

The Seahorse



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The Hydrographic Society
of America



U.S. Branch of
The Hydrographic Society

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Fall 1997

ACSM launches new Hydrographer Certification Examination

New program effective Sept. 2, 1997

*by Jerry Mills, NOAA, Coast Survey,
Silver Spring, Md.*

The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) has modified its hydrographer certification program by combining the "inshore" and "offshore" designations and replacing the "at home" project planning exam with an objective examination that will be both timed and proctored. The decision to remove the distinction between "inshore" and "offshore" hydrographer designations was due in part to the increased similarities of vessel positioning brought about by the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Persons presently certified by ACSM will retain their "Inshore" and/or "offshore" certification.

The new program became effective on Sept. 2, 1997, and requires all applicants who meet the experience requirements for ACSM certification to take a three-hour multiple choice and short answer examination. Topic areas include depth measurement,

vessel positioning, horizontal and vertical control, tides and water levels, survey planning, nautical science and general marine science. Questions from related fields such as cartography and photogrammetry may also be included. Guidance for appropriate subject matter was obtained from the International Advisory Board for the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors co-sponsored by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Examinations will be given each year at the two annual ACSM national meetings and also at the ACSM headquarters in Bethesda, Maryland. The first examination was given on Oct. 29, 1997, at the GIS/LIS Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The next two testing dates are March 4, 1998, at the ACSM Annual Convention and Exhibition in Baltimore, Maryland, and June 25, 1998, at ACSM Headquarters.

Changes have also been made to the application process. In addition to the previously required experience record and four references, applicants will be required to submit an essay describing the fundamental aspects of

hydrography and their qualifications to perform hydrographic surveys.

The ACSM Hydrographer Certification Program began with the ACSM Marine Surveying and Mapping Committee in response to complaints about unqualified bidders getting hydrographic surveying work.

In September 1981, the ACSM Board of Directors adopted the original "Hydrographer Certification Program," and the first certificate was awarded in 1985. In addition to certification by examination, many hydrographers were given "direct" certification based solely on their documented experience in the hydrographic survey field. This "direct" certification process ended in March 1992.

The above changes to the certification process were approved at a May 1997 meeting of the 12-member Hydrographer Certification Board which is made up of certified hydrographers from private industry and the federal government. Additional information about the Hydrographer Certification Program is available from ACSM's home page:

(See **ACSM**, page 2)



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

ACSM (from page 1)

<http://www.landsurveyor.com/acsm/>

For a list of suggested references or more specific details, contact Denise Calvert at ACSM headquarters: Phone: (301) 493-0200, Fax: (301) 493-8245 or e-mail:

deniseacsm@mindspring.com ✪

KARL'S KEYNOTES

by Karl Wm. Kieninger
Hydro Marine, Inc.
 Branch-elected member of council,
 U.S. Branch, and THSOA treasurer

THS council meeting results

The following is a summary of the major actions of the Meeting of Council of The Hydrographic Society on October 23-24, 1997, in London, England.

Council reviewed the operation of the Society for the first six months of the fiscal year (1997-1998) and determined that our expenses and income were in line with the budget. This means that we are still projecting a loss of 30,000 English pounds for the year.

Council in principle approved a budget for 1998-1999 that reduced the operational cost of headquarters and council. This would have projected a deficit of 12,100 pounds. Council decided that it must have a balanced budget. Therefore, it approved a large increase in both individual dues to 48 pounds and corporate dues to 250 pounds. A decrease in the Branch Retention Rate was made from 25% to 20%. The Branch Retention Rate is the amount a branch retains locally.

Council noted that these increases would accelerate the decrease in mem-

bership. The budget will be calculated with a 10 percent decrease in membership.

The diary for 1999 in its present form was approved.

Peter Warden, BA, FRICS, chief surveyor, Exploration Consultants, Ltd. was the only nomination for the post of hon. secretary. No nominations were made for the three member-of-council positions that will become vacant in December of 1997.

The council took over the duties of the Education Fund Management Committee. All outstanding actions of the fund were completed. A new plan for the operation of the fund will be developed. ✪

Houston hosts THSOA AGM

by Secretary Jerry Mills, THSOA

The Hydrographic Society of America's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Nov. 11, 1997, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting of the Houston Chapter. President Pat Sanders, THSOA, presided over the meeting which was attended by 60 members.

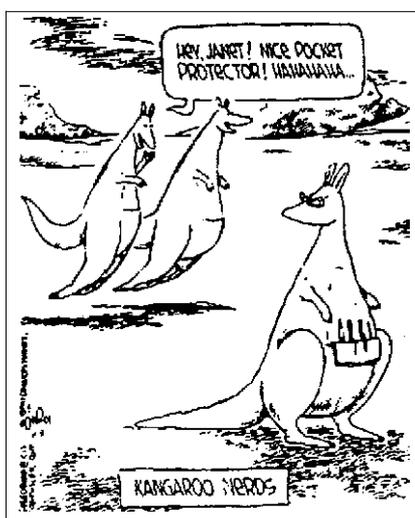
There was a very brief discussion of the minutes from last year's AGM and the Treasurer's Report, followed by an announcement of the election results. Karl Kieninger was re-elected as treasurer. John Dassler of David Evans and Associates from Portland, Oregon, and David Clark of David Clark and Associates from Mahwah, New Jersey, were elected as trustees to replace Ken Burke and Brian Apsey. Thanks are in order to Ken and Brian and their contributions to the Society over the years. Welcome aboard John and David.

