

- THE - SEAHORSE

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THE HYDROGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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April 2001

U.S. HYDRO 2001 Nearly Here!

By the time you receive this edition of Seahorse, the U.S. Hydrographic Conference 2001 will be just over a month away (May 21-24 at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk, Virginia). Have you registered yet? The fee is only \$195 for THSOA members and \$295 for non-members.

Arrangements have also been made with the Sheraton Waterside Hotel to provide a block of rooms at the government per diem rate of \$97 (plus tax). The fee includes not only admission to the technical sessions, exhibit hall, and both social events but also free admission to the workshops.

Technical Sessions and Workshops

The technical program includes 12 sessions over the three core days of the conference (May 22-24).

The Conference Opening on Tuesday morning will be highlighted with a keynote address by Dr. Peter Ehlers, President of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany, on the Worldwide Electronic Navigational Chart Data Base (WEND).

The first full session will focus on tides and vertical correctors for hydrography, one of the more technically challenging topics in modern hydrographic surveying.

Tuesday afternoon will be devoted to multibeam sonar data acquisition and processing of large data sets.

Many of these papers will focus on object detection, automated data cleaning, quality control and data thinning.

Ports Management will be the lead-off topic for Wednesday morning followed by sessions on Electronic Navigational Charts (ENC) and other uses of hydrographic data. Most of the papers will focus on the production and quality control of ENC's and their use in Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems (ECDIS). This will be the most "international" day of the conference with authors of more than half of the papers being from outside of the U.S.

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.

Hydrographic survey contracts will be discussed in the second session with the main emphasis on the rapidly growing NOAA contracting program to support nautical charting.

The afternoon will be devoted to a variety of hydrographic operational issues and deep water hydrography.

A complete listing of the technical program including all of the papers appear on THSOA's web site at <http://www.thsoa.org>

Beginning on Monday, and running concurrently with the technical ses-

sions through Wednesday, three workshops will be offered to all attendees at no additional charge.

The first workshop, "Brownwater Electronic Charting," will be given on Monday by Mr. Fred Ganjon, who has worked in the electronic charting arena for over ten years.

On Tuesday afternoon, personnel from NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) will conduct a workshop on Tidal Datum Computations which should be particularly useful to those surveyors interested in NOAA's precise requirements for reducing soundings to the proper tidal datum.

Coastal Oceanographics will conduct the final workshop, which deals with dredging Volumes, on Wednesday.

Exhibition and Other Events

As of April 1, only nine exhibit spaces remain of the initial 54. If your company is interested in renting a booth but haven't done so yet, contact Chic Ransone at 410-349-4080 or via e-mail at Chicran@aol.com

The ACSM Hydrographer Certification Examination will be given on Wednesday afternoon, May 23 to those that 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.acsm.net/edu.cert.html>

Social Program

The social program will begin on Monday evening with an informal "Icebreaker" followed on Tuesday evening by the conference's Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall.

On Wednesday, the social program will move to the nearby National Maritime Center, Nauticus, for an open house and southern barbeque buffet. Conference attendees will be able to view the many displays within Nauticus including the newly arrived Battleship Wisconsin and will be treated to a special showing of the Academy Award-nominated film, *The Living Sea*.

Arrangements are also being made for tours of local sites for attendees and their guests during the conference, including a tour of historic Williamsburg, Virginia and shopping at some of the area centers. Additional details are available on the conference web site: <http://www.thsoa.org>.

The USNS BRUCE C. HEEZEN (T-AGS 64) is scheduled to inport in Norfolk during the conference and will be berthed at Nauticus.

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One of the newest of the Navy's multi-mission oceanographic vessels, the HEEZEN was delivered in January 2000 and carries two launches to conduct nearshore hydrographic survey operations.

These launches will be available for visits at the Waterside Marina which is adjacent to the conference hotel.

