The Seahorse

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The Hydrographic Society of America

U.S. Branch of The Hydrographic Society

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Northwest Chapter Holds Inaugural Meeting

by John Tamplin

The inaugural meeting of the Northwest Chapter of the Hydrographic Society of America was held on February 14, 2000 in Portland Oregon. The meeting was held in the library of the McMenamin's Kennedy School and was attended by 14 local hydrographic community members.

The scheduled guest speaker, Pat Sanders, was thwarted on his trip to Oregon by bad weather enroute. Joanna Hawkins, Chapter President, filled in nicely by delivering Pat's prepared presentation and chairing the meeting.

In addition to Chapter President Joanna Hawkins (David Evans and Associates), the Northwest Chapter installed the following officers: Vice President-Dennis Hill (NOAA-Seattle); Secretary-Ken Kleczynski (USACE-Portland); and Treasurer-Mike Cristler (USACE-Portland).

Among the topics discussed was Goals of the Chapter, including increasing membership by actively encouraging other hydrographic surveyors, agencies associated with water commerce such as Port Authorities, Pilots, and other Marine Environment agencies to become active members or Chapter sponsors.

Additional goals are to promote knowledge of hydrographic surveying and to share skills and opportunities with other active members. It was proposed that the 2nd Friday of the month be selected as the day to hold the meetings but a questionnaire will be e-mailed to members to determine the frequency and location of the meetings. Suggested frequencies were monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly with locations being Portland, Seattle, halfway between Seattle and Portland (Chehalis, Washington) or alternating between Portland and Seattle.

The e-mail questionnaire went out on February 18 with a suggested one week response date. The results of the questionnaire were overwhelmingly in favor of bi-monthly meetings held alternately between Seattle and Portland.

For future meetings it was suggested that members submit topics of interest to be considered for discussion or members wishing to present a paper submit their paper to the Board for approval. Those in attendance discussed having the corporate sponsor of the meeting also be the guest speaker; presenting or demonstrating their new product lines. Suggested topics were NOAA's presentation of their ongoing hydrographic survey program, Columbia River Deepening Project or any special project members would care to share with the Chapter. It was also suggested that a 6-month schedule of topics be compiled and disseminated to members.

Anyone interested in speaking at a meeting of the Northwest Chapter should contact Joanna Hawkins ***jlp@deainc.com*** or Dennis Hill ***Dennis.hill@noaa.gov.*** ☼

NOTICE

THSOA's Web Site Has Moved To

www.thsoa.org

FGDC's Role in The Hydrographic Community

by David Stein,
NOAA, Coastal Services Center,
Charleston, SC

Introduction

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an interagency committee that promotes the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis.

The FGDC was established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in its 1990 revision of Circular A-16, *Coordination of Surveying, Mapping, and Related Spatial Data*

Activities. The FGDC is composed of representatives from 14 Cabinet-level and independent federal agencies. Currently, Secretary Bruce Babbitt of the Department of the Interior chairs the FGDC.

To coordinate various themes of geospatial data that will contribute to the development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure, OMB assigned lead coordination responsibilities to specific federal agencies. This thematic organization is reflected in the FGDC subcommittee structure. FGDC working groups play a cross-cutting role, dealing with issues that span many subcommittees.

Working groups have been formed to establish guidelines for preserving data, to establish a National Geospatial Data Clearinghouse, to provide for the creation of framework data, and to develop and implement data standards.

New working groups are striving to facilitate data sharing through common schemes to identify and classify earth cover, to monitor environmental change, and to deal with facilities and other large-scale data issues.

The FGDC and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure

To extend the scope of Circular A-16 in support of the National Information Infrastructure, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12906, *Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)*. The NSDI encompasses the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve the use of geospatial data.

In the Executive Order, the FGDC was given an expanded role in coordinating the NSDI with a mandate to involve state, local, and tribal governments, academia, and the private sector.

Through its committees and working groups the FGDC supports and coordinates activities in areas crucial to the NSDI: development of a national clearinghouse for spatial data, development of standards for sharing geospatial data, creation of a national digital geospatial data framework of basic data themes, and promotion of cooperative ventures and cost sharing agreements for geospatial data among partners outside the federal sector.

FGDC Subcommittee On Bathymetric and Nautical Charting Data

Of particular interest to the hydrographic community is the FGDC Subcommittee on Bathymetric and Nautical Charting Data (hereafter called the subcommittee). The subcommittee is chaired by the NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) and is one of twelve theme subcommittees charged with promoting the FGDC's mission of development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis.