Pat also announced that arrangements have been finalized for THSOA to host a Hydrographic Survey

(See **AGM** page 3)

AGM (from page 2)

Conference in Mobile, Alabama, April 26-29, 1999. Some members have already volunteered for various "committees" and others have been "volunteered". Any contributions of your time to the organization of this first-time event will be greatly appreciated. Contact Pat Sanders at (860) 349-3800 or via e-mail at pat@coastato.com for further information. ✨

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY**Shoreline workshop held**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Bathymetric Subcommittee and the Coastal States Organization co-sponsored a workshop on Nov. 3-5, 1997 at NOAA's Coastal Services Center in Charleston, South Carolina. The focus of the workshop was to bring together representatives from states and federal agencies to discuss the use of shoreline data and develop a process to facilitate the exchange of such data.

Shoreline information is available from a wide variety of sources and with a varying amount of detail. Usually such data sets in identical areas do not coincide due to different data

collection methods, different datums and changes to the shoreline itself, either manmade or natural. As the importance of accurate up-to-date shoreline data increases, so does the need to share shoreline information between local, state and federal authorities. Key to this sharing process is a description, in commonly understood terms, of the data itself and the methods and procedures used to acquire the shoreline.

Following presentations from seven state organizations and five federal agencies, breakout sessions were held to obtain perspectives from shoreline data users, producers and policy makers on the data descriptors and terminology that are most important in shoreline data sets. Working groups were established to prepare draft documents over the next few months which will serve as a basis for an FGDC Data Content Standard. For more information contact: Millington Lockwood of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, Phone: (301) 713-2777, ext. 171, or e-mail:

millington.lockwood@noaa.gov
or Cindy Fowler at NOAA's Coastal Services Center, Phone: (803) 974-6249, or e-mail
cfowler@csc.noaa.gov. ✨

Membership dues increase imminent

by Secretary Jerry Mills, THSOA

At last month's Hydrographic Society Meeting of Council, two decisions were made that will have an impact on the membership fees in the United States. The Council approved an increase in Individual and Corporate Member dues and a reduction in the amount of those dues that may be retained by the individual THS Branches from 25 percent to 20 percent.

In the past, the U.S. Branch has passed most of this retention back to

its members to keep the dues at the lowest possible rate. In addition, since dues must be forwarded to THS headquarters in British pounds sterling, potential variations in the exchange rate must be accounted for in determining appropriate membership rates for members of the U.S. Branch. The THSOA/U.S. Branch board will be meeting soon to establish new rates which will be effective Jan. 1, 1998, for Corporate Members and April 1, 1998, for Individuals. ✨

Second short course on hydrography to be offered

A second offering of a short course on Hydrographic Surveying for Nautical Charting will be offered by Old Dominion University's Center of Coastal Physical Oceanography on March 30-April 3, 1998, in Seattle, Washington. This course was developed in response to the federal government's increased emphasis on contracting for hydrographic surveys to support nautical charting and the economic importance of such surveys in maximizing the draft of transiting vessels.

The five-day course will focus on the equipment and procedures necessary to satisfy the more rigorous survey specifications that are required for nautical chart application. Topics will include horizontal and vertical datums, multibeam and side scan sonar operations, corrections to echo soundings with a special emphasis on sound velocity corrections and survey vessel dynamics, tide and water-level measurements and hydrographic survey contract issues including specifications and deliverables.

The course will be offered in cooperation with NOAA's Office of Coast

(See **Course**, page 4)

In Memoriam

Raymond H. Carstens

1909-1997

On Saturday morning, November 15, one of the giants of hydrography in the U.S.A. passed away six days after being diagnosed with liver cancer. He was 88 years old, and other than failing eyesight, he had been in generally good health.

Mr. Carstens (or Mr. C., as many of us called him) maintained an excellent memory. Earlier this spring, when I called him about a survey situation that had occurred in 1953, he recalled it.

Mr. C. was Chief, Hydrographic Surveys Branch/Division, U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey and its successor agencies for the better part of 30 years. His career in USC&GS began in 1931 as a commissioned officer. Switching to the civil service after a few years, most of his career was spent in the office. He retired in 1979. He truly was dedicated to excellence in his work and was greatly respected for his knowledge of the profession.

In the late sixties, with the sinking of the submarine U.S.S. *Thresher*, Mr. C. was chauffeured to DOD to review survey records. Among his many talents, he was known for his ability to interpret echogram traces from early depth recorders.