For more information visit the vessel's website at: <http://www.oceanographer.navy.mil/ships/heezen.html>

For more information about the Conference or how to register, visit the THSOA internet site at <http://www.thsoa.org> or contact the Conference Chairman, Karl Kieninger at (201) 295-1443 (voice) or via e-mail at: hy2001@thsoa.org ✨

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I'm Honored To Be Your President and Excited About THSOA's Future

by Ken Barbor, President

It is an honor and a pleasure to address you from this column for the first time. I am excited about the future of this organization and the future of hydrography. Pat Sanders did an exceptional job guiding THSOA to prosperity and prominence. I hope I can build on his momentum.

We will shortly gather in Norfolk for U.S. HYDRO 2001—a testament to Pat's vision and the hard work of Karl Kieninger and a host of dedicated board and committee members. U.S. HYDRO 2001 has an impressive program of technical papers and the exhibition hall will be filled with the latest technology.

HYDRO 2001 will also provide the opportunity for certification testing by the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. THSOA supports this important professional recognition both philosophically and financially. With more contract work comes a

greater need for certified hydrographers. THSOA is pleased to partner with the ACSM for the benefit of our members.

The several social gatherings will offer ample time for rekindling business and personal relationships and there will be plenty of activities for those "non-hydrographers" accompanying you. I look forward to seeing you there!

Looking beyond Norfolk, THSOA has much for which to be optimistic. HYDRO 2002 in Canada will be quickly upon us and we should start now to assemble an impactful set of papers for presentation there.

And of course, it is not too early to begin our planning for U.S. HYDRO 2003. I will be seeking committee members who can ensure the techni-

THSOA OFFICERS

President _____ Ken Barbor
 Secretary _____ Jerry Mills
 Treasurer _____ Karl Kieninger
 Trustees _____ Shorty Shipp
 Chic Ransone
 Ray Williams
 Jeff Lillycrop

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Executive Secretary _____ Jack Wallace
 Editor "The Seahorse" _____ Tom Slater
 e-mail: mail@thsoa.org

- CHAPTERS -

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cal relevance, social camaraderie and logistical smoothness. We have a number of excellent alternatives for a venue and I solicit your suggestions.

Also, THSOA has taken a stronger stand as the organization representing the interests of U.S. members. An Extraordinary meeting of THS in Norwich at the end of March should continue this process of "Federating" the international organization. Given this trend, the international hydrographic community will no doubt expect THSOA to assume a greater leadership role. I believe we are well positioned with talent and energy to do so. As we have the opportunity at Norfolk, I welcome your comments and strategies for the future of THSOA in this context.

The need for hydrographers continues to increase as the science is applied to new activities. This bodes well for THSOA in the future. We need to seek new membership and perhaps new chapters. With the stated objective of this organization, "To increase education in the science of hydrography," we should use our current prosperity to stimulate interest in our field amongst college entrants and graduates. Scholarships for promising undergraduates and, possibly, fellowships or chairs at the

graduate level are appropriate and realizable. I will pursue this initiative with our board and keep you posted.

Clearly, THSOA has an active agenda that will enhance hydrography throughout industry, academia and government.

I feel privileged to be your president and I am anxious to work for you in executing this agenda. ⚙

FIG 2002 Call for Presentations

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) 2002 Congress will take place on April 19-26, 2002 in Washington, D.C. This event occurs every four years with different cities around the world serving as the host city. The 1998 Congress was held in Brighton, United Kingdom. A few thousand surveyors from all over the globe are expected to attend. FIG consists of a wide range of surveying disciplines which are served by ten Technical Commissions, one of which, Commission 4, deals specifically with hydrography.

In preparation for the Congress, FIG has issued a Call for Technical Papers. Abstracts are due by 21 August 2001 and should be no more than 250 words in length. Additional information can be found on the Internet at www.fig2002.com. ⚙

5:02 p.m. by Mr. Pat Sanders, President of THSOA.

II. Approval of the Minutes from the 1999 AGM

Copies of the Minutes from the 1999 AGM were distributed to the membership for their review. After no response to a call for questions, a motion was made to accept the Minutes of the 1999 AGM and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved via voice vote.

III. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was distributed to the membership at the meeting and presented by Mr. Karl Kieninger.

The estimated net worth of THSOA is about \$68,750 (not including exhibit rental fees for U.S. Hydro 2001). Much of this surplus can be attributed to the extraordinarily successful HYDRO '99 Conference in Mobile, Alabama which yielded a profit of over \$50,000.

Some of this profit has been used to subsidize subscriptions for all THSOA members to "Hydro International" and to improve THSOA's Internet website.

In addition, the THSOA Board of Directors has agreed to donate \$5000 to the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping to assist in administering the ACSM Hydrographer Certification Program.

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

IV. Old Business—Past Year's Activities

A. Karl Kieninger, Chairman of the THSOA-sponsored U.S. Hydrographic Conference 2001, gave a report on the status of preparations for the May 21-24 event.

Lourdes Ramos of Coastal Oceanographics is in charge of registration which is being run over the internet

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Report of 2000 Annual General Meeting

The 2000 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) was held on Jan. 10, 2001, at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans, LA. This was the best-attended AGM in several years with over 35 members in attendance.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at

with the assistance of John Marinuzzi, also of Coastal O.

"Chic" Ransone is heading up the rental of commercial exhibit space which seems to be running behind the 1999 conference, largely due to competition from Oceanology International in Miami in April.

Jerry Mills and a committee of several volunteers including Jeff Lillycrop, Max van Norden, Brian Greenawalt, Jim Cain and Jon Dasler are organizing the Technical Program.

There was a dramatic increase (30%) in the number of abstracts submitted compared to 1999. After selecting 46 papers for presentation, the remaining authors were invited to submit written papers for the proceedings or develop "posters" for review of conference attendees outside of the exhibit hall.

Pat Sanders has agreed to produce the CD-ROM Conference Proceedings for attendees. Finally, Ray Williams reported that preparations for the social activities were proceeding smoothly. There will be a Monday night icebreaker, a Tuesday night beer social and a Wednesday night barbecue dinner which in the National Maritime Museum, Nauticus.

Admiral Barbor's wife has generously agreed to put together an "Ac-

companying Persons" program for the conference.

B. Although announced in the October 2000 issue of Seahorse, the "de-linkage" of THSOA from the UK-based Hydrographic Society (THS) was discussed. Central to this action was the ever-increasing THS dues structure, the perceived lack-of-value for these dues and ever-decreasing THS (U.S. Branch) membership in favor of THSOA only.

Karl Kieninger, the sole remaining officer of the THS U.S. Branch, announced his intention to keep the U.S. Branch in a "pending" status until after the March 2001 THS General Meeting. Karl's efforts to obtain volunteers to serve as officers of the U.S. Branch have not been successful.

Jerry Mills introduced the idea of utilizing FIG (International Federation of Surveyors) Commission IV (Hydrographic Surveying) as the forum for communication between "national" hydrographic societies or organizations.

C. Jack Wallace reminded everyone of the previously approved increase in THSOA annual dues for new members from \$15 to \$20, effective January 1, 2001. Renewals would be prorated at \$15 for the nine months ending December 31, 2001.

Note that THSOA membership now includes a subscription to "*Hydro International*," a Netherlands-based publication that usually costs \$65 per year.

D. Jerry Mills discussed the Board of Director's decision to provide financial assistance to the ACSM Hydrographer Certification Program. It had been determined that this program was valuable to the U.S. hydrographic surveying community and was in need of financial support if it is to remain viable.

It was also decided that this would be a good use for some of the profit realized from the 1999 U.S. Hydro

Conference. Arrangements will be made for a donation to be made at an appropriate time.

E. During the past year, "Chic" Ransone circulated information on liability insurance to cover hydrographic surveyors on their jobs. "Chic" volunteered to gather more information on the subject and present it to the Board of Directors or general membership for their consideration.

V. Election of Officers

Elections were held in October 2000 for President, Secretary and two Trustee positions. Only one nominee for each of these positions was received resulting in the nominees being elected by consensus.

