

The Seahorse



Newsletter published quarterly by

The Hydrographic Society
of America



U.S. Branch of
The Hydrographic Society

Vol. VIII No. 4

P.O. Box 732, Rockville, MD 20848-0732

Winter 1998-99

U.S. Hydrographic Conference '99 coming soon

Will be presented by THSOA in Mobile, Alabama, April 26-May 1

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

HYDRO '99, the first major U.S. conference on hydrographic surveying since 1994, will be held April 26 through May 1 at the Convention Center in downtown Mobile, Alabama.

This conference is also the first being presented by The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA), and renews the long tradition of such conferences held by NOAA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dating back to 1972. NOAA and the Corps of Engineers are sponsors of the conference along with the Naval Oceanographic Office and the Canadian Hydrographic Service.

Technical Sessions and Workshops

The technical sessions have been organized along seven main themes or subject areas over the three core days of the conference (April 27-29). After the conference opening on Tuesday morning, the first session will focus on hydrographic systems, both for data

acquisition and sensor testing. The lead paper will discuss the increasingly important Hydrographer Certification Program of ACSM (American Congress on Surveying and Mapping).

Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to vertical aspects of hydrographic surveying from tides and water levels to settlement and squat measurements using OTF GPS. The technical session will be followed by a panel discussion on RTK water level determination.

Offshore hydrography will be the leadoff topic for Wednesday morning. This session, devoted to the offshore industry, is another departure from previous conferences which have focused on nearshore surveys to support nautical charting. Included will be papers on deep-water gravity and magnetics, positioning ocean-bottom seismic cables and mapping geo-hazards.

Papers in the next two sessions will cover the topics of side scan sonar and multibeam systems. Of particular interest will be papers from several companies detailing their experiences in conducting contract surveys to

(See **Conference**, page 2)

Joint Hydrographic Center to be established at the University of New Hampshire

by Captain Andrew A. Armstrong,
NOAA

NOAA and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) are teaming up to form a joint Hydrographic Center. The new center, to be located at the Durham, New Hampshire, campus of the university, will provide the United States with a world-class facility for the development and evaluation of innovative hydrographic survey equipment and techniques and for the education of hydrographic surveyors.

The Center will be guided by co-directors from NOAA and UNH. Top technical experts and experienced hydrographic educators from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom have been recruited to join with the faculty and staff of the existing multi-disciplinary Ocean Engineering and Oceanography programs at the university. The center will be

(See **Center**, page 3)



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

Conference (from page 1)

support NOAA's nautical charting program. A panel discussion on experiences with shallow-water multibeam systems and associated errors will conclude the day.

Papers in the opening session on Thursday will cover the topic of airborne laser bathymetry and its application to hazard detection and coastal zone management. Data presentation will be covered in the last two sessions with topics ranging from multi-fuel ECDIS (Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems) and print-on-demand nautical charts to digital marine resource mapping. In addition, items of national interest with regard to data standards will also be discussed.

Beginning on Monday and running concurrently with the technical sessions will be twelve commercial training sessions and three workshops on geodesy, echosounder calibration techniques, and tides and water levels. The latter workshop should be of particular interest to surveyors who are being contracted to work in areas with increasingly more complex tidal regimes while maintaining or exceeding previous accuracy requirements.

Coastal Oceanographics will also present a two-day seminar on their HYPACK software on Friday and Saturday.

Exhibits

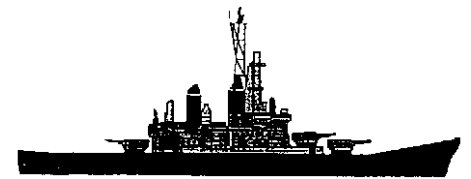
Interest in exhibit booths at this year's conference has been particularly high with a complete sellout being achieved in December of last year (over half of them were sold over a year ago!). In addition to 73 exhibitors, several companies will provide on-the-water demonstrations of their equipment from vessels docked adjacent to the Mobile Convention Center.

Other Events/Meetings

The ACSM Hydrographer Cert-

ification Examination will be given to those who have received approval from the Hydrographer Certification Board and have made arrangements with the board's liaison from ACSM. For more information on the program, visit ACSM's website at: <http://www.survmap.org/educat45/educat01.htm>.

The conference's Welcome Reception will be held in the Exhibit Hall on Tuesday evening.



The battleship USS ALABAMA will be the site of the other social event of note, a dinner/reception which will include an ample supply of Gulf Coast seafood and southern dishes.

