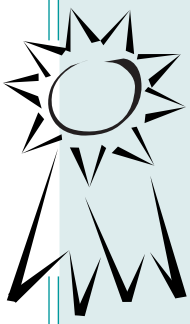
Thank you to all the ASPRS regions that participated in the Region of the Month contest.



AND THE WINNER FOR NOVEMBER IS THE. . .

POTOMAC REGION

The Potomac Region sponsored 31 new members during the month of November.

In recognition of their commitment to the Society, they receive the following:

- A certificate from ASPRS acknowledging their work in membership recruitment.
- ASPRS Buck$ vouchers valued at $50 to be used toward merchandise in the ASPRS Bookstore.
- This special recognition in this issue of *PE&RS* of their designation as "Region of the Month," a true display of their commitment to the Society.

Bravo!!
Potomac Region

This is an ongoing regional recruitment campaign. We hope other regions will be listed here in future months.

ASPRS Announces Certification of the First GIS/LIS Technologist

Justin Carasick is the first GIS/LIS Technologist to complete the requirements for certification under the recently introduced American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) certification program for technologists. Carasick specializes in GIS mapping, training, and programming. He is an ESRI authorized ArcGIS trainer and a Navy contractor. He performs master plan files, sets up maps for digitizing, topological overlays, conversion of various maps and data into a GIS, and data attribution. He has worked with NAVAC Southern Command – Marine Corps Air Station, Beufort, South Carolina, and Pensacola Naval Air Station. He has also assisted numerous county appraisers' offices in Florida as a GIS Analyst and Programmer. Carasick has provided GIS training for the Gainsville, Florida Police, Fire & Rescue and Public Works Departments. He holds a BA in Geography from the University of Florida.

In October, 2003, ASPRS announced final approval of the new ASPRS certification program for technologists — specifically geared to drafting technicians, inspectors, photographers, laboratory technicians, stereoscopic instrument or plotter operators, computations technicians, field survey assistants, interpretation technicians, image analysts, data processors, and digitizers. This certification was instituted to give those working at the technologist level an opportunity to be recognized by ASPRS for their respective contributions.

The technologist level is defined as work that is primarily of a technical nature, often demanding a high degree of skill, done under the direction of a professional who is responsible for its outcome. Such work is pre-professional when performed by a professional trainee who, having completed courses of specialized intellectual instruction and study, is seeking to attain professional status.

The following categories of ASPRS technologist certification are now being offered:

Certified Photogrammetric Technologist (ASPRS)

A technician who performs or supervises technical photogrammetric tasks to extract spatial data from photographic or digital imagery.

Certified Remote Sensing Technologist (ASPRS)

A technician who performs or supervises tasks to interpret, manipulate, extract, process and convert remotely sensed data from photographic or digital imagery.

Certified GIS/LIS Technologist (ASPRS)

A technician who integrates a variety of spatial data sets into a GIS format designed for graphic output or analysis.

For more information on the ASPRS certification program, contact certification@asprs.org or visit the ASPRS web site:

Certification, general information

http://www.asprs.org/asprs/membership/certification/index.html

Certification Guidelines

http://www.asprs.org/asprs/membership/certification/certification_guidelines.html

Application for Certified Technologist

http://www.asprs.org/asprs/membership/certification/Technologist_Application.pdf

In May 2004, the ASPRS Board of Directors approved the adoption of the "ASPRS Lidar Guidelines – Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data V1.0." Created by the ASPRS Lidar Committee's Working Group on lidar guidelines and standards, this is the first in a series of guidelines to be published by ASPRS covering the emerging technology of lidar and its use in the mapping sciences. As part of the Lidar Committee's Working Group efforts, the ASPRS guidelines were harmonized with the relevant sections of the Guidelines for Digital Elevation Data (Version 1.0) released by the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP). The following is a letter ASPRS President Dr. Russell G. Congalton received from NDEP Steering Committee Chairperson Richard Pearsall commending ASPRS on those Guidelines.

The work on these Guidelines by members of ASPRS is a great example of how the Society contributes to the field of geospatial information as a whole.

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston, Virginia 20192

October 14, 2004

Dr. Russell G. Congalton
President, American Society for Photogrammtery and Remote Sensing
5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 210
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. Dr. Congalton, RPSS

The National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) Steering Committee would like to commend the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) on the excellent work by the Lidar Committee Working Group on the Lidar Guidelines "Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data V1.0" as approved by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Board of Directors. ASPRS has again demonstrated an important leadership role and commitment to standards. These guidelines identify for the Lidar geospatial community, important vertical accuracy reporting requirements when analyzing elevation data generated using airborne light detection and ranging or laser radar (lidar) technology.

As an expression of our support for this work, the 11 NDEP Steering Committee member agencies unanimously approved the following resolution.

"The National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP) Steering Committee has reviewed the ASPRS Guidelines for Vertical Accuracy Reporting for Lidar Data and support the use of these guidelines for elevation mapping. These guidelines are compatible with the NDEP Guidelines for Digital Elevation Data and their use will help to align government requirements with industry standard practices. This will benefit the entire mapping community by improving the consistency and quality of elevation mapping products and fostering better understanding of mapping product quality. The ASPRS Lidar Committee is to be commended for their work on these guidelines."

NDEP would like to commend you for your efforts to support the development of Lidar professional practice and hope that the NDEP and the ASPRS Lidar Committee will continue to coordinate on similar issues.

Sincerely,

Richard Pearsall
Chairperson, NDEP Steering Committee