



The Hydrographic Society of America
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WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.THSoA.ORG



President's Column

The 2005 hurricane season has been one that none of us will forget. Many of our members have endured, and continue to endure, severe hardship as a result of Katrina, Rita, and the other hurricanes in this record-breaking season. Individual THSOA members have lost their homes, had their families scattered, had their jobs disrupted, and have been displaced from their communities. Corporate members have lost their facilities and equipment, and have been challenged by the impact of the storm *(continued on page 2)*

features

- **REBIRTH OF THE GULF COAST CHAPTER**
- **WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT**
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 YEARS
 PROMOTING HYDROGRAPHIC
 EDUCATION

President's Column

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"THSoA has established a Hurricane Relief Fund to raise money for distribution in the affected areas"

on their employees. THSoA members have also responded to these natural disasters and made significant contributions to the recovery efforts. Both government and private sector hydrographers have been at the forefront of the effort to reopen ports and waterways and to restore services and capacity in the offshore oil production areas. As individuals, many of our members have opened their homes to friends, colleagues, and others needing a place to live following the storms.

At the initiative of some of our corporate members, lead by Lindsay Gee of IVS 3D, THSoA has established a Hurricane Relief Fund to raise money for distribution in the affected areas. Many of the immediate needs of people along the Gulf Coast are being met by large organizations like the Red Cross and Salvation Army, but many longer-term local and community needs will be unmet by these large relief organizations. A committee, from our regional chapters, led by Richard Byrd, is guiding the distribution of the THSoA fund. They are doing a great job at finding those needs with real connection to the hydrographic

community. Even if you have already donated to a national relief organization, think about digging deeper and making a donation to the THSoA Hurricane Relief Fund.

Last year in this column I shared some thoughts about restoring the connections between THSoA and the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS). There have been some bumps in the road, but I remain convinced that our profession is an international one, and that our Society should facilitate the interaction between hydrographers in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. Until recently, the Hydrographic Society of the United States (HSUS) had been functioning solely as a means for U.S. hydrographers to maintain affiliation with the IFHS, and was pursuing the idea of becoming a chapter of THSoA. HSUS was unable to continue in this role and has decided to dissolve. Nonetheless, THSoA is maintaining a relationship with the IFHS on a number of fronts including: 1) admission to US Hydro at member rates, 2) publishing of selected US Hydro papers in *The Hydrographic Journal*, 3) financial support of IFHS projects of benefit to all hydrographers, such as the *Hydrographic Career* brochure. The Board and Executive Director will continue to explore opportunities for cooperation and possible affiliation. As I did a year ago, I encourage you to join in this discussion with your comments, opinions, or suggestions. (As we continue to dis-

cuss the merits, means and mechanisms for U.S. participation, the Australasian Hydrographic Society and the Hydrographic Society UK offer international membership to THSoA members. Details are available on their websites.)

In another process that was begun at the Society's last Annual General Meeting, a THSoA working group led by Jerry Mills is looking at the possibility of sharing responsibility with ACSM for the Certified Hydrographer program. THSoA al-

"Mark you calendars and plan on attending Hydro 2007"

ready provides a substantial portion of the expenses for this program; we should probably share in the management and oversight as well. While this might seem at first to be nothing more than an administrative exercise, there is considerable interest around the world in individual hydrographer certification. This development could have important impacts on hydrographers in the U.S., and THSoA should be positioned to participate in this process.

Finally, I want to point out that our next U.S. Hydrographic Conference will be held May 14-18, 2007 in Norfolk, Virginia. Hydro 2005 in San Diego earlier this year was the

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President's Column

(cont'd from page 2)

most successful hydrographic conference ever, anywhere. We can't rest on our laurels, though. Mark your calendars and plan on attending Hydro 2007. And start thinking not only about attending, but also about how you might participate by offering a workshop, writing a technical paper, or volunteering to help plan and run the conference. This is a great opportunity to get more involved in the Society and in the hydrographic profession as a whole.