Registration

For the budget conscious, the inexpensive registration fee (\$150 for THSOA members and \$250 for non-members) and lodging rate (\$55 per night at the Adams Mark Hotel) should be encouraging. The fee includes not only admission to the technical sessions, exhibit hall and both social events, but also free admission to the workshops and commercial training sessions.

For more information about the conference or how to register, visit the following Internet site:

<http://www.usahydrosoc.org>
 or contact: Ms. Lourdes Ramos of Coastal Oceanographics at (860) 349-3800 (voice) or (860) 349-1982 (fax).

As always, these conferences are a great opportunity to meet fellow hydrographers, renew old friendships and swap a few sea stories. Hope to see you in Mobile!

Center (from page 1)

housed in a soon-to-be-built addition to the UNH Ocean Engineering Building.

Beginning in the fall of 1999, UNH will offer a Hydrographic/Ocean Mapping option to its Masters of Science degrees in Ocean Engineering and Oceanography. These programs will be structured to meet the International Hydrographic Organization Category "A" Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors. As soon as possible, an interdisciplinary bachelor's degree program will be established.

The center will also provide continuing education opportunities in hydrography by sponsoring workshops and short courses in specific topics of interest to government and private sector hydrographers.

In concert with the NOAA-UNH Joint Hydrographic Center, the university is also forming a Coastal and Ocean Mapping Center (COMC). The COMC will provide for a mechanism for private sector participation in hydrographic education and research. Several ocean and hydrographic industry firms have already signed on, ensuring a running start for the program. The unique combination of government, university and private sector participation will place these centers in the forefront of hydrographic education and technology. ✨

VERY PUNNY

from the Internet

One of the great Punjabi gurus, Guru Swami, walked barefoot everywhere, to the point that his feet became quite thick and hard. Even when he wasn't on a fast, he did not eat much and became quite thin and frail. Unfortunately, this great mystical leader ended up with very bad breath due to his poor diet.

It was only a matter of time before Guru Swami became known as a super-calloused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis. ♪

U.S. Hydro '99-Airline info.

Fare discounts are available through Continental Airlines for the conference. These discounts do not apply to Senior Citizen, Government, or Military fares and some other discount fares. Continental offers discounts of 5 to 10 percent from normal fares, and zone fares which offer discounts without a Sat. night stay.

For reservations on Continental Airlines, attendees can call their travel agent or Continental Airlines (800-523-3273) and provide the reservation agent with the reference number: JYJ8MX.

-Treasurer Karl Kieninger

Mail Bag

[This letter was originally sent to the editor of *The Hydrographic Journal*, Mr. J. A. Kitching. It was forwarded to us by THSOA Treasurer Karl Kieninger. We thought it interesting enough that it should be reprinted here in *The Seahorse*.—Ed.]



December 30, 1998

The Hydrographic Journal
Attn: J. A. Kitching, Editor

Dear Mr. Kitching:

Thank you for printing the very interesting letter from Mr. Christensen, "Multibeam Echo Sounders: An accurate depth measuring tool-or merely a modern wire sweep," in your October issue. He brings up many issues that are of great interest to those using multibeam sonar.

We at C & C have also seen the peculiar artifact Mr. Christensen describes where strong reflectors appear

with exaggerated height slightly beyond their true range, usually accompanied with a false deep on the near side. This artifact occurs when the variation between the target and bottom signal is greater than the side lobe suppression. We have seen this in circumstances similar to those of Mr. Christensen-gas filled pipelines on smooth clay bottoms.

We have actually used this phenomenon to our advantage from time to time by tracking pipelines in water depths beyond that at which the pipeline would normally be resolved.

Faulty soundings associated with a given transmit pulse are clustered on each side of the valid sounding. Both the valid and the faulty soundings typically have nearly the same acoustic range. The amplitude of the faulty soundings, however, are typically less than the amplitude of the valid sounding by a significant amount. Because the artifact is distinctive in its appearance and attributes, it can be edited out, leaving a gap in the data.

For engineering surveys, our procedure is to retain the data and note the height of pipe above bottom as not reliable. If we were to encounter this situation in a charting survey (which we have not), we would have to take measures to resolve the actual depth.

Without a doubt, multibeam echo sounder operations are more difficult than single beam operations. The greater complexity requires more technical capability. The additional error sources (such as ray bending and roll errors) require tighter constraints on all error sources. The volume of data forces complicated processing scenarios.