Rear Admiral Ken Barbor, U.S. Navy (ret.) was elected to the position of President. Jerry Mills and Jeff Lillycrop were re-elected as THSOA Secretary and as a Trustee, respectively. Mr. "Shorty" Shipp is a newly elected Trustee. Current officers of THSOA are as follows:

President	Ken Barbor	thru 2002
Treasurer	Karl Kieninger	thru 2001
Secretary	Jerry Mills	thru 2002
Trustee	Jeff Lillycrop	thru 2002
Trustee	Ray Williams	thru 2001
Trustee	Chic Ransone	thru 2001
Trustee	Shorty Shipp	thru 2002

Special thanks and appreciation to our outgoing President, Pat Sanders, and trustee, Mr. Jim Cain. Pat was particularly dynamic during his four-year term, resurrecting the first U.S.-based conference focused primarily on hydrography since 1994 and leading the "de-linkage" of THSOA from The Hydrographic Society. His energy and drive will be sorely missed. Thanks again Pat.

VI. New Business

A. Rear Admiral Barbor took over as President of THSOA and made a few comments about THSOA and his vision of the future.

B. There was a brief discussion about organizing the U.S. Hydro-

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graphic Conference 2003. One possibility that is worth considering is joining with Oceanology International (OI) in Miami.

A representative from OI approached Pat Sanders, the previous President, about such a potential union for the 2001 conference. This proposal was ultimately rejected by the Board for 2001. The newest Trustee, Shorty Shipp, agreed to research potential venues for 2003.

VII. Motion to Adjourn

There being no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously via voice vote and the 2000 AGM was concluded at 5:47 p.m. ☼

ACSM Hydrographer Certification Board Meets

The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Hydrographer Certification Board met on March 21 in the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

The meeting was the site of the spring ACSM Conference held in conjunction with three regional surveying associations—California Land Surveyors Association, Nevada Association of Land Surveyors and the

Western Federation of Professional Surveyors.

During the meeting it was announced that earlier in the day, THSOA had presented a check for \$5000 to the ACSM Board of Directors to support the work of the Hydrographer Certification Board.

The donation was made to acknowledge the importance of the work of the Board to the hydrographic surveying profession and to help offset ACSM costs in support of the program as well as to assist members in attending Board meetings.

Other items of discussion were the application process, the examination question data bank and recertification of ACSM Hydrographers. For more information on the program, visit the ACSM website at <http://www.acsm.net/educert.html> ☼

University of Southern Mississippi Establishes The Hydrographic Science Research Center

Building on the successful academic program that confers a Master of Science in Hydrography and a FIG/IIIO Category A certification, The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) established The Hydrographic Science Research Center (HSRC).

The Center was created to complement the academic program as it addresses the several research issues associated with the rapid infusion of technology into operational hydrography.

In October 2000, USM hosted a workshop to shape the charter and agenda for the HSRC. Attended by thirty experts from government, academia and industry, the workshop identified an aggressive program dealing with the most pressing research and development concerns.

Five thrusts proposed for initial investigation included:

- Electronic Chart Data Management
- Error Budget Analysis
- Process Improvement In Survey Operations
- Acoustic Sediment Classification
- Seamless Vertical Datum.

Co-located with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office and the Naval Research Laboratory Detachment at Stennis Space Center, MS, the HSRC will initially focus on the needs of the U.S. Navy. However, as a research faculty capable of investigating a diverse array of challenges in hydrography is assembled, the HSRC will seek to assist other government agencies and industry that collect, process or generate products from hydrographic data. Additionally, the opportunity exists to delve into basic research in the underlying sciences associated with hydrography.