Andy Armstrong

Feature Articles

Rebirth of the Gulf Coast Chapter

Despite the problems being experienced in the Gulf region by many of our members, our own Gulf Coast Chapter has embarked on an ambitious journey to rebuild its presence in the area.

This effort, led by myself with the assistance of Richard Byrd and Art Kleiner, is currently in the planning phase. Central to this planning are the objectives of increasing local membership and building new relationships with industry and others through outreach and inclusion.

Key to the success of these goals is the support of THSoA. We are refining plans now and hope to meet firstly with the local then national Board soon to discuss the initiative.

An item of considerable importance will be a review of chapter administration. The terms of current chapter Board members will be discussed and any necessary changes will be implemented. The local Board and other members will be brought into the discussion as active participants.

Meeting frequency and schedule will also be discussed with the intent of possibly changing the venue to a semi-permanent site, such as the Plimsoll Club at the

New Orleans WTC. This would be affected through a corporate membership sponsored by the chapter. These meetings will be open, no-cost opportunities for industry and others in the hydrographic and oceanographic community to meet and exchange information. In a similar manner, the chapter proposes hosting twice yearly mini-conferences. Members will be encouraged to participate in the planning, running and technical presentations. These local workshops will be designed to allow many of the local members otherwise unable to attend the biennial THSoA conference an opportunity to become more directly involved.

The promotion of our organization among industry leaders in the local community will be a high priority. By engaging them as partners we feel that the momentum necessary to not only kick-start the effort but infuse it with the energy to sustain itself will be realized.

For more information contact me directly at don.c.ventura@saic.com or by telephone 985-726-4967 (home) or 228-688-2832 (work).

*Don Ventura
Chair, Gulf Coast Chapter*

Feature Articles

Website Development Progress

Work continues on the development of a totally new website for the Society. Since the last report significant progress has been made. Centauria Design (<http://www.centauria.com/>) was chosen as the contractor who provided the best combination of capability, proven performance and price.

To date the basic appearance and other design elements have been finalized. Work is now being done on the internal functionality of the site. This phase will probably continue for some time yet since we are asking a lot of the developer.

Once released we are confident you will be pleased with the site. You will be greeted by a sleek, modern home page from which you can navigate to all the traditional pages plus several new ones. Included will be a member-only access to select areas. This will allow us to publish information and details of Society operations not seen before on the existing site. We believe this will enhance the site's value to our members. There will be the capability for chapters to post directly to the site news of their activities. This capability will effectively enable each chapter to maintain their own presence on the national site. As this work continues we are finalizing the details of an elections and polling function that will be added to the contract. This much needed functionality will greatly reduce the

level of effort needed to conduct elections and will allow the posting of results in a more timely manner.

The addition of ecommerce capability will have multiple benefits. It will enable you to renew your membership completely online and make the purchase of Society merchandise easy and secure. In conference years it will also make it much easier to pre-register. Behind the scenes this functionality will eliminate much of the administrative burden we now experience in processing credit card payments and handling checks.

We are excited by the possibilities the site will offer us to improve service and will continue to work hard to ensure it truly meets our needs as well as yours.

Dennis J. Hill

ACSM Hydrographer Certification Update

The American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM) Hydrographer Certification program is the official recognition by one's colleagues and peers that an individual has demonstrated professional integrity and competence in the field of hydrography. It was established to differentiate individuals with expertise in hydrography from conventional Land Surveyors. It is not a substitute for registration as a

Land Surveyor or Professional Engineer, but aids employers and users of hydrographic services in identifying competent professionals. As such, the ACSM voluntary Hydrographer Certification program is considered a specialty certification similar to Certified Survey Technician or the upcoming Certified Flood Plain Surveyor programs by ACSM.

The Hydrographer Certification Board (HCB) is the designated authority of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), one of the four special interest organizations under ACSM. The HCB sets the policy regarding ACSM hydrographer certification and administers the certification process and currently consists of nine volunteer members supported by an ACSM employed administrative assistant. The charter for the HCB requires 8-12 members consisting of a minimum of 75% Certified Hydrographers and 50% ACSM members. The Board is required to have representation from a private hydrographic company, the Corps of Engineers, NOAA and a registered land surveyor nominated by NSPS.

