

The Seahorse



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of America



U.S. Branch of
The Hydrographic Society

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Winter 1996-97

NOS to provide vector data sets for ECDIS

Limited-theme data will include 40 ports

by David B. Enabnit, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, Marine Chart Division

The National Ocean Service (NOS) has been deeply involved with the development of electronic nautical charts and standards for electronic chart data. In late 1995, the International Maritime Organization Assembly, with the concurrence of the international Hydrographic Organization, approved standards for ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information System) and the associated digital data. Under these standards, the national hydrographic offices are expected to produce, maintain and distribute digital data to support electronic navigation systems.

NOS has been working on gathering standards-compliant digital data for several years. Experience has shown that the required exhaustive collection of all data on the nautical charts is far beyond the level of available resources. An estimated \$20M would be needed simply to collect the entire national suite of charts.

However, it is still the belief in NOS that, when used with differential GPS for positioning, electronic navigation systems will be the most signifi-

cant improvement to marine navigation since radar. It is, therefore, incumbent on NOS to produce data to support this improvement to the best of its ability.

THE CONCEPT

Since the exhaustive digital collection of all charts is unaffordable, NOS will collect and make available a reduced set of the most navigationally significant data. This reduced data set will still provide many benefits to an important subset of the marine navigation community yet be within the resources available to NOS. The reduced data set will be standards-compliant except for its reduced content.

Commercial mariners will be able to use the electronic data for real-time navigation and for collision and grounding avoidance — particularly in times of limited visibility. Shippers could augment NOS data with ultra-high precision DGPS private surveys of their piers to allow all-weather docking on instruments alone. Pilots could use real-time tide and current updating capability to know instantaneous conditions along an entire transit route.

The data in this reduced ECDIS will be that high-value data most important for commercial shipping, and

for Navy ships transiting to and from home ports. Data will be provided only in and around shipping routes and is not suitable for general navigation.

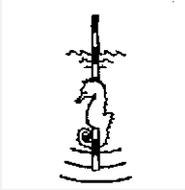
DATA "THEMES"

As a result of questionnaires received from commercial shippers, pilots and other professional mariners, the following data "themes" were chosen:

- ◆ aids to navigation
- ◆ anchorages
- ◆ bridges
- ◆ channels and dredged areas
- ◆ cable areas
- ◆ offshore platforms
- ◆ observations
- ◆ piles
- ◆ precautionary
- ◆ depth curves
- ◆ restricted areas
- ◆ rocks
- ◆ traffic separation schemes
- ◆ wrecks

While many items on a chart such as shoreline, depths, landmarks and inshore information would not be included, NOS' new raster nautical

*(See **Vector**, page 2)*



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 e-mail: thsoa@aol.com

DISCLAIMER

Mention in *The Seahorse* of commercial companies or products does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by The Hydrographic Society. ✪

Vector (from page 1)

charts could be used concurrently with the vector data for general navigation information in the surrounding area.

This vector data set would have the following characteristics:

- ◆ very large scale (1:2,500)
- ◆ DGPS accuracy
- ◆ DX-90 format
- ◆ current to within 1 week at all times
- ◆ electronic product availability (available only electronically)
- ◆ expandable with private data
- ◆ updatable with real-time tides and currents

The data would not be suitable for general navigation by the public-at-large such as recreational boaters, for large-scale naval operations nor as a coastal zone management tool.

STATUS

Data collection equipment and software have been installed and configured and data collection specifications have been written. Data for the selected themes were collected in San Francisco Bay last year and have been used by local mariners and software developers to test the theme selection, to develop software and to test electronic distribution methods. The data set is available to interested parties via anonymous FTP from 140.90.123.30/pub/hybrid.

Nationwide data collection has begun and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1998. This effort will cover the top 40 commercial ports with limited-theme vector coverage. ✪

For more information, contact:
 David B. Enabnit
 NOAA/NOS (N/CS2x1)
 1315 East-West Highway
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 (voice) 301-713-2724
 (fax) 301-713-4516

Gaffney assumes naval research post

from "Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command News,"
 Cathy L. Willis, Ed.

On July 12, RADM Paul Gaffney, USN, became the 19th chief of naval research during a change of command at the Washington Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. He relieved RADM Marc Pelaez who retired after 29 years of naval service. Gaffney will continue as Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command until his relief takes command next summer. He is currently dividing his time between ONR headquarters in Arlington, Va., and CNMOC headquarters at Stennis Space Center, Miss.

As the Navy's senior science and technology executive, Gaffney is responsible for a greater than \$1 billion program ranging from basic research, conducted at universities, to development of manufacturing technologies.