Both single beam and multibeam systems produce spurious soundings on occasion, but those in multibeam data are more complex and certainly less familiar. Reducing the number of spurious soundings is currently the

(See **Mailbag**, page 4)

Mailbag (from page 3)

biggest challenge for manufacturers. Better side lobe suppression, ambiguity resolution in phase detect, and more sophisticated bottom detect algorithms offer potential for improvement in the future. In the meantime, careful and intelligent editing as well as the occasional investigation will remain necessary to keep the data trustworthy.

Are multibeam echo sounders worth the extra effort? Naturally this depends on the purpose of the survey, but multibeams: present unique advantages. Because of the increased sounding density, the likelihood of actually taking a sounding on a shoal is greatly increased. Because of the smaller bottom area used for each bottom detect, the likelihood of successful bottom detect on a small feature is improved. In the circumstances where we have seen the artifact as described above, measurement of the pipeline height with a single beam from the surface was certainly not practical and probably not possible.

I agree with Mr. Christensen that certain manufacturers have not been very forthright in explaining system limitations to potential customers. I am not sure how this situation can be resolved, because a thorough explanation of a system's limitations seems mostly to divert sales towards less scrupulous manufacturers. I will say that our multibeam supplier, Simrad, has answered all of our inquiries truthfully and completely and has worked diligently (and so far successfully) on resolving critical limitations found in field use.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James A. Chance
C&C Technologies
Survey Services

[This letter, with an entirely different subject, was sent to the Executive Sec. of THSOA. Perhaps those in charge of the THSOA web page would care to comment.—Ed.]

Dear sir,

Enjoy your web page but would like to make a few comments regarding the contents and their life span. The employment opportunities appear to be aging offers and should have an expiration date. I've replied to some via e-mail and received "return to sender" messages. Some of them have been on your page for quite some time. It can be a useful tool, and I would like to know what the fees are and if "employment wanted" notices can be submitted for entry onto the THSOA page (THS offers free "employment wanted" ads for members).

As you may or may not know, most jobs are found through contacts and/or friends. We have a very incestuous profession. Although much of my work is outside the US, a *Seahorse* story/article on employment opportunities in the US private industry would be a "seller." Most consultants, like myself, go where the work is, especially when working in the oil industry. Appreciate your consideration.

Keep up the good work.

K. Peters
Consultant Hydrographer
Casablanca, Morocco ✪

NOAA contracting update

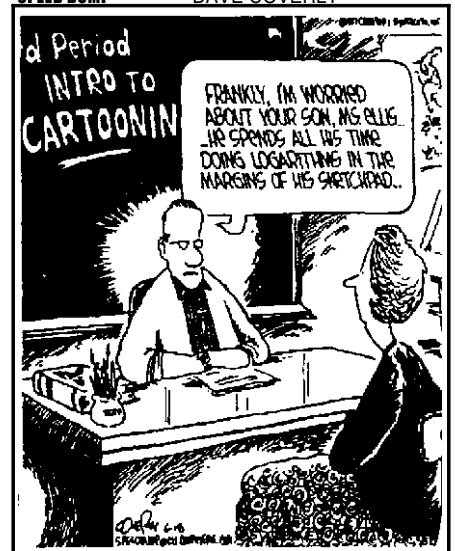
by C. Brian Greenawalt, NOAA Coast Survey, Silver Spring, Md.

NOAA expects to announce a requirement for hydrographic surveying services to support nautical charting in navigable waters in the northeastern United States in the next few weeks. Interested parties should

look for further details in the Commerce Business Daily (CBD) or visit the website for NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, <http://chartmaker.ncd.noaa.gov>, and follow the links to the Hydrographic Survey Division and contracting opportunities. For additional information, contact: C. Brian Greenawalt, NOAA, Hydrographic Surveys Division, Silver Spring, Maryland via e-mail at Brian.Greenawalt@noaa.gov or (301) 713-4553 (fax). ✪

SPEED BUMP

DAVE COVERLY



The rest of the story

from "Square and Compasses," Grand Lodge, A. F. & A.M., of Connecticut

A British family journeyed to Scotland for a summer vacation. The mother and father were looking forward to enjoying the beautiful Scottish countryside with their young son. But one day the son wandered off all by himself and got into trouble.

As he walked through the Woods, he came across an abandoned swimming hole, and as most boys his age do, he took off his clothes and jumped in. He was totally unprepared for what happened next. Before he had time to enjoy the pool of water, he

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Story (from page 4)

was seized by a vicious attack of cramps. He began calling for help while fighting a losing battle with the cramps to stay afloat.

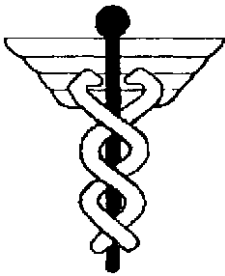
Luckily, it happened that a farm boy was working in a nearby field. When he heard the frantic cries for help, he brought the English boy to safety. The father whose son had been rescued was of course very grateful.