Hydrographer Certifications are issued in accordance with the ACSM Code of Ethics such that persons certified should decline

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Feature Articles

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to undertake any work within or related to the fields of hydrography that is outside their range of competence. In 2005, the HCB processed 15 applications, proctored 13 exams and issued 10 Hydrographer Certifications. Although some program funding is received from nominal application and exam fees, the majority of the funding for the program comes from the generous annual \$5,000 contribution by THSoA.

Recently there has been an increasing interest by THSoA in becoming more involved in the certification process. Many, if not all, of THSoA membership have a vested interest in the Hydrographer Certification program. Currently THSoA is in the process of undergoing a study regarding the possible transfer of administrative duties while still maintaining ties to ACSM and NSPS for program continuity and recognition. ACSM and NSPS represent the arm of the professional survey community and it is important to be recognized by this community for the longevity and validity of the Hydrographer Certification program.

The HCB would like to offer our sincere appreciation to THSoA for the contribution provided over the years to the Hydrographer Certification program and looks forward to a stronger working relationship in the years to come.

*Jon Dasler P.E., P.L.S
Chair, ACSM Hydrographer
Certification Board*

Chapter Activities

Houston Chapter

The Houston Chapter continued its successful 2005 program of technical presentations and social events.

The annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) Social was held on May 8th. This year, the popular event was held at a new location, Saint Arnold's Brewing Company, a micro-brewery located in northwest Houston. In addition to great beer, great barbecue was provided by the Pit Bull Cookers. The event was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

At our June meeting, Jim Acker, CEO of Seis Pros International, gave a talk on MRIS (Multi Random Impulse Source 3D), a new technique for use on certain TZ and OBC applications. Seis Pros has developed the technique to reduce the cost of 3D seismic for shallow plays. Jim described how the technique uses accelerated mass drop weights as an energy source and discussed with members some of the issues this approach raises.

In July, Larry Buchanan, Sales Manager of Odom Hydrographic Systems, spoke on using dual frequency echo sounders for the determination of suspended sediment in the water column. Larry talked about how this technique can address the misleading picture of the seafloor that uncon-

solidated sediments in channels and harbors can create.

In August, Angle Bogle, President of TMS International, gave a talk on marine construction activity in Gulf of Mexico addressing the issues of where the activity is and where it is going. Andy's analysis of the Gulf of Mexico offshore business led to a lively discussion by the membership in attendance.

At the September meeting, Larry Prewitt, Marine Manager with Fugro Chance, spoke about Fugro's Starfix.MOOR software for 3D visualization of rig mooring systems. Larry described how existing seafloor structures in offshore fields were challenging mooring operations. Using 3D imagery of anchoring operations, Larry showed how the software assisted with the monitoring of these hazards.

The Chapter held its annual Bowling Night on October 11th. Everyone who participated had a great time. Congratulations to the winning teams from Ashtead, SLB and Harvey Lynch.

On Saturday, December 3rd, members are invited to attend the Annual Hydrographic Society Houston Chapter Christmas party. This year, the event is

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Chapter Activities

(cont'd from page 5)

being held at:

Magic Island
2215 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77098

Social: 7:30PM
Dinner: 8:00 PM

Join us for an evening of sumptuous gourmet cuisine, world-class magic & comedy shows set in beautifully crafted replicas of ancient Egypt.

The Houston Chapter of The Hydrographic Society of America meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Black Labrador, located at 4100 Montrose in Houston, Texas. Social hour 6:00-7:00p.m. Presentations 7:00-8:00pm.

Chairperson: Melissa Wood
Co-Chair: Andy Bogle
Secretary: Lisa Medeiros
Treasurer: Wendy Post
Liaison to National: Tim Griffin
At Large - Fund Raising/Social Coordinator: Wendy Post
At Large - Membership/ Student Liaison: Shorty Shipp
At Large - Publicity: Larry Buchanan

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Gulf Coast Chapter

The chapter is the subject of a feature article in this edition.