Job opportunity for hydrographic surveyor

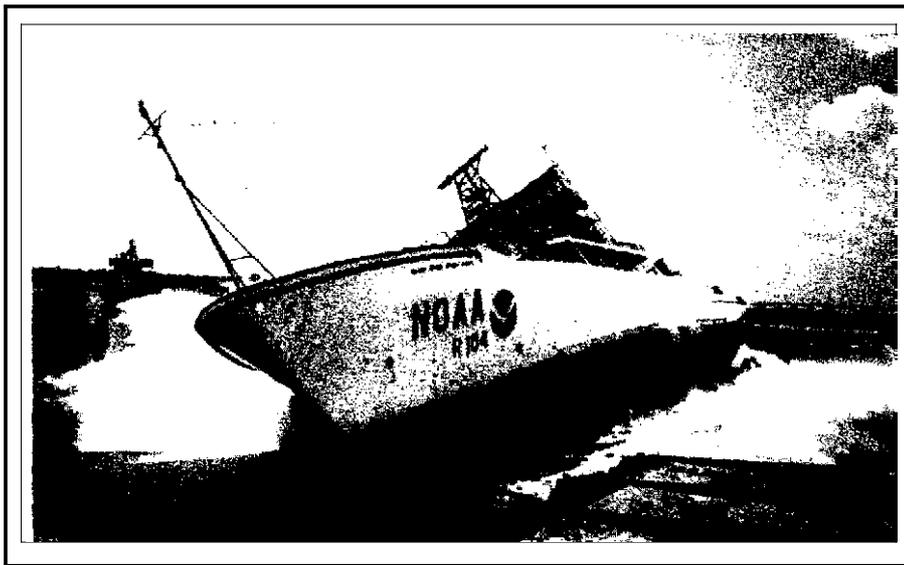
INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER based in Houston needed to oversee survey projects from award through completion; prepare bids and calculations; oversee field work; prepare report, invoice client. Required: BS in Survey Engineering or related field; 5 years experience in offshore surveying/project management including locations in Central and South America. Contact: Human Resources, 200 Dulles Dr., Lafayette, LA 70506. FAX: (318) 268-3272. EOE/M/F/D/V. ✪



Three new oceanographic ships join NOAA and Navy fleets

from "Earth Systems Monitor," NOAA/NESDIS, Sheri Phillips, Ed. and "Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command News," Cathy L. Willis, Ed.

The first NOAA ship to be launched in 16 years became the RONALD H. BROWN amid a glistening spray of champagne as the late Dept. of Commerce Secretary's widow, Alma Brown, cracked a ceremonial bottle across the vessel's hull last May.



NOAA's RONALD H. BROWN was launched into the Intracoastal Waterway last May. The ship is expected to begin operations in the spring of 1997.

The BROWN is a 274-ft, AGOR 24 class oceanographic research vessel that possesses the laboratories, scientific equipment and other capabilities needed by NOAA to effectively carry out its research mission at sea. The launching of the ship was the last milestone in the shipbuilding process before the ship is delivered and commissioned in May 1997. The BROWN's home port will be Charleston, S.C.

The first of the Navy's new multi-mission class of oceanographic survey ships, USNS PATHFINDER, completed its maiden transatlantic voyage Aug. 6 when it pulled into Naples, Italy. On Aug. 8, the ship left port to begin its first operational survey in the Mediterranean Sea. The 329-ft, \$60 million ship began its transit from Nassau in the Bahamas on July 23.

The PATHFINDER and its sister ships, USNS SUMNER and USNS BOWDITCH, were built by the Halter Marine Shipyard in Moss Point, Miss., a division of the Trinity Marine Group.

A fourth ship of the multi-mission class, the USNS HENSON, was launched in Moss Point, Miss., on Oct. 21. The ship is named after Matthew A. Henson, the African-American explorer, who co-discovered the North Pole along with Adm. Robert Peary, in 1909. Henson, the son of Maryland sharecroppers, went to sea aboard a merchant ship at the age of 12. He met Peary while working in a Washington, D.C., hat shop in 1887.

Henson later accompanied Peary on a survey to Nicaragua and on several forays to the Arctic in search of the North Pole.

While Henson, today, is credited with being the first man to actually reach the North Pole, most of the recognition for his contributions came late in life or posthumously. Henson died in 1955 and was buried in New York City. In 1988, his remains were reinterred, with full honors, in Arlington National Cemetery, beside the grave of Peary who died in 1920.

A major speaker at the launching, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, said, "With technologically superior ships like the USNS HENSON and the spirit of great Americans like Matthew Henson leading the way, America can maintain the world leadership in oceanography. But we will only stay in the lead if we ensure the right emphasis is placed on oceanographic shipbuilding, an survey and research requirements."

Canadian Hydrographic Conference '96 huge success

from "Contour," Canadian Hydrographic Service, Mary Beth Bérubé, Ed.

More than 400 hydrographers, marine professionals and equipment suppliers from 23 countries on five continents converged on Halifax, Nova Scotia, in early June [1996] to attend the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC '96).