The next day, he went to meet the youth who had saved his son's life. As the two talked, the Englishman asked the brave lad what he planned to do with his future. The boy answered, "Oh, I suppose I'll be a farmer like my father." The grateful father said, "Is there something else you'd rather do?" "Oh, yes!" answered the Scottish lad, "I've always wanted to be a doctor. But we are poor people and could never afford to pay for my education." "Never mind that," said the Englishman. "You shall have your heart's desire to study medicine. Make your plans and I'll take care of the costs."

So, the Scottish lad did indeed become a doctor. Some years later, in Dec. of 1943, Winston Churchill became very ill with pneumonia while in North Africa. Word was sent to Sir Alexander Fleming, who had discovered the new wonder drug, penicillin, to come immediately.

Flying in from England, Dr. Fleming administered his new drug to the ailing prime minister. In doing so, Winston Churchill's life was saved for the second time. For it was the boy Winston Churchill whom Alexander Fleming had rescued from the swimming hole so many years before. . . And that is the rest of the story. ✨

—Author Unknown



Other educational opportunities in hydrography

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

Educational opportunities in hydrographic surveying have recently become more abundant. In addition to the above mentioned [See article, page 1-Ed.] Hydrographic/Ocean Mapping option at the University of New Hampshire, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is in the final stages of establishing a graduate level program in Hydrographic Science in the Department of Marine Science. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning, courses will begin in the fall of 1999.

The program is being developed in accordance with the Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors which were created under the auspices of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). For further information, visit the USM website at:

<http://www.marine.usm.edu/hydro/hydro.html>

As reported in the spring 1998 issue of *The Seahorse*, Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech) began offering Hydrographic Engineering as a Master of Science option in the Ocean Engineering Department in 1996. Numerous hydrographic surveying-related courses are also available to undergraduate students. Until the recent developments at UNH and USM, this was the only program of its type in the U.S. More information is available at:

<http://www.fit.edu/AcadRes/dmes/ocean/ocean.html>

It is certainly heartening to see the establishment of three programs of this caliber after so many years without one program open to the public. Hopefully, there will be enough inter-

ested students to make each of the programs successful. Meanwhile, there is some concern about the availability, or lack thereof, of hydrographic technician training or educational programs at the undergraduate level, but further review shows numerous opportunities.

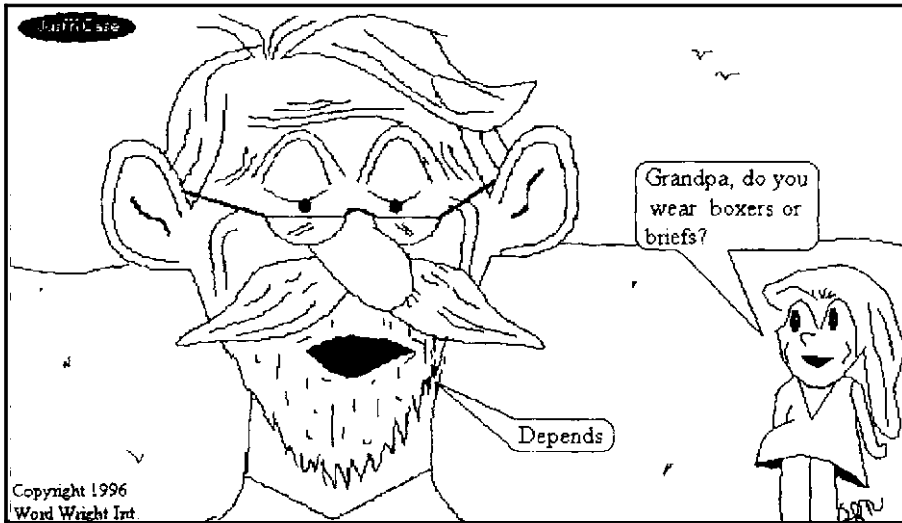
There are short courses like the one presented at February's Alaska Conference on Surveying and Mapping and the one at March's American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Conference in Portland, Oregon. Coastal Oceanographics has been running mini-courses on HY-PACK, the hydrographic acquisition and processing software, in various locations around the country.

The University of New Brunswick conducted the well-known coastal multibeam course in Seattle last month and the University of Alaska is currently offering a course in Hydrographic Surveying. There will be numerous workshops at April's U.S. Hydro'99 Conference. While there is no complete comprehensive undergraduate course in a U.S. university at present, there are at least plans for such at UNH.