Information about the HSRC can be obtained through the USM College of Marine Science website <http://www.marine.usm.edu/hydro/research> or by calling (228) 688-3720. ☼

Federation of National Hydrographic Societies

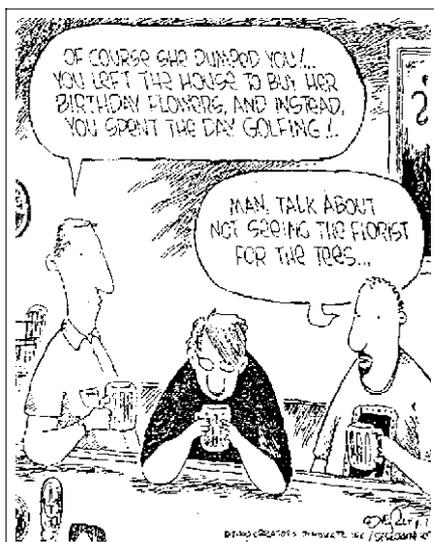
by Jerry Mills,
THSOA Secretary

[This article has not been circulated to the THSOA Board of Directors or approved by its members, but I expect there might be some agreement. Nevertheless, the opinions expressed here are solely, my own and not those of the Board.]

The last issue of Seahorse, October 2000, contained a discussion about the "delinkage" of THSOA from The Hydrographic Society in the U.K and the potential formation of a Federation of National Hydrographic Societies.

The Hydrographic Society, at its Annual General Meeting in Plymouth, UK, in December 2000 proposed the creation of such a federation. How-

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ever, its vision is not necessarily the same as that discussed by the THSOA Board of Directors.

While the THS version would indeed permit each national organization to have more autonomy to maintain their own membership databases and set and collect dues, it still includes "a Federation core ... that will provide umbrella services such as event coordination, dissemination of information and media services... such as the Journal and website."

All of the details are still being considered but it appears that individual dues will remain at UK£48 (approximately US\$68 at today's exchange rate), but that the Chapter (or National Society) retention rate will increase from 25% to 50%. That is, National Societies will be able to retain the equivalent of UK£24 from each individual's dues.

This is certainly a dramatic increase and a reversal of recent THS decreases in the retention rate and would allow National Societies to refund some percentage of that retention rate to individual members. (The U.S. Branch did this for years.)

However, I question whether the UK£24 being forwarded to the U.K. is justified. In today's high tech world,

is it really necessary to have a funded entity to coordinate events, disseminate information, maintain a website and publish a journal that is little more than a newsletter of that funded entity's activities.

Obviously, there are those that disagree with my point of view. The Denmark Branch, in its report to the THS AGM "demands that a certain International body or umbrella must exist ... to maintain the co-ordination between the National Branches and as Webmaster for the THS website."

I concede that the exchange of ideas between various national hydrographic societies is, or at least should be, very important, particularly in Europe. But much of the desired communication, event coordination and information dissemination coordination can be done electronically via the Internet and e-mail.

While I won't trivialize the technical complexities of being a Webmaster, it is not "rocket science" that requires a full-time paid position. Bright high school students create and maintain several sites at a time. Each individual national society could and/or should maintain its own site to ensure timely updating of content.

Many individual national societies publish their own newsletters, such as this one, that could be shared with similar societies in a federation. Hydrographic conferences could rotate between countries without a "Federation core". Its been done for over 20 years by the U.S. and Canada.

Lastly, the first class publication "Hydro International" and the electronic newsletter "Oceansp@ce" fill much of the need for the written exchange of ideas, and with much greater frequency than "The Hydrographic Journal."

Having made my argument against a funded "Federation core" as proposed by the THS Council, I suggest

a greater utilization of an already existing institution which has operated for years without funding—the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Commission 4 on Hydrography.

All of the nations currently having THS branches are well represented in FIG as well as others which have been active in FIG Commission 4 but not affiliated with THS, most notably Canada and Germany.

FIG Commission 4 could fulfill all of the identified needs expressed by the hydrographic community, would be more inclusive of the "world" hydrographic community and would provide well-distributed, truly international venues for meetings (Prague, Seoul and Washington were the sites for 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively).