After retirement, he returned to the office for the annual Christmas party until last year. Despite his passing, Ray Carstens will remain a giant in the annals of hydrography. ✪

—Bob Derkazarian
NOAA, Office of Coast Survey

Course (from page 3)

Survey which will provide several instructors. Last year's course, which was held in Norfolk, Virginia, was attended by 24 students from the private and public sectors. For more information on the technical aspects of the course contact: Commander Kathy Timmons, NOAA, at (206) 526-6835 or via e-mail:

ktimmons@achydro.noaa.gov.

For more information on course registration contact: Dr. Larry Atkinson, ODU at (757) 683-4926 or via e-mail: atkinson@ccpo.odu.edu.

✪

International hydrographic survey standards working group meets

by Jerry Mills, NOAA, Coast Survey, Silver Spring, Md.

The International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Working Group (WG) on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys met in Monaco from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3, 1997. Representatives from eight Member States (USA, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Australia and Sweden) attended the meeting. The IHO is updating the current edition of the Stan-

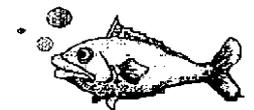
dards (Third Edition, 1987) which is published as Special Publication No. 44 (S-44).

A summary of the initial draft of the Fourth Edition was published in *The Seahorse* in the Summer 1995 (Vol. V, No. 2) issue. Substantial changes have been made to the document in an effort by the IHO to obtain a broader consensus from the 62 Member States. Of particular interest are the addition of specifications for the detection capability of acoustic systems and for maximum line spacing based on survey depths.

The latest draft has been distributed to the Member States for final approval with a deadline of Jan. 15, 1998. A full summary of the final version of the Standards will be provided in the next issue of *The Seahorse*.

✪

Salty Facts



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

Although the *Santa Maria* was Columbus's flagship on his first voyage to the New World, it was the much smaller caravel, *Niña*, that was to endear itself to the explorer. The ship's formal name was *Santa Clara*. The nickname *Niña*, little girl, probably came from the name of the ship's owner, Juan Nino. The *Niña* and its sister ship, *Pinta*, often scouted ahead of the plodding flagship as the party explored the islands of the Caribbean.

On Christmas 1492, the *Santa Maria* went aground. A fort was built from the ship's timbers. On the return journey to Spain, the *Niña* proved seaworthy as well as fast, surviving a severe winter storm.

(See **Salty**, page 5)

Salty (from page 4)

Columbus continued to use the *Niña* on subsequent voyages. The sturdy little craft was damaged in the hurricane of 1495, but was refitted in the New World and returned to service.

The last historical record of Columbus's "little girl" was an apparent sale of the ship by the cash strapped admiral to a man named Diego Ortiz in October 1499.

T.V.F.

SPINNING A YARN

Today, "spinning a yarn" refers to any exaggerated story; originally, it was exclusively a nautical term understood by sailors only. Officers and mates in the old days set aside one day a week to tell sea stories. On this day, the salts could talk to their heart's content and the period came to be known as the time for "spinning the yarn." Later, anyone telling a tale was said to be "spinning the yarn," a cherished naval tradition.

SHOW A LEG

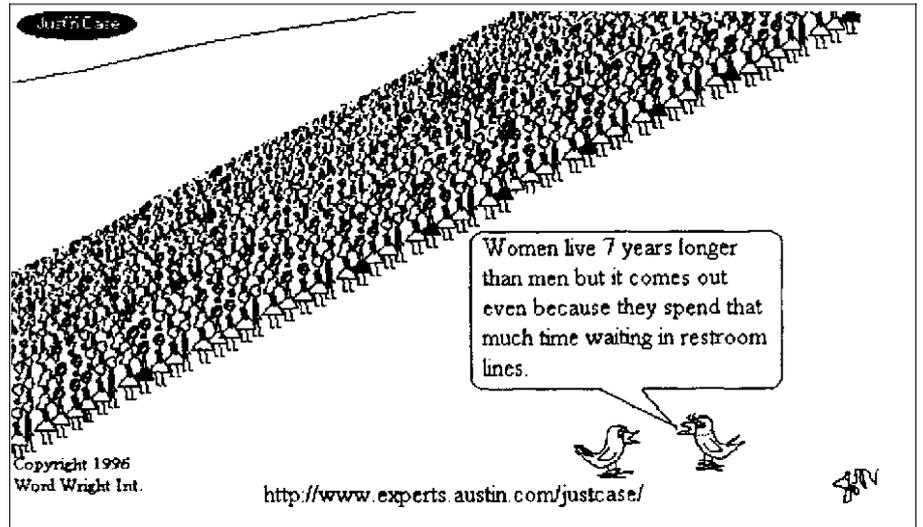
In the British Navy of King George III and earlier, many sailors wives accompanied them on long voyages. To avoid dragging the wrong "mates" out of the rack at reveille, the bosun asked all to "show a leg." If the leg shown was adorned with silk, the owner was allowed to continue sleeping. If the leg was hairy and tattooed, the owner was forced to "turn-to."

In today's navy, showing a leg is a signal to the reveille petty officer that you have heard his call and are awake.



NOTICE!