Academic papers were presented and suppliers showed their wares at an indoor exhibition while state-of-the-art technology was being demonstrated on board ships in Halifax Harbour. Dubbed "Hydrography and Marine Navigation: Defining the Future Dir-

(See CHIC, page 4)

CHC (from page 3)

ection," the conference was hailed an unqualified success by foreign and Canadian delegates alike.

Papers presented focused on three themes that are undergoing a "sea change" around the world: electronic chart navigation systems, multibeam echo sounding systems and differential global positioning systems (DGPS). One day was dedicated to each theme, so that participants could make optimum use of their time while at the conference.

In his opening remarks to CHC '96, Nova Scotia Premier John Savage pointed out that Halifax has one of the largest natural harbours in the world, second only to Sydney, Australia.

"I am a former family doctor, not a navigator," he said, "but I do appreciate that your expertise leads to developments that make commercial shipping safer, more efficient and more able to compete in the make or break world of international trade." He added that the development of reliable navigational charts is a critical enabling factor, and lauded CHS for its role in furthering this activity.

International representation at CHC '96 far exceeded the expectations of Co-Chairs Steve Grant and Betty Rumley. A veteran of international hydrographic conferences, Rear Admiral Chris Andreasen remarked that there was better attendance from foreign countries than he had ever seen at a North American conference. The president of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau in Monaco added that the conference did as good a job as he's seen in bringing together members of the world's hydrographic community and vendors of specialized survey equipment and services.

**SPEED BUMP** DAVE COVERLY

Big summer conference coming up

TRI-SERVICE CADD/GIS/FM SYMPOSIUM'97 & US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND NOAA SURVEYING, MAPPING AND REMOTE SENSING CONFERENCE

18 - 22 AUGUST 1997

Hosted by:

U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis

Location:

Adams Mark Hotel
Fourth and Chestnut Streets
St. Louis, MO 63102

General:

The Tri-Services CADD/GIS Technology Center, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and NOAA will conduct concurrent symposiums in St. Louis, Missouri, during the week of 18 August 1997. Technical sessions, workshops and exhibits will address: CADD/GIS facility engineering and

management applications, CADD in military construction, civil works CADD/GIS, surveying, mapping, hydrography and remote sensing. A major training objective of both meetings is to demonstrate new technologies and their implementation in Federal work. These concurrent meetings are also designed to promote information exchange among government agencies, commercial contractors, equipment manufactures, software vendors and private survey and mapping organizations.

Representatives from Army installations, Corps of Engineers, Navy, Air Force, and NOAA, as well as other Federal agencies, will attend. In addition, A-E service contractors, equipment manufacturers and software application developers are invited to participate. Program topics, technical sessions, workshops and exhibits will include:

Tri-Service CADD/GIS/FM Symposium'97

- Networking/Communications
- Facilities Management and Planning
- Business Practices
- Emerging Technologies
- CADD-based Design Applications
- Construction
- Data Standards
- GIS Implementations

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/NOAA Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing Conference

- Civil Works GIS
- Surveying and Mapping
- Remote Sensing

The 1997 Symposium is open to any individual or group interested in

(See **Conference**, page 5)

Conference *(from page 4)*

the various surveying, mapping, remote sensing and CADD/GIS disciplines.

Symposium facilities:

All technical sessions and exhibits will be held at the St. Louis Adams Mark Hotel at Fourth and Chestnut Streets, about two blocks from the Mississippi River. An outdoor area will be provided on the river bank to demonstrate topographic, hydrographic, and GPS survey equipment. Docking facilities will also be available at this site to board hydrographic survey vessels.

Symposium fees and registration:

Registration for the symposiums may be performed in advance by mail or on site beginning Monday, August 18, 1997. Due to limited space at some of the workshops, advance registration is strongly recommended. To receive a registration package, preliminary agenda, and to enroll in specific workshops, you must contact the St. Louis District at the following address: (e-mail contact is encouraged)

U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis
Attn: CELMS-ED-HG (Bob Mesko)
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833
or e-mail:
conference@smtplms.usace.army.mil

Interested parties should periodically visit the St. Louis District home page:

http://www.lms.usace.army.mil
for updates and current information. You should receive a registration package by mail or e-mail before April 1997. A nominal registration fee may be charged for these symposiums and workshops — details will be included in

the registration package.

Hotel reservations:

Special commercial rates of \$119.00 single, or \$129.00 double and Government per diem rates have been obtained from the Adams Mark Hotel. A block of rooms at these special rates will be held until July 25, 1997. Room reservations should be made directly with the hotel by mail or phone. In order to obtain the special rates, be sure to mention this symposium when making reservations. To obtain the tax inclusive Government per diem rate, Federal employees must present valid travel orders and identification upon registration at the hotel. Airport shuttle service is available for \$10.00 each way or \$15.00, round trip. The hotel self parking garage rate is \$12.00 per day. Valet parking is available at \$14.00 per day.