The subcommittee was established in 1993 to develop and promote that aspect of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) that supports the marine navigation (charting and bathymetric data) and, more recently, the coastal zone Geographic Information System (GIS) communities. The subcommittee is responsible for:

1) Developing data standards to promote bathymetric and nautical charting data that are accurate and current;

2) Exchanging information on technological improvements and advancements in bathymetric and nautical charting data;

3) Encouraging the federal and non-federal community to identify and adopt standards and specifications for bathymetric and nautical charting data;

4) Collecting and processing the requirements for federal and non-federal organizations for bathymetric and nautical charting data.

The subcommittee consists of representatives from federal agencies that collect, or finance the collection of bathymetric and nautical charting data as part of their mission or have direct application of these data to their programs.

Currently, at the top of the subcommittee's priority list has been the

development of three standards:

1) *A Shoreline Metadata Profile in Support of a National Shoreline Data Content Standard.*

The purpose of this standard is to provide the metadata (data documentation) elements necessary to document shoreline-specific data sets. The profile is an extension of the existing *FGDC Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata.* This standard is currently in public review. Those interested in reviewing the standard or obtaining more information should go to ***http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub5_6.html***.

2) *Hydrographic Data Content Standard for Coastal and Inland Waterways.*

The purpose of this standard is to provide a nationally focused hydrographic data content standard for inland waterways from the combination of information from existing standards. The standard will ensure effective use of geospatial data by different agencies, organizations, and other users. This standard is also in public review. Those interested in reviewing the standard or obtaining more information should go to ***http://www.jgdc.gov/standards/status/sub5_5.html***.

3) *Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 5: Hydrographic Surveys and Nautical Chart Data.*

This standard is intended to serve the community of users involved in the construction and maintenance of nautical charts, hydrographic surveys, and bathymetric databases. It is based upon the revised *International Hydrographic Organization Standard for Hydrographic Surveys* as contained in the Special Publication No. 44. (SP-44). To find out more information on this standard, go to ***http://www.fgdc.gov/standards/status/sub1_.html*** The standard is anticipated to be released for public review during the summer of 2000.

The subcommittee meets approximately three times a year in the Washington, D.C. area. Additionally, the subcommittee sponsors a number of community meetings and outreach workshops throughout the country during the year. The subcommittee welcomes participation from any organization that has an interest in bathymetry, nautical charting, and general marine data issues. To enhance communications, the subcommittee has a home page on the World Wide Web at the following URL: ***http://www.csc.noaa.gov/fgdc_bsc/.***

Information in this article is courtesy of the FGDC and the Subcommittee on Bathymetric and Nautical Charting Data. ☼

—Humor from the Internet—

Dilbert's Words of Wisdom

1. I can please only one person per day. Today is not your day. Tomorrow isn't looking good either.
2. 1 love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.
3. I'd explain it to you, but your brain would explode.
4. Someday we'll look back on all this and plow into a parked car.
5. Tell me what you need, and I'll tell you how to get along without it.
6. Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
7. Needing someone is like needing a parachute. If he isn't there the first time you need him, chances are you won't be needing him again.
8. I don't have an attitude problem. You have a perception problem.
9. Last night I lay in bed looking up at the stars in the sky and I thought to myself, "Where the heck is the ceiling?"
10. My reality check bounced.
11. On the keyboard of life, always keep one finger on the escape key.
12. I don't suffer from stress, I'm a carrier.
13. You're slower than a herd of turtles stampeding through peanut butter.
14. Everybody is somebody else's weirdo.
15. Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to their level, then beat you with experience. ☼

THSOA 1999 AGM Report

The 1999 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the U.S. Branch (USB) of The Hydrographic Society (THS) and The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) was held on December 8, 1999 at NOAA Office of Coast Survey in Silver Spring, Maryland. It was attended by 11 members and presided over by Mr. Pat Sanders, President of USB and THSOA.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pat Sanders, President of USB and THSOA at 12:05 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the 1998 AGM

Copies of the Minutes from the 1998 AGM were distributed to the membership for their review. After no response to a call for questions, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes of the 1998 AGM. The motion was unanimously approved via a voice vote.

III. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was prepared by Mr. Karl Kieninger, who was unable to attend due to illness, and distributed to the membership at the meeting. Mr. Jack Wallace, who

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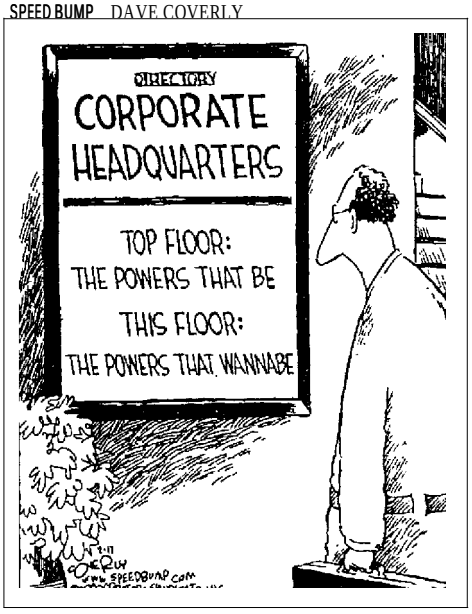

had discussed the report with Mr. Kieninger, presented the report and answered questions.

The highlight of the report was the profit from the HYDRO '99 Conference in Mobile, Alabama which exceeded $50,000. Some of this profit will be used to improve THSOA's Internet website and approximately $10K will be set aside to cover the initial expenses for HYDRO 2001 which will be held in Norfolk, Virginia.

After review of the report, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report and approved unanimously via a voice vote.

IV. Old Business—Past Year's Activities

Comments received on HYDRO '99 in Mobile have been very favorable. It was noted that this was the first national conference devoted exclusively to hydrography since 1994.

Mr. Dale Westbrook has resigned his long-held position as editor of Seahorse, THSOA's newsletter. Dale was one of the founding members of THSOA and has been the Seahorse editor since its inception in 1991. His extensive contributions to THSOA over the years was duly noted and appreciated by all.

Jack Wallace will take over as editor and Mr. Tom Slater will prepare the layout for future issues.

It was suggested that to broaden the coverage of hydrography in the U.S. and lessen the burden on the editor and secretary, contacts should be identified to report on news from major federal agencies (NOAA, NAVO, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USGS) and the private sector. Volunteers will be sought for future issues.

In addition, it was decided that past issues of Seahorse should be posted on the THSOA website.

Mr. Jack Wallace discussed his plans for reformatting the THSOA website. The site will contain various published articles, copyright permitting, that will hopefully serve as a "body of knowledge" for hydrography. Jack hopes to have the changes completed by July 2000.

The 2001 THSOA Hydrographic Conference will be held at the Sheraton Waterfront Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia from May 21 to 24. The following committees have been established with volunteers to serve as chairpersons—

Conference Coordinator: Karl Kieninger
Registration: Lourdes Ramos, John Marinuzzi
Exhibits: "Chic" Ransone
Technical: Jerry Mills, Jeff Lillycrop
Finance: Jack Wallace
Dockside: Coordinator Ray Williams
Publicity: Joanna Hawkins
Meeting Space: Coordinator Joanna Hawkins
Special Functions/Catering: Ray Williams, Pat Sanders

Restructuring of the relationship between THSOA and THS was discussed at some length. There has been increasing concern over the past few years regarding the ever-increasing THS dues and the value of membership in such an international organization. During this time more and more members have allowed their THS membership to lapse and have renewed only in THSOA.

Adding to this "cost-benefit" evaluation, there have been numerous instances where the U.S. point-of-view was contrary, often unanimously so, to the other Members of Council. Given these events, it was decided to propose to the THSOA general membership the disassociation of THSOA from THS and the U.S. Branch.

A letter summarizing the evolution of THSOA and the proposed action will be drafted and included in the next issue of the Seahorse. (Editor's note: this was included in the January 2000 issue.) Pending the responses received, the Executive Board will make a decision as to the next course of action.

V. Election of Officers

Elections were held in October 1999 for Treasurer and two Trustee positions. Only one nominee for each of these positions was received resulting in the nominees being elected by consensus.

Karl Kieninger was re-elected to the position of Treasurer. Mr. "Chic" Ransone and Mr. Ray Williams were each elected to a Trustee position. Current officers of THSOA and USB are as follows—

President: Pat Sanders, thru 2000
Treasurer: Karl Kieninger, thru 2001
Secretary: Jerry Mills, thru 2000
Trustee: Jim Cain, thru 2000
Trustee: Jeff Lillycrop, thru 2000
Trustee: Ray Williams, thru 2001
Trustee: Chic Ransone, thru 2001

Special thanks and appreciation to our outgoing trustees, Mr. Dave Clarke (David Clarke and Associates) and Mr. Jon Dasler (David Evans and Associates). →