**THSOA's web site,
www.USAhydrosoc.org
is continually being im-
proved. Try it! ⚙**



**Corporate member
press release**

EdgeTech's side scan sonar used to locate rare logs in Lake Superior

Edge Tech's Digital Side Scan Sonar Data Acquisition System played a significant role in locating sunken treasure 60-feet deep in the brutally cold water of Lake Superior. In the depths of the lake, Scott Mitchen, explorer and diver, discovered perfectly preserved logs, some of which have been under water for well over 100 years. To get a clear display of how these valuable logs were dispersed and how he should continue with the recovery, Scott used the EdgeTech's MIDAS/DF-1000 Side Scan Sonar System.

To retrieve his rare discovery, Mitchen along with a few partners, created The Superior Lumber Company. The company is now in the process of recovering about 30,000 logs from the bottom of the lake. The cut timber began to accumulate as loads of logs were being transported back to sawmills during Wisconsin's lumberjack era in the late 19th century. Today, divers equipped with

robotic recovery equipment and Edge-Tech's Side Scan Sonar System have begun a unique recovery operation for these now valuable logs.

The DF-1000 system used in the recovery provides high-resolution sonar images of the seafloor through advanced digital technology. Applications for the DF-1000 Digital Side Scan System include hydrographic and geological surveys, cable and pipeline surveys, search and recovery, pre-/post-dredging surveys and location of seafloor hazards.

EdgeTech designs, produces and markets worldwide acoustic-based marine products and instruments such as side scan sonars, sub-bottom profilers, acoustic releases and transponder navigation systems, as well as industrial process instruments that measure moisture and humidity. ⚙

VERY PUNNY!

source unknown, forwarded by e-mail

A throne salesman called on an African tribal chief. "Sorry" said the chief, "but I live in this tiny grass hut with six wives and 20 children. I have no room for a throne—we would not have enough space on

(See **Punny**, page 6)

Punny (from page 5)

the floor to sleep at night."

"No problem." replied the salesman, "The throne will sit on the floor during the day, and I will install a system of ropes and pulleys so that you can hoist it up to the ceiling at night."

The deal was completed, and the throne, ropes and pulleys were installed. On the first night after installation, however, one of the pulleys came loose and the throne crashed onto the chief, killing him.

This proves that people who live in grass houses shouldn't stow thrones. ♪

HYPACK '98 to be held in San Diego, California

The sixth annual HYPACK training seminar will be held from Jan. 5-8, 1998, at the Bahia Hotel, located on Mission Bay in San Diego, California. Coastal Oceanographics conducts these annual seminars as a means of providing basic instruction in hydrographic surveying, the latest changes in technology and the use of their HYPACK hydrographic survey software.

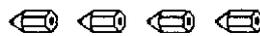
Topics include the basics of geodesy, interfacing hydrographic equipment, designing hydrographic surveys, collecting data, applying corrections for tides and sound velocity, editing data, sounding selection, import/export to/from CAD, plotting of smooth sheets and sections, volume computations and surface modeling for volumes and contours.

HYPACK '98 is open to HYPACK users, interested parties and equipment manufacturers. Familiarization with the HYPACK software and the Windows operating system are recommended but not necessary. More than 350 hydrographers from

over 14 nations attended HYPACK '97 in Hilton Head, South Carolina, last winter. For more information, see Coastal Oceanographics' Webpage at: <http://www.coastalo.com/hy97.html> or contact the company at (860) 349-3800. ✪

Miscellaneous notes

The magazine *Professional Surveyor* reports that Captain Lewis Lapine, NOAA, director of the National Geodetic Survey, was recently elected a fellow of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Lew announced that he is retiring from NOAA and will assume the position of chief, geodetic survey for the state of South Carolina. His new job begins on Jan. 2, 1998. Our best to you, Lew, and smooth sailing.



Ron Furness, editor of *Hippocampus*, the newsletter of the Australasian Branch, advises that his new e-mail address at the Australian Hydrographic Office is: Ron.Furness.34742328@navy.gov.au ✪

Shalowitz publication now on the "web"

by Jerry Mills, NOAA, Coast Survey, Silver Spring, Md.

Shore and Sea Boundaries, written by Aaron L. Shalowitz in 1964, is now available on the internet at <http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov/ocs/text/shallow.htm>. This two-volume publication focuses on the interpretation and use of Coast and Geodetic Survey data and charts with a special emphasis on the application of this data to engineering and legal

problems. Of particular interest is Shalowitz's presentation of numerous court cases that have utilized Coast and Geodetic Survey data and the accompanying discussion of issues related to the shoreline. In fact, *Shore and Sea Boundaries* is considered to be the authoritative source on shoreline matters by coastal zone planners and managers, surveyors, state and local government and the legal profession.