Adams Mark Hotel
Attn: Reservations
Fourth and Chestnut Street
St. Louis, MO 63102
(314) 241-7400
(314) 241-6618 (FAX)

Call for exhibitors:

Government agencies, commercial firms, service firms and software/hardware vendors are invited to participate in the exhibit hall and demonstrate their products. Individual booth spaces will be available at the Adams Mark Hotel. An outdoor area for demonstrating topographic, GPS, or other technologies will also be provided. In addition, sufficient dock space along the Mississippi River will be reserved to support any exhibitors desiring to demonstrate hydrographic or marine geophysical survey equipment. Exhibit space will be provided for a fee to any interested organization. Space will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Exhibits are being coordinated by

the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS). For further information, contact:

John Palatiello, MAPPS Executive Director
12020 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 100
Reston, VA 20191
Telephone: (703) 391-2739
FAX: (703) 476-2217,
e-mail: **JOHNMAPPS@AOL.COM**

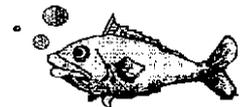
Additional information:

The U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis, is performing overall on-site coordination of the symposium training sessions and related activities. Additional information regarding events not covered or referenced here may be obtained by contacting:

Mr. Brad Strauser or Mr. Bob Mesko
U.S. Army Engineer, District, St. Louis
(314) 331-8385 or FAX: (314) 331-8677



Salty Facts



from "Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command News,"
Cathy L. Willis, Ed.

On Dec. 4, 1872, the master of the Canadian brigantine, DEI GRATIA, sighted a ship which failed to return his signals. A boarding party he sent identified the vessel as the MARY CELESTE. There was no apparent reason why the ship had been abandoned. The last log entry was Nov. 25.

Pulp magazines of the time carried greatly exaggerated versions of the tale. Later investigations concluded that fumes from the alcohol the ship

(See **Salty**, page 6)

Salty (from page 5)

carried as cargo leaked through the oak casks. Fearing an explosion, the master opened the hatches to vent the fumes. As an added precaution, taken perhaps because his wife and baby were aboard, he ordered everyone into the ship's only boat which then fell astern of the CELESTE, but remained fastened to it by a long tether. A gust of wind probably filled the ship's sails, snapping the line and leaving the little boat adrift and its occupants to their fate.

JACOB'S LADDER

A Jacob's ladder is a portable ladder made of rope or metal and used primarily as an aid in boarding ship. Originally, the Jacob's ladder was a network of line leading to the skysail on wooden ships. The name alludes to the Biblical Jacob reputed to have dreamed that he climbed a ladder to the sky. Anyone who has ever tried climbing a Jacob's ladder while carrying a seabag can appreciate the allusion. It does seem that the climb is long enough to take one into the next world.

DITTY BAG

A ditty bag (or box) was originally called "ditto bag" because it contained at least two of everything: two needles, two spools of thread, two buttons, etc. With the passing of the years, the "ditto" was dropped in favor of "ditty" and remains so today. Before World War I, the Navy issued ditty boxes made of wood and styled after foot lockers. These carried the personal gear and some clothes of the sailor. Today the ditty bag is still issued to recruits and contains a sewing kit, toiletry articles and personal items such as writing paper and pens.



NOTICE!
Thanks to Pat Sanders,
THSOA now has a web
page. It is:
www.USAhydrosoc.org

Questionnaire results from fall 1996 issue

by Secretary Gerald B. Mills, THSOA

Thirty five questionnaires which were distributed in the last [Fall 1996] issue of *The Seahorse* were returned — 30 from members and 5 from non-members, 4 of whom were former members. While it will take some time to analyze the implications of these results, a summary is provided here for your information.

1. The number of years as a THS member was relatively evenly distributed: 12 for 0-5 years, 9 for 6-10 years and 9 for more than 10 years.
2. There were 5 replies from the Gulf Coast Chapter, 7 from the Houston Chapter and 18 from members not affiliated with an active chapter.
3. Twenty-six of the member respondents intend to continue their membership and 3 are undecided due to a job change, pending retirement and cost of dues.
4. None of the respondents were less than 30 years of age, six were 30-39, 13 were 40-49, 13 were 50-59 and 3 were older than 60.
5. The number of areas of interest per individual varied greatly from as few as two to as many as eleven.

The most commonly noted areas of interest were navigation (19) and navigation charts (18), followed by information systems (including GIS and ECDIS) (15) and underwater acoustics (15).

Other topics receiving a large number of responses included oceanography (11), geophysics (10), electronics (9), software development (9) and education & training (9). There were no responses for marine biology and only one for pollution. Some other specific topics listed included hydrography in general, lidar bathymetry and seafloor mapping for the oil and gas industry.