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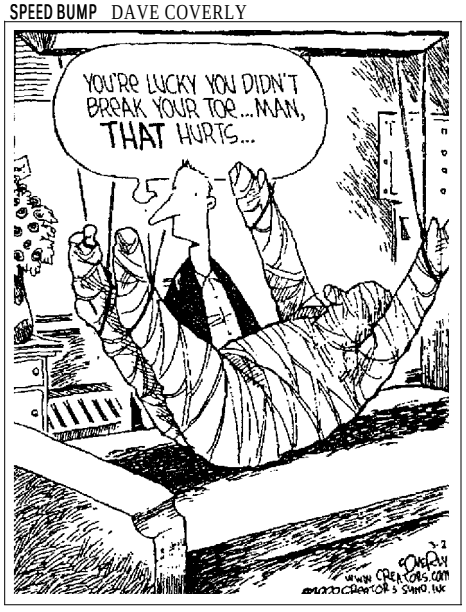

VI. New Business

Jack Wallace presented three issues relating to the dues structure. It was proposed that the THSOA Individual dues be raised to $20 and the renewal date be moved from April 1 to January 1. He also proposed that the dues for all membership categories be identified as a THSOA amount and the US Branch increment.

Jack pointed out that Individual member dues are already this way ($15 + $60) where the $60 is the total amount owed the UK. Changes to Corporate ($100 + $330), Retired ($10 + $30) and Student ($5 + $30) would be necessary.

After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded, and unanimously passed.

> **NOTE:** *The process of changing the renewal date to January 1 and raising the Individual dues to $20, has since been delayed to allow for integration with the Houston Chapter which adds a surcharge that should be pro-rated*

VII. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote and the 1999 AGM was concluded at 1:10 p.m. ☼

News from The Chapters

— Gulf Coast Chapter —

The Gulf Coast Chapter held a meeting on February 24, 2000 at Doug's Restaurant in Slidell, Louisiana. A Nominating Committee consisting of Art Najjar, John Iwachiw and Richard Byrd was formed to propose candidates for the positions of President, Secretary and At-Large Position held by Richard Byrd.

The guest speaker was Andre Godin, who is an instructor with the Hydrographic Science Program, Department of Marine Science, University of South Mississippi (USM).

Mr. Godin gave a very informative presentation on the proposed Joint International Hydrographic Applied Science Program (JIHASP). He discussed the Navy-USM partnership, training in Hydrographic Science, syllabus of the course of study at USM, and approval by the International Hydrographic Organization. The proposed JIHASP will include course of study options in Nautical Charting and Remote Sensing.

Mr. Godin will attend a board meeting for JIHASP in Chile in April 2000. The president, Al Rougeau, offered the Chapter's support and cooperation with the Hydrographic Science Program at USM.

The April 27, 2000, meeting was held at Doug's Restaurant in Slidell, Louisiana. The election of new officers was held. Elected were—

President: Michael Smith
Vice President: Al Rougeau
Secretary: Richard Byrd
Treasurer: Shirley Dorsey
Officer-at-Large Position #1: Gail Smith
Officer-at-Large Position #2: John Iwachiw

The guest speakers were Thomas Chance, owner and President of C&C Technologies, and Pete Alleman, Chief Scientist at C&C. Thomas Chance presented an overview of the company; noting that C&C has 150 employees and does 40% of its work in the oil and gas industry, 40% in the fiber optic cable industry, and 20% for the Government.

Past work has included surface positioning for offshore platforms, geophysical surveys, acoustic positioning, ROV positioning, nautical charting, marine cable projects, beach surveys, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and USGS surveys, continental shelf surveys and the U.S. Navy Orca project.

Pete Alleman gave a presentation on the Deep Water AUV Program, which uses the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle *Simrad Hugin* . C&C has found that the deep tow sensors were very expensive and decided that the AUV is much more efficient and much less expensive. The objective is to reach 3000 meters of water, collecting multibeam depths with the Simrad EM 2000, EdgeTech chirp side scan sonar and an EdgeTech sub-bottom profiler.

The *Hugin* travels at 4 knots, with a duration of 40 hours, is 5.2 meters long by 0.96 meters in diameter. It has options for video and a magnetometer. Communications with the mother ship is by a high-speed data uplink. Big savings are especially impressive in turns, where the deep tow can take several hours to make a turn while the *Hugin* can typically do the same turns in 5 to 20 minutes.