Unfortunately, *Shore and Sea Boundaries* has been out of print for over 10 years. Interest in shoreline issues has increased dramatically over that time, yielding substantial demand for copies of the publication. It is hoped that access via the internet will satisfy that demand and provide ready access to all 1,200 pages of Shalowitz's work. ✪

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS**HOUSTON**

At Houston's June meeting, Noel Zinn of Western Geophysical gave a reprise of his EAGE lecture on "Modeling Velocity Gradients in an OBC, First Break Positioning Algorithm." Noel's talk clearly explained how systematic errors encountered using refracted seismic data can be modeled and eliminated so that first breaks may serve as primary OBC positioning. The potentially complex subject was expertly explained and many audience members were amused to revisit long-forgotten mathematical expressions like Helmert, Pythagorean and Polynomial.

Mr. Zinn gave the 43 members and guests of the Houston Chapter the benefit of his many years in seismic

(See **News**, page 7)

News (from page 6)

applied technologies and methodologies in an excellent presentation of the core issues to consider in one of the latest subjects to arrive in our profession.

The chapter secretarial post remains vacant at this time. Kim Fairweather (DigiCOURSE) and Jim Cain (Western Geophysical) have agreed to continue to split the secretarial duties on a temporary basis until a permanent secretary is found. Kim can be reached by phone at (713) 784-4292, fax: (713) 784-6961 or email:

104521.2016@compuserve.com;

Jim by phone at (713) 964-6345, fax: (713) 964-6372 or email:

cain@wgcgps.com.

At the chapter's July meeting, Dr. David Monk, president of Energy Innovations Technical Services, gave a most accomplished presentation entitled "Cost Effect Specifications for 3D Marine Surveys." His talk pointed out some important weaknesses in the technical specifications used in tender and execution phases of client projects. His working examples were drawn from real situations (without identifying the parties involved).

The chapter thanked EI and Dr. Monk for giving their informed opinions to the members. It was particularly interesting to the audience to see a connection between technology and money. Dr. Monk gave the 38 members and guests of the Houston Chapter much to think about and generated healthy discussions.

The chapter announced its Year-End Party, which will be held on Dec. 5 at the Sierra Grill, Grill Room. Then, on Jan. 19, 1998, their Annual Superbowl Chili Cookoff will be held at Sherlock's Pub. All industry personnel are invited to attend and participate.

The Houston Chapter continues to be very active and vibrant. They welcomed 25 people who committed

to membership during the July meeting. Eleven new members signed and 14 established members continued their support.

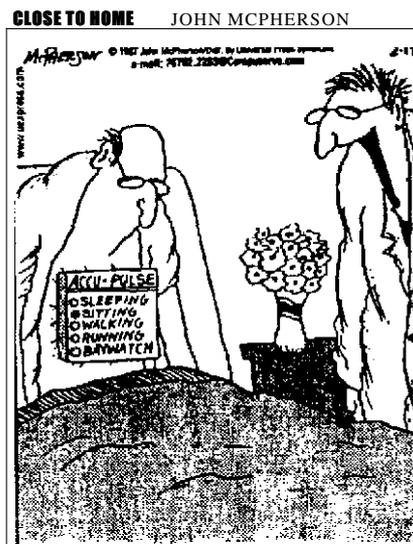
The August meeting featured Dr. Martin Rayson of Quest who gave a very educational presentation of the salient features of "Verification of the UKOOA Differential GPS Guidelines" which he recently co-authored for *The Hydrographic Journal* (July 1997) with Dr. William Roberts and Professor Paul Cross.

Quest had been contracted to examine aspects of DGPS positioning within the UKOOA Guidelines and discovered some very interesting results. Dr. Rayson is currently employed on a long-term contract with Enron. His presentation was attended by 53 members and guests of the Houston Chapter.

The chapter is in need of candidates to stand for the three executive committee seats becoming vacant at year end.

☆☆☆☆

No reports were received from the other chapters. ✨



"Just make sure the pacemaker is on the proper setting and you'll be fine, Mr. Lusk."

Call for papers

A call for papers has been issued for HYDRO 99, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, the 11th Biennial Conference of The Hydrographic Society. The conference will be held Jan. 5-7, 1999, at the University of Plymouth, UK.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is Dec. 15, 1997; the deadline for notification of acceptance is Feb. 16, 1998; and the deadline for submission of papers is Sept. 14, 1998.

Plymouth, in southwest England, is easily reached by road, rail or air. It is approximately a four-hour drive from London or Birmingham. Regular train services run to Plymouth from most major cities. Plymouth airport is 10 minutes drive from the city center.

Plymouth has a magnificent maritime history that includes the Pilgrim Fathers, Drake, Bligh, Darwin, Scott and Chichester, and is a focus of hydrographic education.