Linkages between the FIG Commission 4 website to national hydrographic societies could easily, be made. Much of the time and money wasted on manning the "Federation core" would be eliminated.

Some might argue that such an international organization already exists for the exchange of ideas in hydrography—the International Hydrographic Organization. However, although it is a fine and very professional organization, its membership is restricted to the official Hydrographic Offices of each Member State. While individual surveyors may benefit from many of the IHO activities, especially with regard to standards, they are not represented within IHO.

Undoubtedly, there will be many THSOA members who could care less about the profession of hydrography outside of the U.S. or out of their particular part of the country for that matter.

For those interested in hydrographic activities beyond our borders, I want to point out that there is an alternative to the THS "plan."

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Whether this alternative is acted upon will undoubtedly depend on how it is received by the other internationally active hydrographic organizations. ✪

Northwest Chapter News

The Northwest Chapter continues to build its place in the hydrographic community through interesting and informative presentations. The diverse membership represents the blocks needed to form a strong presence in the Northwest. Each presentation helps to cement the group together.

Although our membership has not increased significantly, the numbers attending each meeting has become solid. This can be attributed to the presentation topics at each meeting. The last few topics have included presentations from Triton Elics International, Reson, and NOAA.

Francois Leroy, Vice President of Triton Elics International, Inc. gave a presentation on real-time processing in BathyPro. Francois started his presentation by stating the Triton philosophy, which is to bring efficiency to field operations; to bring operator expertise into data gathering and to automate repetitive processing steps.

BathyPro was described as one that allows input from multiple sensors but allows operators to view proc-

essed data while simultaneously storing raw data. The system allows a wide range of operator control from data processing to product display. Real-time displays are possible as are both raster and vector overlay displays.

The full range of controls over corrector inputs allows operators to make decisions on-line regarding data quality, thereby eliminating the need to return for pick-up work following off-line processing. Which I believe we can all relate to!

Tony Parker, of Reson, Inc., gave a presentation on multibeam array designs, beam forming and bottom detection procedures. Tony first gave a short chronicle about the Reson company, company products and their use both past and present.

He then gave a power point presentation on how beam angle dimensions are determined and the use of Amplitude/Phasing methods in bottom detection. Of particular interest was his presentation on Focused Beam forming to increase the accuracy of depth detection. His presentation was interesting and informative.

LTJG Edward J. "EJ" VanDen-Amelee, Field Operations Officer on the NOAA ship RAINIER gave a presentation on the year 2000 field season. EJ reviewed in detail the physical characteristics of the RAINIER and the staffing and the scope of work conducted during the 2000 field season. In addition, he discussed the NOAA organization supporting hydrographic operations.

He then reviewed the NOAA mandate. Promote Safe Navigation, with details on the long-range plans for completion of critical area surveys. This was followed by some specific information on individual projects during 2000.

The presentation concluded with the display of photographs of various Alaskan project areas. For those of us

in the private sector, it was an interesting look into the standards and procedures we try to emulate. And of course, after some of the photos, we realized that it is not always "work, work, work," in Alaska!

These presentations are the mortar in building the Northwest Chapters' home in the northwest. We look forward to the future when each meeting will represent another homecoming and a chance to listen and talk about what is new in the hydrographic community.

The next scheduled presentation is from Rick Fletcher from the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary. Rick plans to give an overview of their hydrographic survey program. For more information please go to our website at http://pages.zdnet.com/seamapper/nw_thsoa. ✪

- Humor from the Internet- Engineer jokes

- Q— When does a person decide to become an engineer?
A— When he realizes he doesn't have the charisma to be an undertaker.
- Q— How can you tell an extroverted engineer?
A— When he talks to you, he looks at your shoes instead of his own.
- Q— Why did the engineers cross the road?
A— Because they looked in the file, and that's what they did last year.
- Q— How do you drive an engineer completely insane?
A— Tie him to a chair, stand in front of him and fold up a road map the wrong way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARIS Expands Global Presence with First US Office

CARIS, a world leader in marine geomatics software, components and database management tools, announced that it has opened its first United States office in Maryland. The U.S. office represents a further step in the global expansion of CARIS.