Optimum speed is 30% to 60% faster than a deep tow, launch and recovery are easy, it can survey in seas up to 10 feet, has an override mode to its autonomous capability, 50 GB acquisition, an avoidance sensor and a data processing system aboard the mother ship. The next meeting is planned for May. →

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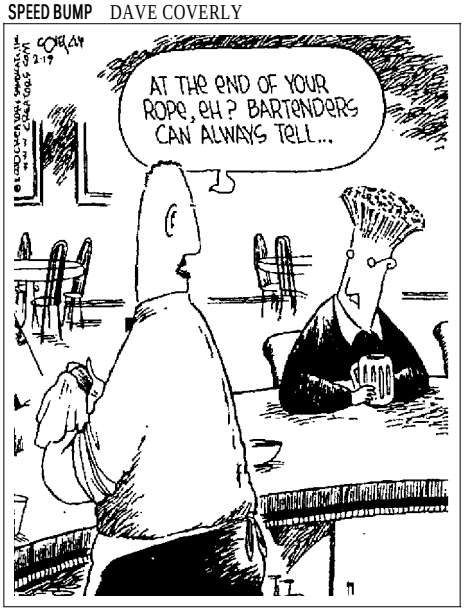

—Houston Chapter—

At the February 8th meeting, Bill Collins of Quester Tangent spoke on the general nature of acoustic seabed classification systems and the use of high-speed processing algorithms and how these can now provide real time relative classification of sea floor properties from echo soundings.

On March 14th Laura Maley, Geologist with BP-Amoco Geohazards Group discussed the formation of conditions favorable to the formation of shallow water flow as the result of rapid burial of marine sediments in a deepwater setting. She also outlined BP-Amoco's risk assessment procedure relating to them and the criteria used to judge the probability of SWF occurrence at a given location.

Peter Warden, treasurer for the Hydrographic Society, was also present and gave a short impromptu talk on his thoughts about the devolution/secession of the various regions of the Hydrographic Society. There were no definite opinions stated and the meeting as a whole was more inclined to proceed to the presentation and drink more beer!

At the April 11th meeting Keith Vickery spoke on inertial navigation instrumentation — *Where Are We Now?* or *An Attempt to Clarify the Alphabet Soup of Inertial Instrumentation — FOG, RLG, DTG, MEMS, MOEMS.* His talk focused on the current state of inertial instrumentation including near- and long-term developments. ☼

Letter from the President

by Pat Sanders
President, THSOA

Greetings:

As I continue to wrestle in my day-to-day job with the everyday advancements in hydrographic technology, I sometimes yearn for a return to the lead-line and sextant days. Perhaps I should organize a sub-chapter of THSOA, named Hydrographic Heretics, that will advocate that all hydrographic surveys should be conducted without electricity.

Oh well, I better write a summary of the current state of affairs at THSOA, before this turns into some kind of "Yardbird" article.

2001 U.S. Hydrographic Conference: Preparations continue for the 2001 U.S. Hydrographic Conference. This will be held in Norfolk, VA, at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside hotel, from 21-24 May, 2001.

By the time you read this, we should have the on-line registration page active and ready-to-go. This can be accessed through our new web site at ***www.thsoa.org.***

To ease any qualms about Internet security and credit cards, we have decided to have everybody pay upon arrival at the conference. Chic Ransone is handling the exhibits. We should have between 70 to 80 exhibitors. If you are interested in a booth, you can contact Chic at ***Chicran@aol.com.***

The Hydrographic Society (International): There has been a growing push, not only from the THSOA, but from other national branches, for the international organization—The Hydrographic Society (THS)—to take a hard look at itself and to become more responsive to the membership's needs.

A meeting of the council of THS will have taken place in early May. Our representative from the U.S. Branch, Karl Kieninger, will attend and be proposing several changes to the By-Laws designed to slim down the organization and move it into the 21st century.

Depending on the feedback from Karl upon his return, the board members of the U.S. Branch will decide whether or not to continue the U.S. Branch operations or to decertify it at a U.S. board meeting in late May. We published an article in the last of *Seahorse* regarding this issue and have not received any strong comments as to keeping the existing relationship intact. Indeed, most of the membership seems to want us to concentrate all of our efforts on THSOA.

The Seahorse: The Seahorse is the quarterly newsletter, published by THSOA. For nearly ten years, Dale Westbrook served as the Editor. Dale recently turned over the reigns to Jack Wallace. In its current form, The Seahorse is published in a format that requires 4, 6, 8, 10 or 12 pages of content. Sometimes, it works out great. Other times, Jack is searching for content to achieve the desired number of pages.

What makes most sense to me is to do an e-mail notification and post it on our web site. We would not have to be too worried about the amount of content (i.e., an even number of pages) and it would also save printing and distribution costs. The downside is that there is a small minority who do not have access to the web and would like to continue to receive the printed Seahorse.