For further details, contact:

HYDRO 99

Institute of Marine Studies

University of Plymouth

Drake Circus

Plymouth, PL4 8AA, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1752 232410

Fax: +44 (0) 1752 232406

e-mail: **hydro99@plymouth.ac.uk**

✨

Announcing . . .

by Executive Secretary Jack Wallace,
THSOA

THSOA is in the final stages of becoming a BankCard Merchant; that is, we will be able to accept Visa and MasterCard for payment of dues. Details will be furnished with renewal notices. ✨

Table 1
The Hydrographic Society-Reserves
 (in British pounds)

GENERAL RESERVES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Int'l. Headquarters	91,762.00	104,873.00	123,603.00	102,123.00	102,295.00
U.K.Branch & regions	21,748.00	25,689.00	22,804.00	21,005.00	21,483.00
Overseas branches	38,074.00	41,413.00	42,924.00	51,730.00	49,313.00
TOTAL	151,584.00	172,155.00	189,331.00	174,858.00	173,091.00
EDUCATIONAL FUND					
Int'l. Headquarters	26,102.00	26,787.00	26,904.00	26,779.00	35,670.00
Benelux branch	1,044.00	1,357.00	1,608.00	1,678.00	1,412.00
Danish branch		3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	2,922.00
TOTAL	27,146.00	31,662.00	32,012.00	31,957.00	40,004.00
TOTAL RESERVES	178,730.00	203,817.00	221,343.00	206,815.00	213,095.00

On the next!

by Goldbrick



At risk of being found a fool, or worse, I decided (after all these years of hearing Society Headquarters singing the blues about how the Society's finances were hurting), to look at the nifty little publication called "Report of the Council of Management and Financial Statements," furnished to each member every year by The Hydrographic Society.

I am about as far from being a financial wizard as can be, much less a CPA, or even someone who likes to read financial reports and can understand them. I usually ignore these little documents, knowing as I do the

meticulous and conservative nature of the Brits, I have always felt secure in knowing that somewhere inside the document it says, "... each member of the Society has, in the event of the winding up of the Society, a limited liability to contribute to the assets of the Society a sum not exceeding one pound." So, knowing that I could afford to donate one pound, I have always figured, why worry if the Society goes bankrupt?

Recently, though, the Society's Council raised the dues and reduced the amount of the dues the branches retain to support their finances. In fact, we have been hearing forecasts for several years now that the Society is about to go broke. Questions like "Do we need the Diary?" or "Why can't we get more support from industry through advertising?" have been springing up like weeds. It is important, therefore, that we try to find out whether putting the screws to the members is really justified.

All these things prompted me to attempt to glean from the little financial statements, to the best of my ability (limited as it is), whether the Society is in dire straits or not. This led me to the section of the pamphlet called "General Reserves." I then came up with a table (Table 1) showing the numbers from 1993 through 1997. Some financial slight of hand (a change in format by the auditors) made it somewhat difficult to compare 1997 with the other years, but I tried. You should know that a pound is worth about \$1.69 in U.S. dollars. (It is amazing what one can find on the Internet.)

I must submit that the Society's financial reserves look good to me in fact, reserves totalling more than £ 213,000 (about \$360,000 U.S.) makes one wonder just what they plan to do with all that money. International

(See **Goldbrick**, page 9)

Goldbrick (from page 8)

headquarters alone has a general reserve of £ 102,000 (about \$ 172,000 U.S.).

As an aside, my perusal of the pamphlet uncovered the fact that Society Headquarters (with dues paid by all of us) has been subsidizing the U.K. Branch newsletter to the tune of £ 545 in 1996 and £ 954 in 1997. It is a slick publication. Now we know why. Other branch newsletters are completely supported by the individual branch itself, and that is the way it should be. The U.K. Branch and regions have £ 21,000 in reserves, so they can afford it.

If we got rid of that pesky Diary, which cost the Society a net £ 2,807 last year, and Headquarters support of the U.K. Branch newsletter, it appears to me the Society could save about £ 4,000 a year without even trying. Next, may I suggest that both the dues increase and the reduction in the branch retention rate be rescinded. Then, get everybody out on a concerted membership drive (with incentives like free publications or ties provided by headquarters), and stop wringing our hands. ✨

Corporate member press release

EdgeTech announces a new addition to their staff

Edge Tech of Milford, Massachusetts, a subsidiary of Victoreen, Inc., recently announced the appointment of Jean Schwartz as New Business Development Manager. Mr. Schwartz has over 35 years of experience in small to medium sized product manufacturing companies, principally

in the marketing and business development functions. He holds a BSEE degree from UMASS-Dartmouth and has held similar positions at Sippican Corp., Klein Associates and Ulvertech America.

EdgeTech is a technical leader in electro-acoustics, marine instruments and moisture and humidity systems. The company designs, manufactures and distributes products to commercial, governmental and academic clients worldwide.

EdgeTech has a strong R&D and product development capability and expects to continue its exceptional growth in both current and new business areas by committing resources to new technology-based products. The company works closely with academic, governmental, and private groups to develop advanced products.

✨

Fiction can be stranger than truth—sometimes

from the Internet

REDMOND, Wash. - Oct. 21, 1997 - In direct response to accusations made by the Department of justice, the Microsoft Corp. announced today that it will be acquiring the federal government of the United States of America for an undisclosed sum.

"It's actually a logical extension of our planned growth", said Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, "It really is going to be a positive arrangement for everyone."

Microsoft representatives held a briefing in the oval office of the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton and assured members of the press that changes will be "minimal." The United States will be managed as a wholly owned division of Microsoft. An initial public offering is planned for July of next year, and the federal government is expected to be profit-

able by "Q4 1999 at latest", according to Microsoft President Steve Ballmer.