Spearheading this US office is Mr. Frederick Ganjon. With more than

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thirty years of management experience in the private and U.S. public sector and extensive knowledge in the management of nautical chart production and development of electronic chart technology, Mr. Ganjon will be at the forefront of U.S. operations.

The Maryland office is charged with developing sales of CARIS' extensive marine software for DNC and ENC chart production, bathymetric survey processing, BSB and HCRF raster chart production, and coastal mapping. The new office will also provide a wealth of support to an already extensive U.S. clientele.

"During the past year CARIS has made great advances into the growing U.S. marine geomatics market, developing a strong sales, marketing and technical support infrastructure for our growing client base there," said Salem Masry, President & CEO, CARIS. "The opening of this office is the next logical step to expanding CARIS' U.S. presence, enabling us to respond faster, more efficiently and more cost effectively to this important market area."

CARIS has been supplying software solutions to hydrographic offices and national charting agencies since 1979, pioneering the use of geomatics technology in this industry. Headquar-

tered in New Brunswick, Canada, CARIS also maintains subsidiary offices in Ontario, Canada; and Heeswijk, The Netherlands.

Additional support is achieved through an international network of over 50 business alliances providing CARIS solutions, integration, and support in more than 70 countries. ☀

Hydrographers Satisfied with Single Beam Echosounders

By Pat Sanders, President

Coastal Oceanographics, Inc.

During the 2000 HYPACK Training Seminar, over 150 hydrographers filled out a questionnaire asking general questions about equipment and preferences.

One of the questions asked was: What type of single beam echosounders does your agency use? Please indicate your satisfaction with each sounder on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1=poor and 5=Great.

MANUFACTURER	# OF USERS	RATING
Innerspace	61	3.63
Raytheon	39	3.48
Odom	36	4.16
Ross	22	4.35
Knudsen	12	4.09
Atlas	3	4.50
ODEC	3	3.50
Simrad	3	3.33
Datasonics	1	3.00

The above survey was conducted on 10 January 2000. It was not differentiated by model number. The lower four manufacturers did not have enough users to consider them statistically significant.

Overall, all echosounders rated between "Average" and "Great" satisfaction levels. It appears, in general, that U.S. hydrographers are very satisfied with their echosounders! ☀

Gulf Coast Chapter News

The Gulf Coast Chapter held its last meeting on 25 January 2001 at Salvaggio's Restaurant in Slidell, Louisiana.

The meeting was jointly attended by members of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the Marine Technology Society, the American Meteorological Society and other guests.

The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Thomas Q. Donaldson, V, Commander, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command.

RADM Donaldson presented a very informative overview of the U.S. Navy's newly appointed position of "Navigator of the Navy." The Oceanographer of the Navy, RADM Richard West, has been designated to this position.

The Navigator will be the focal point for Navy navigation issues; and is responsible for the coordination of navigation plans and policy for training, standards and certification. A key goal will be the transition of naval vessels to a "paperless bridge" by 2007.

RADM Donaldson also provided an assessment of the "State of Hydrography" with regards to the NAVY. He reviewed the status of present programs and future initiatives. ☀

Training Courses

NOAA's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services in conjunction with Old Dominion University is planning to conduct a one-week training course on Tidal Survey Implementation and Datum Computations. Course location and date are tentatively set for Seattle, Washington, October 2001, 15-19. Further information will be posted on the THSOA website www.thsoa.org when it becomes available.

In addition, the U.S./Canada Hydrographic Commission will sponsor the 26th offering of the highly successful Swath (Multibeam) Sonar Surveying training course in Norfolk, Virginia in early December, tentatively December 3-8, 2001. The course is

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presented in conjunction with the NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center and the University of New Brunswick. Watch for additional information on the websites of THSOA www.thsoa.org, the UNH/JHC www.ccom.unh.edu or the UNB Ocean Mapping Group www.omg.unb.ca/mbc ☼

NOAA Contracting Update

by Brian Greenawalt

The 2001 field season is underway. NOAA awarded SAIC a work order for surveying in Delaware Bay, and is negotiating with Ocean Surveys, Inc. for work in Pamlico Sound, North Carolina.