A meeting of the chapter Board is scheduled for November 11 in Baton Rouge.

The Gulf Coast Chapter's geographic limits include eastern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida.

The Chapter generally meets about four times a year at local restaurants in the vicinity of either Bay St. Louis, Mississippi or Baton Rouge, Louisiana. . Anyone interested in giving a presentation at one of the regular meetings should **contact Don Ventura** (don.c.ventura@saic.com)

President: Don Ventura
Vice President: Art Kleiner
Secretary: Richard Byrd
Treasurer: Shirley Dorsey
At Large: Gail Smith
At Large: John Iwachiw

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NW Chapter

The Northwest Chapter's geographic limits include Oregon and Washington.

The Chapter was formed in 2000. It holds local meetings in Portland, Oregon and in Seattle, Washington together with the local chapter of the Marine Technology Society

Contact Joanna Hawkins for more information or to schedule a presentation

(jhawkins@soundhydro.com)

President: Joanna Hawkins

Announcements

The Office of Coast Survey, NOAA, has developed and is releasing for public comment, an



on-line, nautical chart viewer. This service uses Coast Survey-developed Print-on-Demand technology to continuously update the chart files for Notices to Mariners, and then “print” them to the viewer for display. You are invited to try this experimental service and submit comments. The Internet address is

www.NauticalChart.gov/viewer.

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The Canadian Hydrographic Conference 2006 (CHC2006) is fast approaching. The conference will be held June 5-9, 2006 in historic and vibrant Halifax, Nova Scotia. Planning for CHC2006 is well underway - details and registration info can be found at



www.chc2006.ca. The theme for CHC2006 is *Bridging Disciplines – The Power of a Shared Approach*.

At present, a Call for Papers and Posters is underway. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is January 15, 2006. Abstracts must be 300 words or less and should be sent to abstracts@chc2006.ca.

Poster suggestions as well as any other inquiries can be sent to info@chc2006.ca. If you wish to exhibit at CHC2006 please visit the web site or contact exhibitinfo@chc2006.ca. Space selection is on a first-come, first-served basis so registering early is encouraged.

The venue for the conference is the Westin Nova Scotian Halifax Hotel <http://www.westin.ns.ca/>, located in downtown Halifax. Please let the hotel staff know that you are part of CHC2006 when you register.

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Hypack 2006 conference will be held in Las Vegas, NV, January 30 through February 2, 2006. The venue will be Harrah’s Las Vegas



Hotel. The 3-day workshop will cover the latest features in HYPACK MAX and will also see the unveiling of BRUCE, the code name for the next HYPACK version.

Thirty exhibitors will be on hand and there will be no additional charge to visit their booths.

Online registration and more information is available at

www.hypack.com.

Companies interested in exhibiting should contact Mrs. Lourdes R. Evans at Lourdes@Hypack.com, telephone (860) 635-1500. To make hotel reservations call Harrah’s at (888) 458-8471 and use the group code S01HYP6.

THSoA plans to exhibit at the conference. See you there!

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CARIS HIPS 6.0 has been released. This is a bathymetric data cleaning and validation program with powerful vector production creation capability.



Highlights of this release include new CUBE (Combined Uncertainty and Bathymetry Estimator) processing, new multiresolution BASE Surface technology for creating surfaces of varying resolution, new support for on-the-fly scale bars and raster legends and new raster data and BASE surface display capabilities.

“This single off-the-shelf software product embodies all of the very latest statistical-based data data cleaning and processing methodologies currently reshaping the ocean mapping industry in one single package.” (cont’d on page 7)

Announcements

(cont'd from page 6)

explains Bill Lamey, CARIS HIPS and SIPS Product Manager. "HIPS can take the raw sounding data from ship to chart. Supporting over 40 industry standard data formats, HIPS and SIPS can easily integrate into any workflow."

HIPS is used to visualize the ocean floor for applications in geology, offshore construction, environmental research and protection, military operations and hydrographic workflows.