6. With regard to general area of practice, 12 indicated nautical charting, 8 industrial offshore and two coastal zone and ports. Eleven individuals indicated combinations of the three practice areas.
7. Fifteen respondents classified themselves as hydrographic surveyors, 3 as manufacturer's representatives, 8 as geoscientists, one as an educator and six as other.
8. There was significant variation in the perceived importance of various THS services. Each of the eleven received at least one rating of "very important" (5) and one rating of "unimportant" (1). The highest rated services, with their average rating, were technical presentations (3.9), conferences/seminars (3.8), technical publications (3.7) and forum for meeting colleagues (3.7). The least important services indicated were the Diary (2.0), participation in education policy (2.5) and the membership register (2.6).

(See **Question**, page 7)

Question (from page 6)

9. There were eight suggestions for additional services which included a web site, an electronic *Seahorse*, bibliography of technical articles from various sources, a job bank, and active chapters in the Washington, D.C., and Great Lakes areas.
10. Twenty-seven of the respondents indicated membership in other professional societies, some in as many as five. The societies indicated most often were the Marine Technology Society (11), American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (11) and the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (8). Sixteen other societies were listed in addition to those included on the questionnaire.
11. All but nine of the respondents indicated that cooperation with other societies with various activities was quite important. The average rating on the previously noted 1 to 5 scale was 3.8. The most preferred societies for combining these activities were ACSM (9) and MTS (8) with four votes for SEG.
12. The vast majority of the respondents indicated that THS dues, relative to services provided and the fees of other societies, were about right (24) or reasonably low (8).
13. Twelve respondents use the THS Diary as their principal diary and favor receiving 3 issues of *The journal* and a Diary over four issues of *The journal* and no Diary for the same annual fee. Sixteen members indicated that they do not principally use the THS Diary and 12 of these would prefer four

issues of *The Journal* and no Diary. One suggestion was to gain larger savings by having three issues of *The Journal* and no Diary and another was that the Diary should be smaller in size.

14. Many of the respondents were undecided about their attendance at the hydrographic conference scheduled for this August in St. Louis. Of the remainder, those that are likely to attend are equal to those that are unlikely to attend.
15. Ten of the respondents have applied for personal certification as a Hydrographic Surveyor with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) and three indicate that they intend to apply in the next two years. Of those that have not and do not intend to apply there were indications that the cost was too high and that there was little perceived benefit in being an ACSM certified hydrographer.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, there has been insufficient time to draw any conclusions from the above summary of results. Your comments on any of these would be greatly appreciated as would your submission of the questionnaire from the last issue. Additional copies can be obtained from the Secretary if you have misplaced the original. With regard to the ACSM certification, there was at least one comment indicating a lack of information on the program. This will be addressed in a future issue. ✪

There was the man who heard that three-fourths of all accidents happen within ten miles of home, so he moved.

Corporate member press release

EdgeTech announces new office

Milford, Mass.—EdgeTech is pleased to announce that it has recently appointed Roger Caron to manage their newly established Houston, Texas, office. Mr. Caron will be involved with all product sales and equipment leasing and will be initially responsible for the Gulf of Mexico area.

Roger has over 25 years in the marine geophysical, oceanographic and navigation markets and has worked most recently with TSS and Del Norte as sales manager in international sales. Before Del Norte, Mr. Caron worked at EG&G Marine Instruments as sales engineer for side scan and seismic product lines.

EdgeTech is pleased to have Roger back on the team, and his experience, both technical and in worldwide sales, will provide a valuable asset. ✪

Candidate sought for the position of executive secretary of THSOA/THS (U.S. Branch)

After serving in that capacity for 16 years, Jack Wallace is looking to passing the executive secretary baton!

It is envisioned that the tasks of preparing *The Seahorse* and the other administrative duties will be split. Dale Westbrook and Jerry Mills will continue to hold up *The Seahorse* end of things.

(See **ExecSec**, page 8)

ExecSec (from page 7)

Essentially, the job entails:

- ◆ servicing the official address (post office box), and responding to requests for information on hydrography in general and membership specifically,
- ◆ maintaining the official membership data base, sending out renewal notices, advising IHQ in England of recently paid-up members and address changes, and providing mailing labels for *The Seahorse*,
- ◆ receiving payments for membership and sale of goods (ties) and publications, depositing the payment in the appropriate account, paying of bills, transfer of pounds sterling to England on a quarterly basis, preparing annual statement of account to England, and preparing state tax returns (as required),
- ◆ arranging for lease of space and transport of materials used for official Society exhibits at conferences.

The U.S. Branch currently pays for a separate telephone/fax line, rental of postage meter, rental of post office box, and related office expenses including a small copier and fax/answering machine.

It is estimated that the average time spent is about five hours per week. Storage space for historical and active records is equivalent to two 4-drawer filing cabinets plus a shelf for materials, publications for sale, and exhibit materials.

Current branch policy is to provide an annual budget of about \$750 for computer equipment which becomes the property of the individual if the duties are performed for three years.