On an international note, two new courses in the United Kingdom have been announced. *OCEANSP@CE*, an e-mail newsletter on marine issues, reports that two prestigious London institutions, University College London and the Port of London Authority, will introduce a new 12-month postgraduate course in Hydrographic Surveying.

In a later edition, *OCEANSP@CE* announced a new undergraduate course on "Seafloor Exploration and Surveying" at the Southampton Oceanography Centre, University of Southampton. There certainly seems to be a growing interest in training/education in hydrographic surveying.

(See **Educational**, page 6)



Educational (from page 5)

As an aside, if you don't already subscribe to *OCEANSP@CE*, you may want to consider it. There is no charge for a subscription and it's easy to sign up. Send your name and e-mail address to: oceanspace@dial.pipex.com with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. It's an international newsletter on a wide variety of ocean-related topics, many of which deal with hydrographic surveying. It's highly recommended, given all the changes taking place in our business.



Classic Steven Wright

from the Internet

I stayed in a really old hotel last night. They sent me a wake-up letter.

I'm taking Lamaze classes. I'm not having a baby, I'm just having trouble breathing.

My girlfriend's weird. One day she asked me, "If you could know how and when you were going to die, would you want to know?" I said, "No." She said, "Okay, forget it."

My buddy got busted for counterfeit ing. He was making pennies. They caught him because he was putting the heads and tails on the wrong sides. He's in a minimum security prison now; he's on a whiffle-ball and chain.

Hermits have no peer pressure.

Whenever I think of the past, it brings back so many memories.

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.

How much deeper would the ocean be if sponges didn't live there?

When I was in high school, I got in trouble with my girlfriend's dad. He said, "I want my daughter back by 8:15." I said, "The middle of August? Cool!"

Did Washington just flash a quarter for his ID?

I just got skylights put in my place. The people who live above me are furious.

I accidentally installed the deer whistles on my car backwards. Now everywhere I go, I'm chased by a herd of deer.

I got stopped by a cop the other day. He said, "Why'd you run that stop sign?" I said, "Because I don't believe everything I read."

It doesn't matter what temperature a room is, it's always at room temperature.

I was hitchhiking the other day, and a hearse stopped. I said, "No thanks—I'm not going *that* far."

I played a blank tape on full volume. The mime who lived next door complained. So I shot him with a gun with a silencer.

I make my own water—two glasses of H, one glass of O.

Ballerinas are always on their toes. Why don't they just get taller ballerinas? ✧

NGDC web pages slated for GEBCO

from "Earth System Monitor," NOAA Environmental Information Services, Sheri Phillips, Ed.

The National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) has just made public the official web pages for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Hydrographic Office (IHO)-sponsored General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) project.

NGDC has been working with Sir Anthony Laughton, chairman of GEBCO, and Mr. Brian Harper, permanent secretary of GEBCO, on page design and contents of the GEBCO

(See **GEBCO**, page 7)

GEBCO (from page 6)

website since June.

The site: <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/gbco/>, hosted by NGDC, will provide a focal point for dissemination of information about GEBCO and will contain the GEBCO list servers.

Contact e-mail: info@nodc.noaa.gov for more information. ✨

SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



Y-to-K date-change project status

from the Internet

"Our staff has completed the 18 months of work on time and on budget. We have gone through every line of code in every program in every system.

We have analyzed all databases; all data files, including backups and historic archives; and modified all data to reflect the change.

We are proud to report that we have completed the "Y-to-K" date-change mission, and have now implemented all changes to all programs and all data to reflect your new standards, to wit:

Januark, Februark, March, April, Mak, June, Julk, August, September, October, November and December, as well as, Sundak, Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak, Thursdak, Fridak, and Saturdak.

We trust that this is satisfactory, because to be honest, none of this "Y-to-K" problem has made any sense to us. But we understand it is a global problem, and our team is glad to help in any way possible. And what does the year 2000 have to do with it? Speaking of which, what do you think we ought to do next year when the two-digit year rolls over from 99 to 00? We'll await your direction." ✨

Slow down

from the Internet

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round,
or listened to rain slapping the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight,
or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down,
don't dance so fast,
time is short, the music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly,
when you ask "How are you?",
do you hear the reply?
When the day is done,
do you lie in your bed,
with the next hundred chores running through your head?

You better slow down,
don't dance so fast
time is short, the music won't last.

Ever told your child,
we'll do it tomorrow,
and in your haste, not seen his sorrow?

Ever lost touch,
let a good friendship die,
'cause you never had time to call
and say "hi!"