THSOA Web Page: Jack Wallace has been dedicating a lot of his time to updating our web site.

One of the areas I would like to develop is a section on Technical Manuals. Companies could have their manuals on the site in PDF format. Interested parties or users could then download the manuals to read them (or print them out) free of charge.

If any company is interested in cooperating, please send me your documents in *.pdf format or *.doc format (for conversion to PDF).

THSOA Activities: THSOA currently has money available to undertake projects that would be beneficial to the membership. As a non-profit organization, this is money that needs to be spent. (We can't "hoard" it for a

rainy day.) If you have any good suggestions on how THSOA should spend this money, let me or a board member know about it.

Other Conferences: The Canadian Hydrographic Conference will be held in Montreal the week of 15 May 2000. I hope to see many of our members up there.

I'll also be at the Tri-Service CAD/GIS conference in St. Louis the week of 23 May 2000. Please look me up if you have some comments regarding THSOA and what you would like to see the Society doing.

Best regards,
Pat Sanders
PRESIDENT, THSOA
pres@thsoa.org ☼

NOAA Hydrographic Survey Contract Update

by C. Brian Greenawalt
NOAA, Office of Coast Survey

NOAA selected SAIC of Newport, Rhode Island to provide hydrographic surveying services to support nautical charting in the navigable waters of the east coast from the North Carolina-Virginia border to the Maine-Canada border, including bays and harbors.

This indefinite delivery contract will run for three years with an estimated value of $3 million per year.

The contract and initial work order for Salem Harbor, Massachusetts was awarded on April 28, 2000.

In April, Terra Surveys LLC of Palmer, Alaska was selected to receive a small business set-aside contract in Alaska. When awarded, this indefinite delivery contract will run three years, with an estimated value of $2 million each year.

Negotiations have begun for a survey to be conducted in Tongass Narrows around Ketchikan.

Source selection documentation for a $10 million per year (estimated), four-year indefinite delivery contract for hydrographic surveying services in Alaska has been sent to NOAA's contracting office for final approval. This contract will include NOAA's first use of commercial airborne lidar to determine water depths. ☼

Hydrographic and Ocean Mapping Centers at The University of New Hampshire (UNH) Are In Full Operation

In January of this year, the NOAA/UNH Joint Hydrographic Center (a NOAA/UNH partnership) and the UNH Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (a UNH center that partners with the private sector and other government organizations) moved into newly constructed facilities at the University of New Hampshire.

The Centers are housed in a new 7,300-sq.-ft wing of the University's Jere Chase Ocean Engineering Laboratory. Although an advance group of the Centers' staff had been in place since the summer, most of the newly-hired faculty and staff arrived in January, as well.

The educational programs of the Centers are now underway, with master's degree programs nearing formal University approval in both the Earth Sciences and Ocean Engineering departments. The master's programs in both disciplines will share a core of hydrographic, oceanographic, and ocean mapping courses, with electives suited to the background and interests of the students.

The first students will enter the master's programs in September of this year. Several Ph.D. students are already enrolled at the Centers. The University will submit the master's degree programs to the FIG/IHO Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors for recognition as a Category A course at the Board's next meeting. *(See FIG/IHO Advisory Board article on Page 8.)*

On the research front, the new faculty and staff are actively engaged in a variety of studies across a wide range of hydrographic and ocean mapping topics. Seafloor characterization, sonar and video image mosaicing, data visualization, merging of multiple data sets, and acoustic data transmission are just a few of the active topics.

Since the facility opened, there has been a steady stream of industrial, governmental, and academic visitors. The Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping has established formal partnership arrangements with several private sector and governmental organizations, and others are in development.

Rather than defining a standard partnership arrangement, each partnership is custom-tailored for the mutual benefit of the partners. Individuals and organizations may learn more by visiting the Center's website at: ***http://www.ccom-jhc.unh.edu/.*** ☼

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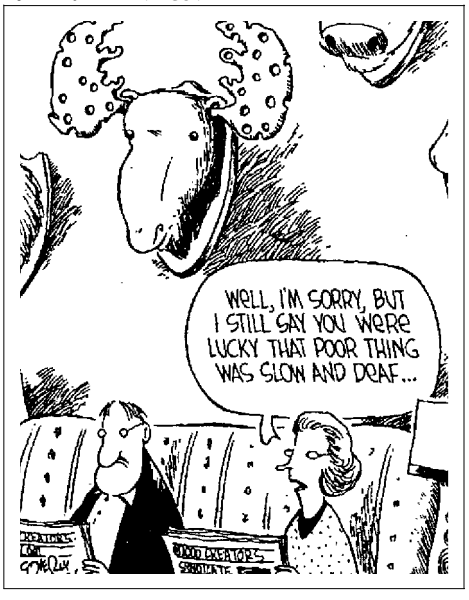

FIG/IHO Advisory Board Meets in Valparaiso, Chile

by Captain Andy Armstrong III, NOAA

The FIG/IHO Advisory Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors met the 12th through the 18th of April at the Headquarters of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Chilean Navy (SHOA).