In a related announcement, Bill Clinton stated that he had "willingly and enthusiastically" accepted a position as a vice president with Microsoft, and will continue to manage the United States government, reporting directly to Bill Gates. When asked how it felt to give up the mantle of executive authority to Gates, Clinton smiled and referred to it as "a relief." He went on to say that Gates has a "proven track record," and that U.S. citizens should offer Gates their "full support and confidence." Clinton will reportedly be earning several times the \$200,000 annually he has earned as U.S. president in his new role at Microsoft.

Gates dismissed a suggestion that the U.S. Capitol be moved to Redmond as "silly," though he did say that he would make executive decisions for the U.S. government from his existing office at Microsoft headquarters. Gates went on to say that the House and Senate would "of course" be abolished. "Microsoft isn't a democracy," he observed, "and look how well we're doing."

When asked if the rumored attendant acquisition of Canada was proceeding, Gates said, "We don't deny that discussions are taking place."

Microsoft representatives closed the conference by stating that United States citizens will be able to expect lower taxes, increases in government services and discounts on all Microsoft products.

About Microsoft

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal computers, and democratic government. The company offers a wide range of products and services for public, business and personal use, each designed with

(See **Stranger** page 10)

Stranger (from page 9)

the mission of making it easier and more enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal computing and free society every day.

About the United States

Founded in 1789, the United States of America is the most successful nation in the history of the world, and has been a beacon of democracy and opportunity for over 200 years. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the United States is a wholly owned subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation.



by Dale Westbrook

In the previous issue (Summer 1997), I challenged you. I bet that I wouldn't get more than two pieces of e-mail (containing something publishable) from *all* of you before the next *Seahorse* came out. I won! But *The Seahorse* lost! Except for the fine obituary for Ray Carstens, written by Bob Derkazarian and e-mailed to me, I didn't receive any other publishable material from you members-at-large. I guess you don't have anything to say.

In this issue, Goldbrick certainly had something to say. Perhaps that column will stir some discussion, or letters-to-the-editor. By the way, the cartoons, "Speed Bump" by Dave Coverly and "Close to Home" by John McPherson are reprinted free

with permission from the cartoonists. We appreciate their cooperation very much. "Just 'n Case" by Steve Neubauer is available on the Internet.

My mother in Connecticut passed away. She was 98, and had been transferred from her nursing home to the hospital. I had to postpone production of this issue to attend her funeral. I apologize for the delay. Happy Holidays to all of you! ✻

Things that make you go, "Hmm . . ."

from the Internet

- Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"?
- What do you do when you see an endangered animal that is eating an endangered plant?
- Is it possible to be totally partial?
- If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?
- Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
- Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
- Why do people who know the least know it the loudest?
- If the funeral procession is at night, do folks drive with their lights off?
- If a stealth bomber crashes in a forest, will it make a sound?
- If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
- When it rains, why don't sheep shrink?

- Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?
- If the cops arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?
- When companies ship Styrofoam, what do they pack it in? ✻

Safety shorts

from "ideas unlimited," with permission

The Heat Is On

With Jack Frost nipping at your nose, one way to keep high energy bills from squeezing your wallet is to reduce dependence on your central heating system. A portable kerosene heater or wood stove can help you keep warm this winter at relatively low cost.

But you have to be careful when using these alternative heat sources. The National Safety Council warns that misuse or malfunction of heating equipment is the single greatest cause of home fires. Here's how to eliminate potential heating hazards.

- Keep a three-foot clearance between floor heaters and walls or such flammable objects as curtains and upholstered furniture. Place a portable stove where it won't be knocked over.
- Be sure to use only K-1, water-clear kerosene. Don't use diesel fuel or gasoline in a kerosene heater and never move the heater or add fuel when it is on or still hot.
- Store kerosene outside the house and wipe up spills immediately.
- Burn only dry, well-seasoned wood in a fireplace or stove. Green wood has a high moisture content and can cause considerable buildup of creosote, an oily and combustible substance that can be ignited by a spark.
- Don't burn trash in a wood stove, it can start a chimney fire.
- Never use flammable liquids in a wood stove.
- Don't leave a wood stove or kerosene heater unattended for any length of time—especially overnight.

Danger: Typewriter Ahead

Think you can't get hurt using conventional office equipment? That safety is a problem only for industrial machinery? You'd be surprised. Typewriters, copiers, sorters and collating and addressing machines can grab dangling ties, scarves, and jewelry. And make sure electrical equipment is turned off before making routine adjustments like changing a printer ribbon or clearing a paper jam—or you could get a nasty electrical shock.

Membership Application



**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, receive a \$15 discount on subscription to *Hydro International* magazine and receive a discount on registration at THSOA sponsored events. Local chapters have been formed in Houston, Tx. 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 London, England, in 1972. For those members interested in the international aspects of the profession, the U.S. Branch of THS provides a convenient way to pay dues in U.S. dollars. Members of THS receive quarterly copies of *The Hydrographic Journal* and a discount on registration at sponsored international events.