You better slow down,
don't dance so fast
time is short, the music won't last.

When you run so fast to get somewhere,
you miss half the fun of getting there,
When you worry and hurry though your day,
it is like an unopened gift thrown away.

Life is not a race,
so take it slower,
hear the music before the song is over. ✨

—author unknown

Salty Facts



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

CHAPLAINS

Chaplains, the military men of the cloth, are rightly named according to French legend. It seems that St. Martin of Tours shared his cloak—by splitting it in half with a beggar on a wintry day at the gates of Amiens, France. The cloak was preserved, since it was believed to have been shared with Christ, and became the sacred banner of French kings.

The officer tasked with the care of the cloak and carrying it into battle was called the chaplain or cloak carrier. Chaplain comes from the French word "capele" meaning a short cloak.

(See **Salty**, page 8)

Salty (from page 7)

Later, priests or chaplains, rather than field officers, were charged with the care of the sacred cloak. Chaplains served aboard warships of many nations and in the British and American navies they collected four pence per month from each member of the crew. In return, they rewarded every seaman who learned a psalm by giving him six pence.

Besides holding divine services, chaplains were charged with the instruction of midshipmen and moral guidance of officers and men alike. It wasn't until the 18th century that chaplains were permitted to dine in the wardroom. Previously, they messed in their own cabins, although they were frequently invited to dine with the captain.

PLACE NAMES

The origin of place names provides interesting trivia. Our capital is named for a founding father. The Philippines are named for King Philip II of Spain. Cities are named for other cities, so we have New York, New Orleans, etc. Physical features may contribute to a name. The capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, for example, gets its name from the Norse word *reykr* (smoke), referring to the steam from local hot springs, and *vik* (inlet).

Spanish explorers often named a place for the saint on whose day it was discovered. Ferdinand Magellan sighted Guam on St. John's Day in 1521 and called the place San Juan. Local dialect distorted this to San Guam.

Some places are named by mistake. Early Portuguese explorers visiting what would become the capital of Gambia, Banjul, asked what the place was called. The natives thought they were asked, "What are you doing?" and replied, "Bangjuio" (making rope mats). ✨

Latest news from NOAA

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

Numerous changes have been taking place in NOAA's Office of Coast Survey (OCS). The Acting Director of OCS, Captain Nicholas Prah, was selected for promotion to Admiral and will direct the operation of NOAA's fleet. He will be succeeded by Captain David MacFarland, who, as Director, OCS, will manage NOAA's nautical charting program.

Captain Andy Armstrong, Chief of NOAA's Hydrographic Surveys Division (HSD) since 1994, will be departing in March for his new position with the new hydrographic program at the University of New Hampshire. Captain Samuel DeBow will replace Captain Armstrong and will oversee NOAA's hydrographic data acquisition and processing operations.

The NOAA Hydrographic Survey Specifications and Deliverables Document is expected to be released in mid-March 1999. As the name implies, this document will contain the specifications and standards for conducting hydrographic surveys for both contractors and NOAA in-house field units.

In general, it will not be prescriptive in nature as to how to conduct a survey, but will allow contractors to devise the best, most-efficient method of achieving those specifications. However, all field units, both in-house and contractor, will be required to develop a detailed Quality Control Plan that describes the procedures that they will follow. NOAA field units will utilize the NOAA Field Procedures Manual, which is currently being updated, for that purpose. Questions regarding this document should be directed to Jerry Mills at (301) 713-2780, ext. 116, or via e-mail at: jerry.mills@noaa.gov. ✨

CLOSE TO HOME JOHN MCPHERSON



"Geesh! Your other ski STILL hasn't hit the bottom!"

Flying chickens . . . Believe it or not . . .

from the Internet, submitted by Jack Wallace

In a recent issue of *Meat & Poultry Magazine*, the editors quoted from *Feathers*, the publication of the California Poultry Industry Federation, telling the following (true) story:

It seems that the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has a unique device for testing the strength of windshields on airplanes. The device is a gun (developed by Texas A&M) that launches a dead chicken at a plane's windshield at approximately the speed that the plane flies. The theory is that if the window does not crack from the carcass impact, it'll survive a real collision with a bird during flight.

The British were very interested in this and wanted to test a windshield on a brand-new high speed locomotive they were developing. They borrowed one of the FAA's chicken launchers, loaded a chicken and fired.

The ballistic chicken shattered the windshield, went through the engi-

(see **Chickens**, page 9)

Chickens (from page 8)

neer's chair, broke an instrument panel and embedded itself in the back wall of the engine cab. The British were stunned and asked the FAA to recheck the test to see if everything was done correctly.