The Board, which is made up of representatives of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), drafts and maintains the Standards for hydrographic education and training programs, and reviews syllabi of courses submitted by hydrographic offices and educational institutions, awarding certificates of recognition to those courses meeting the Standards.

This year, the Board reviewed several course submissions. Three of the courses submitted received recognition. *The Officers' Hydrography and Oceanography Course* of the Chilean Navy, and the *Master of Science in Hydrography Course* jointly offered by the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office and the University of Mississippi were awarded Category A recognition. *The Harbor and Coastal Management Surveyors Course* of the International Maritime Academy was awarded Category B recognition.

Category A courses are those which provide a comprehensive and broad-based knowledge in all aspects of theory and practice of hydrography for individuals who will practice analytical reasoning, decision making, and development of solutions to non-routine problems.

Category B courses are those which provide a practical comprehension of hydrographic surveying for individuals with the skill to carry out the various hydrographic surveying tasks. Category A courses include all the competencies required for Category B courses plus the additional requirements for more comprehensive and broad-based knowledge.

The Board also began the development of the 9th edition of the Standards. The 9th edition will continue the updating of standards in light of changes in hydrographic technology. It will also improve the clarity with which the Standards are expressed, particularly with regard to the level of knowledge expected for the various educational topics, and the difference in knowledge expected for Category A and Category B graduates.

(Editor's note: Captain Armstrong was selected to be one of the four IHO representatives to the Board in January 2000. He became only the second representative from the US. to serve on the Board since its inception in 1977. The other was THSOA Secretary Jerry Mills.) ☼

—Humor from At Internet—

New words added to the 2000 version of the Dictionary

Assmosis – The process by which some people seem to absorb success and advancement by kissing up to the boss.

Blamestorming – Sifting around in a group discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed and who was responsible.

Seagull Manager – A manager, who flies in, makes a lot of noise, craps over everything, and then leaves.

Salmon Day – The experience of spending an entire day swimming upstream only to get screwed and die in the end.

Irritainment – Entertainment and media spectacles that are annoying but you find yourself unable to stop watching them. The O.J. trials were a prime example.

Chainsaw Consultant – An outside expert brought in to reduce the employee head count, leaving the brass with clean hands.

Career Limiting Move (CLM) – Used among microserfs to describe an ill-advised activity. Trashing your boss while he or she is within earshot is a serious CLM.

Adminisphere – The rarefied organizational layers beginning just above the rank and file. Decisions that fall from the adminisphere are often profoundly inappropriate or irrelevant to the problems they were designed to solve.

Flight Risk – Used to describe employees who are suspected of planning to leave the company or department soon.

404 – Someone who's clueless. From the World Wide Web error message "404-URL Not Found," meaning that the requested web page could not be located. Used as in: "Don't bother asking him... he's 404, man."

Generica – Features of the American landscape that are exactly the same no matter where one is, such as fast food joints, strip malls, subdivisions. Used as in: "We were so lost in Generica that I forgot what city we were in."

Ohno-Second – That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake.

Percussive Maintenance – The fine art of whacking the crap out of an electronic device to get it to work again.

Body Nazis – Hard-core exercise and weightlifting fanatics who look down on anyone who doesn't work out obsessively.

Cube Farm – An office filled with cubicles.

Idea Hamsters – People who always seem to have their idea generators running.

Mouse Potato – The on-line, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

Prairie Dogging – When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

SITCOMs – What yuppies turn into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids. Stands for Single Income, Two Children, And Oppressive Mortgage.

Starter Marriage – A short-lived first marriage that ends in divorce with no kids, no property and no regrets.

Stress Puppy – A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiny.

Alpha Geek – The most knowledgeable, technically proficient person in an office or work group.

G.O.O.D. Job – A "Get-Out-Of-Debt" job. A well-paying job people take in order to pay off their debts, one that they will quit as soon as they are solvent again.