Interested? Reply to P.O. Box 732, or e-mail: thsoa@aol.com.



SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



Oceans '97 MTS/IEEE conference announced

We have received a brochure announcing the Call for Papers for the Oceans '97 MTS/IEEE conference and exhibition to be held Oct. 6-9, 1997, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The conference is sponsored by the IEEE, the Oceanic Engineering Society and the Marine Technology Society. The theme is "500 Years of Ocean Exploration."

Proposed sessions at the conference will focus on the following:

- ▶ Underwater acoustics
- ▶ Ocean measurement systems
- ▶ Marine resources and environment
- ▶ Ocean & coastal engineering
- ▶ Signal & information processing
- ▶ Communication & control, navigation, mapping & charting
- ▶ Vehicles & platforms, advanced technology
- ▶ Marine policy & education

Unfortunately, the deadline for submission of abstracts was Jan. 15, 1997. However, it is our experience that sometimes these deadlines are

extended. A Call for Tutorials and a Call for Student Posters were also made.

For more information, contact:
 Oceans '97 MTS/IEEE
 IEEE Travel and Conference Management Services
 445 Hoes Lane
 Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
 USA
 e-mail: publications@sirius.ns.ca
 FAX: (908) 981-1203
 Tel. (in USA): (800) 810-4333
 Tel. (outside USA): (908) 562-5598
 (collect) ✪

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



HOUSTON

[The following report was submitted by the Houston Chapter's Jim Cain, Trustee, THSOA — Ed.]

At the October meeting, Bob Coker of South West Laser made a presentation centered on hand-held laser ranging. Bob demonstrated the latest technologies in hand-held laser ranging instrumentation including the ability to receive return signals from non-reflective surfaces. The addition of a built-in flux gate compass provides true bearing to complement the slant range, which suggests this equipment could replace conventional total stations for certain applications.

In November, Geoffrey S. Bayliss of GeoChem Laboratories, Inc., presented a paper titled: "Surface Prospecting for Oil and Gas Accumulations Using an Integrated Geophysical and Geochemical Approach — Offshore and Onshore Considerations."

(See **Chapters**, page 9)

Chapters (from page 8)

Geoff's professional experience has been in organic geochemistry for various divisions of Esso from 1964 to 1971, and then as co-founder, president and chairman of the board for GeoChem Group of Companies in the UK and in Houston, Texas, since that time. He explained the integration of hydrocarbon geochemistry with traditional seismic methods as developed and implemented by GeoChem.

The Houston Chapter's End of Year Party was held on Friday, Dec. 13, 1996, in the Grill Room of the Sierra Grill Restaurant in Houston and was attended by almost 50 chapter members and guests. A cash-bar "social hour" began at 6:30 p.m., followed by the banquet. The banquet menu featured "Tortilla Soup with Roasted chicken, Avocado and a Sharp Colby Cheese", a salad of "Romaine Leaves Tossed with a Roasted Garlic Dressing and Farmer's Cheese" and diner's choice from the following two main entrees: "Catfish Almandine Sauteed and Topped with Cilantro Lime Butter" or "Grilled Chicken Breast with Texas Goat Cheese Medallions and a Chipotle Pepper Cream Sauce," all followed by dessert, coffee, etc.

The dinner was financed in large part through the significant generosity of corporate sponsors. Racal-NCS and Western Geophysical Company each contributed \$500; Gahagan & Bryant Associates donated \$200; Hydro Projects, Inc. and Trimble Navigation each put in \$100; and Ron Van Gasbeck (of PGS) and Joel Gillet (of BENCO) each hosted dinner wines for the assemblage (probably ranging in the order of \$200 to \$400 from each of these two companies). The net effect of the vigorous corporate support was that members were able to enjoy a dinner and beverages worth an estimated \$50-\$60 per person, for only \$20 each!

The event was organized by Jim Cain and Noel Zinn, both of Western Geophysical (who had complained about the lack of planning for similar events in prior years). However, the great success of the event was due to the enthusiastic support of the committee, members of the Houston Chapter and the local Houston-area corporate sponsors who came forth to help out. Thanks again to all!

The officers of the Houston Chapter for 1997 are:

Michael Bames — Chairman
 Larry Buchanan — Vice-Chairman
 Meredith Rhodes — Treasurer
 Phil Summerfield — Secretary
 Kim Fairweather — At Large (Membership)
 Dave Etherington-Brown — At Large
 Jim Cain — National Trustee, THSOA

The first Houston Chapter meeting of 1997 was held Tuesday, Jan. 14, at which time the new local President, Michael Bames of RACAL-NCS, gave a brief talk on the background and goals of The Hydrographic Society and the Houston Chapter. Michael also laid out plans for meetings and social events for 1997. An informal discussion followed, with good input from members present.