The FAA reviewed the test thoroughly and had just one recommendation: "Use a thawed chicken." ✨

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS



HOUSTON CHAPTER

The November meeting featured a presentation by Dr. Sager of Texas A&M University on the hazards below the water in offshore surveys. Mike Chamberlain also gave a short presentation about the APSG (American Petroleum Survey Group).

Year-End Party!

Once again the December year-end party at Sierra West was a success. Each diner's cost was only \$20, for which they received an average of more than a \$70 value in food, beverages and door prizes. This was enabled by the 13 corporate sponsors who contributed more than \$3,400 for the event. Sponsors were: John E. Chance & Assoc/Fugro, (\$500); Racal-NCS (\$500); Western Geophysical Div., Baker Hughes (\$500); SonarDyne (\$300+); Gahagan & Bryant Assoc. (\$300); Ashtead USA (\$250); Energy Innovations (\$250); C&C Technologies (\$200); Digi-COURSE (\$200); Trimble Navigation (\$150); MDL Technologies (\$100); Deutsch ECD (\$100); and Mercator GPS Systems (\$100).

The only real "business" of the evening was announcement of the

Houston Chapter executive committee for 1999:

- Chris Echols (Ashtead USA)-Chair
- Peter Trabant (Trabant & Associates) -Vice-Chair
- Alastair Helme (Mercator GPS Systems)—Treasurer
- Dale Lipps (Racal NCS)—Communications Secretary
- Rob Roman (Gahagan & Bryant Assoc.)—Membership Secretary & Student Liaison
- Duff Simpson (Deutsch ECD)—At Large

Appreciation was also extended to past committee members, Kim Fairweather, Richard Seeger and Meredith Rhodes for their years of voluntary service. Thanks also to Kim Fairweather and Jim Cain who organized the year-end event.



No reports were received from the other chapters. ✨

Changes in the English language

from "Consumer's Advantage"

I think that you will be interested to learn that the European Union Commissioners have announced that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for European communications, rather than German, which was the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, Her Majesty's Government conceded that English spelling had some room for improvement and has reached a five-year phased plan for what will be known as EuroEnglish (Euro for short).

In the first year, "s" will be used instead of the soft "c." Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news with joy, and keyboards could have one less

letter. Also the hard "c" will be replaced with "k." Not only will this klear up konfusion, but keyboards kan lose a further letter.

There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome "ph" will be replased by "f." This will make words like "fotograf" 20 percent shorter.

In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expected to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Governments will enkourage the removal of double letters, which have always been a deterrent to akurate speling. Also, al wil agre that the horrible mes of silent "e" s in the languag is disgrasful, and they would go.

By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing "th" with z and "w" with "v."

During ze fifz year, ze unesesary "o" kan be dropped from words kontaining "ou," and similar changes vud of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of leters.

After ziz fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer. Ze drem vil finali kum tru. ✨