Yuppie Food Stamps – The ubiquitous $20 bills spewed out of ATMs everywhere. Often used when trying to split the bill after a meal: "We owe $8 each, but all anybody's got are yuppie food stamps." ☼

Membership Application

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

Membership in The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) is open to any individual or organization with an interest in surveying afloat. No formal qualifications are required. THSOA serves as the focal point for activities in the United States. Local chapters have been formed in Houston, Texas, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and the Pacific Northwest.

All Members receive *The Seahorse* newsletter, are eligible for membership in local chapters, receive a $25 discount on subscriptions to *Hydro International* magazine and a discount on registration at THSOA-sponsored events. Corporate Members receive a free hotlink or company description and free posting of recruitment notices on THSOA's web site (**www.USAhydrosoc.org**) as well as discounts on group registration and exhibit space rental at THSOA events.

Membership in THSOA is renewed on January 1 of each year. Dues are not prorated; however, members joining in the middle of the year receive all back issues of the newsletter for that year.

The U.S. Branch is comprised of those members who are also members of the international Hydrographic Society (THS) headquartered in England. Members of THS receive quarterly The *Hydrographic Journal* and a discount on registration at sponsored international events. THS Corporate Members receive two copies of *The Hydrographic Journal*, and discounts on web page and web page link advertising. THS Corporate Membership renews on January I and for individuals, on April 1 .

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

ADDRESS (for mailing and correspondence)

CITY STATE ZIP

EMPLOYER

TEL: FAX:
e-mail address:

YEAR (From which membership is to be effective): 200_

☐ Check box if name may be included on mailing list provided to Corporate Members.

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** _____

ANNUAL DUES

(Check appropriate box)

INDIVIDUAL (Houston Chapter add $1 0 for local dues)	❒ THSOA $15	❒ THSOA/THS $75
RETIRED and no longer employed in the profession of sea surveying	❒ THSOA $10	❒ THSOA/THS $40
STUDENT full-time undergraduate	❒ THSOA $5	❒ THSOA/THS $35
CORPORATE	❒ THSOA $100	❒ THSOA/THS $430

If **Student,** name of institution _____

Please return with payment to:

The Hydrographic Society
P.O. Box 732
Rockville, MD 20848-0732

Survey Equipment Failure Still a Source of Frustration

by Pat Sanders
Coastal Oceanographics

During the HYPACK 2000 Training Seminar in Las Vegas, users were queried as to the #1 cause for messing up a survey. Answers received were as follows:

PROBLEM	NO. OF RESPONSES	
Survey Equipment Failure:	39	(32.5%)
Inadequate Training	31	(25.8%)
Bad Geodetic Information/ Procedures:	27	(22.5%)
Boat Problems	13	(10.8%)
Software Problems	7	(05.8%)
Bad or No Tide Data	2	(01.6%)
Bad or No Sound Velocity Data	1	(00.8%)

Survey Equipment Failure was the number one cause for failing to complete a survey. There is not much the end-user can currently do about this. There is little or no public information available concerning the reliability or problems associated with different manufacturer's gear. Most information available is through "word of mouth" and may not be indicative of a trend.

Inadequate Training was the second leading cause for messing up a survey. Administrators and managers will hopefully have their eyes opened when reading this. Many organizations pay "lip service" to training and have official policies regarding the training of their hydrographers, but very few actually follow up on it. Most hydrographers in the U.S. learn "on the job" and have never had any formal training in hydrographic surveying. This is a short-sighted approach that is costing agencies a lot of money in poor or incomplete surveys.

Bad Geodetic Information/Procedures might also be considered a subsection under *Inadequate Training*. Many hydrographers do not have any training in geodesy and aren't aware of the troubles that can occur or how to check their geodetic information.

Boat Problems ranked fourth. Anybody who has ever owned a boat can probably sympathize with this one.

Software Problems ranked fifth. This is an area that I am very familiar with. Although there are times when a software package can break down, many times this is also a result of a lack of training by the operator. Programs that are not "intuitive" to operate can also contribute to frustration and mistakes on the part of operators.

Bad or No Tide Data and *Bad or No Sound Velocity Data* also generated a couple of responses. ☼

—Humor from the Internet—
10 Ways to Tell If a Computer Belongs to a Redneck:

10. The monitor is up on blocks.
9. Outgoing faxes have tobacco stains on them.
8. The six front keys have rotted out.
7. The extra RAM slots all have Dodge truck parts installed in them.
6. The numeric keypad only goes to six.
5. The password is "Bubba".
4. The CPU has a gun rack.
3. A Skoal can is in the CD-ROM drive.
2. The keyboard is camouflaged.
1. The mouse is referred to as a "critter". ☼

The Hydrographic Society of America
P.O. Box 732
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