A lidar acquisition is planned as well for a limited area on the Wasatch Front. Products will be digital surface model (DSM) and bare earth DEM

2003-2004 NAIP imagery for Utah: Utah AGRC  
[http://agrc.its.state.ut.us/agrc\\_sgid/naip.html](http://agrc.its.state.ut.us/agrc_sgid/naip.html)  
2004 NAIP imagery for Idaho: INSIDE Idaho  
<http://inside.uidaho.edu/geodata/NAIP2004/>



*Downtown Salt Lake City: 2004 NAIP image*

## Intermountain Region Officers

Clay Conway, President  
(435) 678-7821  
[conway@gaeaorama.net](mailto:conway@gaeaorama.net)

Laurie Skye Ames, Vice President  
[lames@nezperce.org](mailto:lames@nezperce.org)

David Maxwell, Secretary/Treasurer  
(435) 865-8326  
[maxwell@suu.edu](mailto:maxwell@suu.edu)

Lloyd Blackburn, National Director  
(801) 975-3793  
[lloyd.blackburn@networld.com](mailto:lloyd.blackburn@networld.com)