THSOA Corporate Members receive *The Seahorse*, a free hotlink or company description on THSOA's website (www.USAhydrosoc.org) and free posting of recruitment notices in *The Seahorse*. THS Corporate Members receive two copies of *The Hydrographic Journal* and a discount on *Journal* advertising.

The dues structure allows Individual, Retired, Student and Corporate Members to opt for THSOA alone or both THSOA and THS. There is no THSOA-only Associate Corporate rate. Individual and Retired memberships begin on entry and are renewed on April 1. Corporate memberships are renewed on January 1. Student THS memberships begin on April 1, while THSOA Student memberships are totally flexible to accommodate the school calendar. In all cases, dues are not prorated. However, members joining in the middle of the year receive all back issues of the publications for that year.

NAME: Title (Mr, Ms, CAPT, Dr, etc.)			First	M.I.	Last
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EMPLOYER					
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)

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| <p>INDIVIDUAL (Houston Chapter add \$10 for local dues)</p> <p>RETIRED and no longer employed in the profession of sea surveying</p> <p>STUDENT full-time undergraduate</p> <p>CORPORATE</p> <p>ASSOCIATE CORPORATE available to a different location or unit of a parent Corporate Member</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA \$100</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$60</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$270</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$150</p> |
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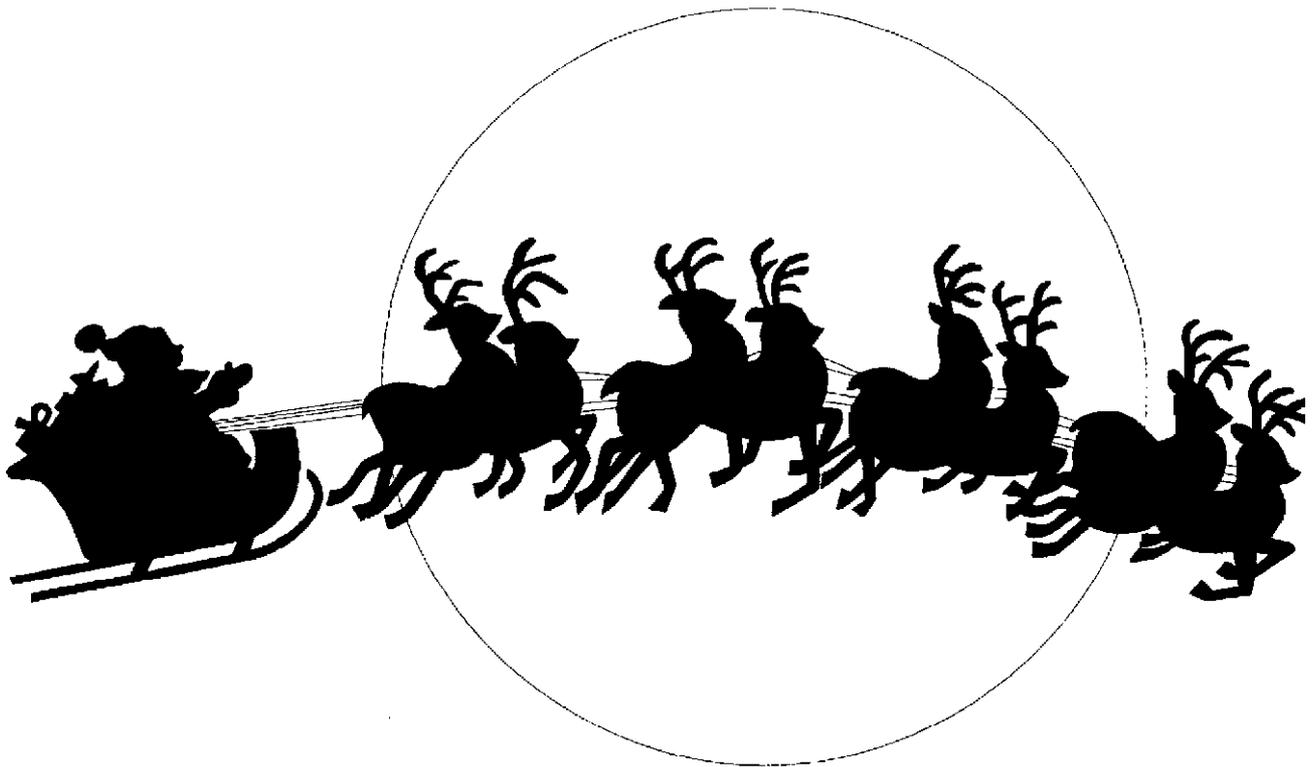
If **Student**, name of institution _____

If **Associate Corporate**, name of parent _____

STATEMENT: I wish to make application for membership in The Hydrographic Society. I agree to abide by the Articles of Association and to further its aims and objectives. I declare that the answers to the above are accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree that the decision of The Hydrographic Society Executive in regard to this application is final.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Please return with payment to:
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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