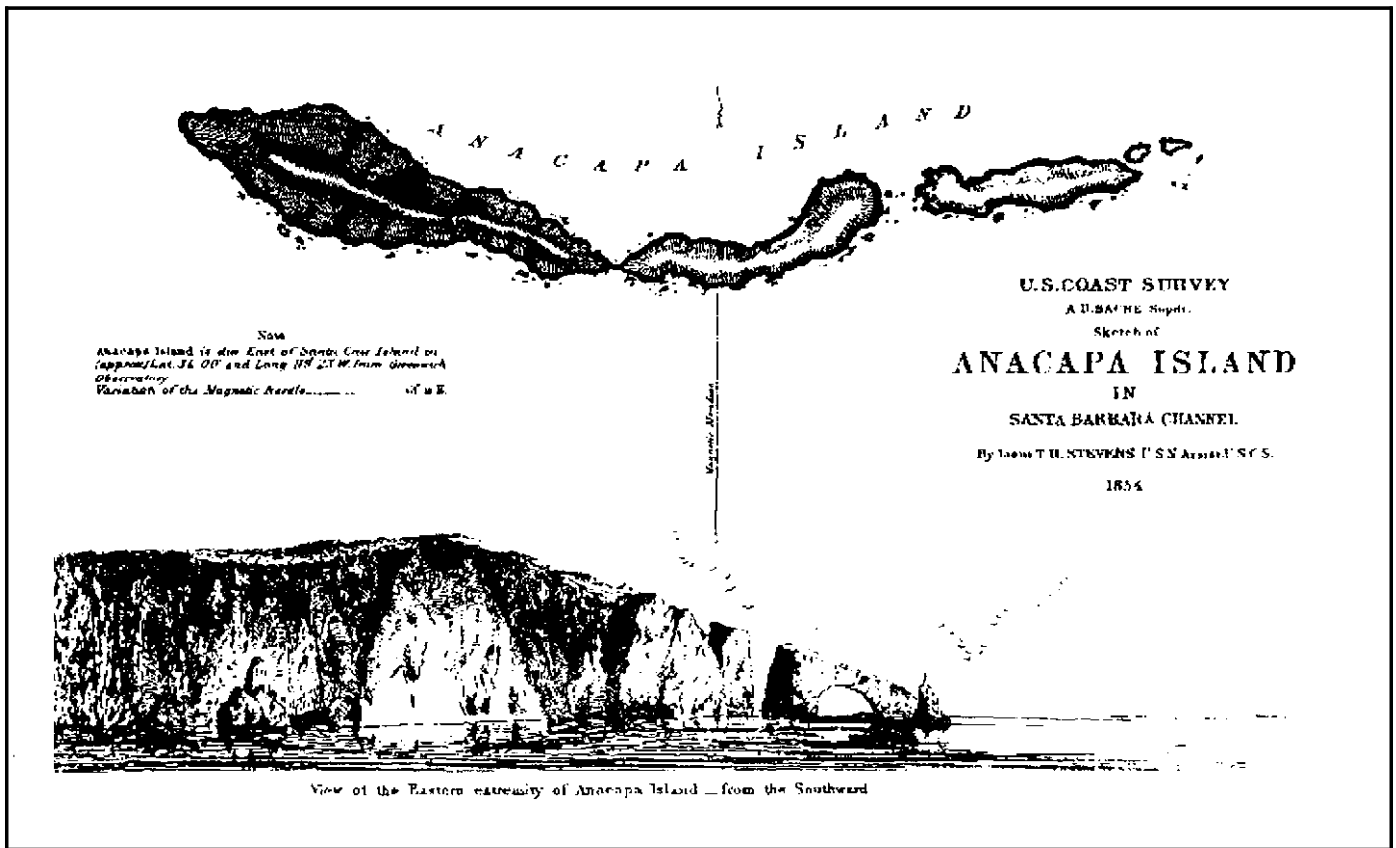
Check out NOAA's Historical Map and Chart Collection

from the NOAA Library site,
www.history.noaa.gov

The Office of Coast Survey is making available its extensive collection of historical maps and charts in digital scanned form to the general public through this site as well as selected NOAA Libraries.

The Coast Survey's Historical Collection contains a wide variety of documents including nautical charts

(See **Collection**, page 10)



Drawn by W. B. McKim

Collection (from page 9)

from the mid-1800s through the early 1900s; sketches of coastlines, including James A. Whistler's sketch of Anacapa Island of 1854; a Civil War collection; a Washington, D.C., topographic series; and early exploration maps of the Pacific Northwest. These documents serve as excellent examples of 19th Century cartography.

The collection is being scanned via state-of-the-art color scanning techniques at 800 dpi (dots per inch) and resampled for public use at 300 dpi. The result is a crisp, clear raster image of the original document which can be used for educational and research purposes and geo-referenced for GIS use. The Office of Coast Survey requests only a bibliographic citation for use of its materials in other publications.

The Collection is available to the public in two ways:

- ◆ All images are available for viewing on this Home Page at 100 dpi. The images are sorted by region or type and can be viewed on browsers at reduced resolution. All images can be downloaded at 300 dpi and will plot back (if equipment is available) at full size or can be incorporated into other graphics or word processing software. See **Examples** for samples of each file type and their differences in resolution. A searchable metadata catalog for researching image availability will be available in the future. Select **Image Catalog** to go directly to the images.
- ◆ All images (at 300 dpi) are available for viewing and plotting at NOAA Libraries throughout the United States (date of availability in parenthesis).

Silver Spring, Md. (1997)
Miami, Fla. (1998)
Seattle, Wash. (1998)
Charleston, S.C. (1999)

This project is a three-year effort funded in part by NOAA's Earth Science Data and Information Management Program and supplemented by the Office of Coast Survey. For additional information concerning the Historical Collection, contact:

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E-mail: Curtis.Loy@noaa.gov ✪

[According to Curt Loy, you must have Netscape or Internet Explorer 4.0 or better to access these images.—Ed.]

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.

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EMPLOYER					
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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 \$75</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$37.50</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$385</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THSOA/THS \$205</p> |
|---|---|---|

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 _____

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