NOAA is also negotiating with David Evans & Associates for surveying the approaches to Port Hueneme to support a new large scale nautical chart.

In Alaska, negotiations continue with Terra Surveys LLC for surveying in Upper Cook Inlet, from the vicinity of Fire Island to the Port of Anchorage and the site of the new port facility across Knik Arm.

NOAA and Thales (formerly Racal Pelagos) are negotiating work along the Southwestern Alaska Peninsula. This project includes the use of

LIDAR to delineate near shore details and shallow water multibeam sonar to provide soundings and imagery in deeper waters.

NOAA is in the midst of source selection for a contract in the western Gulf of Mexico. The survey work under this new contract will be a continuation of the effort to provide complete coverage of the safety fairways and anchorage areas in the Gulf. The selection should be announced by April 15 and the first work order awarded by May 20.

For additional information about these contracts, call Brian Greenawalt at (301) 713-2698 x 110 or by email at brian.greenawalt@noaa.gov ☼

- Humor from the Internet-

You might be an engineer if:

- Choosing between buying flowers for your wife and upgrading the computer is a problem.
- You take a cruise so you can go on a personal tour of the engine room.
- In college, you thought Spring Break was metal fatigue failure.
- The salespeople at the local computer store can't answer any of your questions.
- At an air show, you know how fast the skydivers are falling.
- For your wife's birthday you gave her a new CD-ROM drive or a Palm Pilot.
- You can quote scenes from any Monte Python movie.
- You can type 70 words per minute but you can't read your own handwriting.
- You comment to your wife that her straight hair is nice and parallel.
- You sit backwards on Disney rides so you can see how they do the special effects.
- You have saved every power cord from all your broken appliances.
- You have more friends on the Internet than in real life.
- You know what *http://* stands for.
- You look forward to Christmas so you can put together the kids toys.
- You see a good design, and have to change it.
- You spent more on your calculator than you did on your wedding ring.
- You still own a slide rule and know how

to use it.

- You think that people yawning around you are sleep deprived.
- You window shop at Radio Shack.
- Your laptop computer cost more than your car.
- Your wife hasn't the foggiest idea of what you do at work.
- You've already calculated how much you make per second.
- You've tried to repair a \$5 radio. ☼

- Humor from the Internet- A Computer Blessing

Blessings on this fine machine.

May its data all be clean.

Let the files stay where they're put,

Away from disk drives keep all soot.

From its screen shall come no whines,

Let in no spikes on power lines.

As oaks were sacred to the Druids,

Let not the keyboard suffer fluids.

Disk full shall be no more than rarity,

The memory shall not miss its parity.

From the modem shall come wonders,

Without line noise making blunders.

May it never catch a virus,

And all its software stay desirous.

Oh let the printer never jam,

And turn my output into spam.

I ask of Eris, noble queen,

Keep Murphy far from this machine. ☼

- Humor from the Internet- The Wisdom of Will Rogers:

- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- There are two theories to arguing with a woman. Neither one works. (This is an important one to remember.)
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- There are three kinds of men. The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves.
- Good judgment comes from experience. and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket. ☼

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The Hydrographic Society of America

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Qualifications for membership and benefits are explained on Page 7 of this Newsletter. This application may also be downloaded on-line at www.thsoa.org)

I wish to make application for membership in the Hydrographic Society of America. I agree to abide by the THSOA Articles of Association and to further THSOA's aims and objectives. I declare that the information below is accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree that the decision of THSOA Executive in regard to this application is final.

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City State ZIP Country

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Employer

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Phone E-mail Address

.....
If student, name of Institution

.....

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- \$20 INDIVIDUAL** (Houston and Northwest Chapters add \$10 for local dues)
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