The 1997 Chapter Committee met on Friday, Jan. 17. Items discussed were: ways to increase membership, additional meeting topics for 1997, treasurer's report and improving the interface with THSOA and THS. In addition to five of the seven local committee members, there was one visitor, the Honorable Secretary of The Hydrographic Society, Mr. Rob Naylor, visiting from the UK.

☆☆☆☆

No reports were received from the other chapters. ✪

The deadline for
 submission of
 articles for
The Seahorse
 is April 18, 1997

1998 Canadian Hydrographic Conference scheduled

The Canadian Hydrographic Service is sponsoring the 1998 Canadian Hydrographic Conference to be held in Victoria, British Columbia, March 10-12, 1998. Authors are invited to submit proposals for papers which address the conference theme of "Turning Data into Dollars." Topic areas include:

1. Meeting the requirements for safety of navigation and revenue generation through new products, distribution networks, partnerships, etc.
2. Improving safety of navigation by:
 - o providing a user's perspective of present-day electronic charts (EC) and EC systems.
 - o using three-dimensional visualization for navigation and route simulation.
 - o estimating bathymetric source quality and the health of existing digital products.
 - o passing reliable quality information to the mariner for use in risk assessment.
 - o dredging and performing 100% bottom coverage or other high-density surveys.
 - o acoustically mapping the composition of the seabed.

(See **CHC**, page 10)

CHC (from page 9)

- o providing complete coastal coverage for precise positioning.
 - o providing and using real-time water levels or precise vertical measurements of ship's keel.
3. Protection of the environment through coastal zone management.

Abstracts of 200 words or less are requested by Oct. 1, 1997. Notification of acceptance of abstracts will be given by Nov. 1, 1997, with print-ready manuscripts due by Jan. 15, 1998. Proposals for poster presentations for display during the conference are also invited. Abstracts, proposals and requests for further information should be sent to:

1998 Canadian Hydrographic Conference
Institute of Ocean Sciences
P.O. Box 6000
Sidney, B.C.
Canada V8L 4B2

e-mail: chc98@ios.bc.ca

Conference information is also available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.ios.bc.ca/ios/chs/pages/chc98.html>. ✪

Vacancy announcements

Please note the following three vacancy announcements for hydrographer/surveyors.

- **Job title** — Senior Hydrographer
Contract period — 2-5 years
Work schedule — SPECIAL 84 hrs. (6 wks. on, 2 wks. off)
Work location — MARINE OFFSHORE MOVING
Qualifications — Bachelor degree in hydrographic surveying, alter-

nately in land surveying with a RICS qualification in hydrographic surveying, or equivalent military training from a national hydrographic organization.

Experience — Minimum of five years experience as party chief/hydrographic surveyor-in-charge. Operational experience with DGPS a requirement, with multi-beam echo sounder, ROV and digital charting highly desirable. Computer literate with DOS/Windows required; knowledge of Unix desirable.

- **Job title** — Supervising Surveyor (US/CAN)

Grade — 11

Contract period — 1 year (w/option to renew)

Work schedule — 48 hrs./wk.

Work location — Abqaiq, Saudi Arabia

Qualifications — A degree in surveying engineering is preferable in addition to job description requirements.

Experience — In addition to job description, candidate with experience in work direction of a CAD survey production using AutoCad or Intergraph, use of GPS for setting survey control and use of modern survey total station will be preferred.

- **Job title** — Survey Control Specialist

Grade — 12

Contract period — 1 year (renewable)

Work schedule — 48 hrs./wk.

Work location — Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

Qualifications — In addition to job description requirements, a degree in surveying engineering and a professional land surveyor license are preferable.

Experience — In addition to Job

description requirements, candidate should preferably have experience in: Use of survey total station for digital data collection and coding; GPS surveying; and AutoCad or Intergraph map production.

Qualified applicants should contact Ross Williams at one of the following addresses/numbers for more information.

Mail: 13704 Turkey Foot Road, North Potomac, MD 20878-3983

Tel: (301) 948-9549 (Bus.)

(301) 258-0921 (Res.)

FAX: (301) 948-9549

e-mail (Internet): rwilliams@rhp.com or rhp@rhp.com ✪

Steps parents can take to ensure healthy computer usage

from "Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command News," Cathy L. Willis, Ed.

Fortunately, there are a number of steps parents can take to better ensure their computers are being used for education or healthy recreation uses, including:

- ☞ Talk to your kids about their use of the computer. Look at the software they are using.
- ☞ Whenever possible, keep the computer in a common area of your home, such as a family room or den.
- ☞ You decide if your child has a legitimate need for access to a modem, and if you allow it, monitor the activity, times and the numbers dialed. Then closely review your long distance telephone bill.
- ☞ If the computer is left running unattended, check the screen.

(See **Healthy**, page 12)

Application for Membership



**The Hydrographic Society
of America
and the
U.S. Branch of The Hydrographic
Society**

Membership in The Hydrographic Society is open to any individual or organization with an interest in surveying afloat. No formal qualifications are required.

The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) serves as the focal point for activities in America. Members of THSOA receive *The Seahorse* newsletter, are eligible for membership in local chapters, and receive a discount on registration at THSOA sponsored events. Local chapters have been formed in Houston, Tx., Seattle, Wash., and Bay St. Louis, Miss. THSOA also provides administrative support to the U.S. Branch of The Hydrographic Society.

The Hydrographic Society (THS) was founded in 1972 at the Northeast London Polytechnic in London, England. Membership numbers over 1800 individual and 270 corporate members from 66 countries. For those members interested in the international aspects of the organization, the U.S. Branch provides a convenient way to pay dues directly in U.S. dollars. Members of the U.S. Branch receive all the benefits of THS, including quarterly issues of *The Hydrographic Journal*, an annual Diary, and a discount on registration at sponsored international events.

The dues structure allows individual and retired members to opt for THSOA alone or both THSOA and THS. Individual, Retired, and Student Memberships begin on entry and are renewed on April 1. Corporate Memberships are renewed on January 1. Dues are not prorated, but members joining in the middle of the year receive all copies of the publications for that year.

Corporate Members receive two copies of *The Hydrographic Journal*, reduced rates for advertising in the *Journal* and *Diary*, a listing in the October issue of the *Journal*, and access to the mailing list of those members who have consented to have their names included.

NAME: Title (Mr, Ms, CAPT, Dr, etc.)			First	M.I.	Last
ADDRESS (for mailing and correspondence)					
CITY		STATE		ZIP	
EMPLOYER			EMPLOYER CITY and STATE		
TEL:		FAX:			
e-mail address:					
YEAR (From which membership is to be effective):					199
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if name may be included on mailing list provided to Corporate Members					

ANNUAL DUES

(Check appropriate box)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$60 |
| RETIRED and no longer employed in the profession of sea surveying | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$30 |
| STUDENT full-time undergraduate or graduate | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$20 | _____ Name of Institution |
| CORPORATE | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$270 | |
| ASSOCIATE CORPORATE available to a different location or unit of a parent Corporate Member | <input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$150 | _____ Name of Parent Corporate Member |

Please return with payment to,
The Hydrographic Society
P.O. Box 732
Rockville, MD 20848-0732

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Healthy *(from page 10)*

Take note of what is being displayed and ask about it.

- ➔ If you are not "computer literate," learn about computers. Take a course or two, ask a friend, join a club or user group or make the time and learn from your child.

Based on a growing number of reports, parents need to be more aware of computer use by their children. It is a sad fact of life that our kids may be targeted for exploitation by the type of criminals who prey upon children. In many cases, children have become embroiled in criminal activity either wittingly or unwittingly and are unable to get themselves out.

Parents are well advised to understand more about "cyberspace" and to learn about computers, computer language and the environment in which our children interact. ✨

Do you know about the cross-eyed teacher?
She had trouble with her pupils.

MYTHBREAKERS

Do you believe that applying butter or oil to a minor burn will provide soothing relief? Think again. Butter or oil are among the worst treatments for burns because they seal in the heat generated by the burn. The best treatment is cool water. Soak for 30 minutes or more, until the pain ceases. Seek medical care for more serious burns.

SAFETY:
Live With It

Safety Is The Best Fashion Statement

Keep a thought for safety when you choose the outfit you'll wear to work tomorrow morning. Your clothes can be hazardous to your health.

- ◆ Loose-fitting clothes, particularly sleeves, shirttails, and ties can easily get caught in machinery.
- ◆ Pants that are too long can catch the heel of a shoe, causing a fall.
- ◆ Open-toed shoes won't protect you from bumps and scrapes.
- ◆ High, narrow-heeled pumps make falls a greater risk.
- ◆ Dirty clothes, particularly those with recent oil or grease stains, can cause skin irritations or can catch fire from a spark.
- ◆ Jewelry, especially bracelets and long necklaces and chains, can be a hazard in a plant setting. Remove them if you are working near moving machinery or energized circuits.
- ◆ And remember: *Always* wear the safety accessories—such as earplugs, gloves, and eyeglasses—that are required for your job.

Places Of The Heart

What are the most romantic places in North America? Some might say San Francisco, Quebec, or New Orleans. But the following cities and towns have Valentine's spirit built into their names!

Cupids, Newfoundland
Heart's Content, Newfoundland
Hearts Desire, Ontario
Heart Mountain, Wyoming
Kissimmee, Florida
Lovelady, Texas
Loveland, Colorado, Ohio

Loves Park, Illinois
Loveville, Maryland
Loving, New Mexico, Texas
Romance, Arizona
Romeo, Colorado, Michigan
Valentine, Arizona, Nebraska, Texas
Valentines, Virginia



The Hydrographic Society
of America
P.O. Box 732
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