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NOAA selected Okeanos Explorer as the name for its newest deep ocean exploration vessel. Okeanos is the ancient Greek term for ocean. The winning name was submitted by a team of students from Woodstock High School in Woodstock, Ill., and was one of nearly 400 entries received in a nationwide contest. The vessel, formerly the USNS Capable, was transferred from the U.S. Navy to NOAA last September. It will be equipped for ocean mapping, deployment of unmanned submersibles, scientific work in onboard laboratories and real-time transmission of images and data collected during ocean expeditions.

"We have great expectations for the Okeanos Explorer," said

NOAA administrator, Conrad Lautenbacher. "After modifications in the shipyard the Okeanos Explorer will sail on missions of discovery to unknown or little known ocean areas. Using satellite and high-capacity Internet technology, scientists at command centers ashore will participate directly in at-sea operations."

Though far from Okeanos Ex-



plorer, scientists ashore will be full members of the science team,

operating in science command centers, exchanging data and analyzing real-time, deep-ocean images taken by remotely operated vehicles on the ocean floor. High-speed satellite to Internet pathways will also offer exciting educational opportunities to raise ocean literacy.

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The US.Army Corps of Engineers', Center of Excellence for Surveying and Mapping (Ft. Belvoir, Virginia) will be hosting a Surveying and Mapping Track at the upcoming 2006 Geospatial Technology Symposium & Exposition for the week of 20-23 March in Denver, Colorado. For more information click the 'Upcoming Events' link on the THSoA website,



Not a member yet? Find an application at <http://www.thsoa.org>. Click on Membership

Employment Opportunities

Fugro West, Inc. has an opening in our Ventura office for a Field Hydrographer. TYPICAL DUTIES and Responsibilities include configure and operate DGPS navigation systems and software; configure, calibrate, operate and effectively tune various multi-beam echo sounders and associated sensors; responsible for online logs and record keeping; analyze and process data using Caris HIP/SIPS; responsible for quality control of acquired survey data, and for subsequent processing and reporting; other duties as assigned. Education and job requirements include B.S. in Geomatics, Civil Engineering, Geology, or a related field; 1 or more years of experience preferred; computer literate in word processing and spreadsheets; excellent communication skills, including grammar; excellent interpersonal skills, including teamwork; support and encourage support for continuous improvement of the company's processes including, but not limited to, the Fugro West, Inc., safety program; possession of a valid California Driver's license and an acceptable driving record. Applicants must complete a pre-employment drug screen. Extended, international, sea-going travel is an integral portion of the job. Fugro West, Inc.

is an equal opportunity employer. Full benefits package including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, and 401k plan. Contact: Fugro West, Inc, Attn: Human Resources, 4820 McGrath Street Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93003, Fax 805 650-7010, Email fwjobs@fugro.com, www.fugrowest.com.

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Bean Stuyvesant, L.L.C. is seeking experienced Project Engineers to operate surveying equipment, maintain instruments on survey boats, analyze and interpret raw data, evaluate volume calculations, and assist with daily reporting.

B.S. in Civil Engineering, Marine Sciences, Survey Sciences, or equivalent; multi or single beam hydrographic surveying experience, exp. with GPS/RTK and CAD, MS Office, Excel, Word and mathematical background. (Survey in the dredging industry preferred, production experience in dredging based off survey a plus).

Project Engineers do not have to relocate for this position. The company pays for travel to and from the project and living expenses while at the job site. Surveyors work a rotating shift (either 14 days on, 7 days off or 20 days on, 10 days off).

We offer a competitive salary and benefits pkg. including 401k.

Email resumes with salary history/requirements to employment@cfbean.com, Attn: Project Engineers.

For additional opportunities please visit www.cfbean.com

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Ocean Surveys, Inc. (OSI) currently has openings for experienced Hydrographers as well as a Hydrographers in training. Duties include project setup, fieldwork, data processing, analysis of survey results, report preparation, client liaison and all other activities associated with OSI's scientific and engineering support services. For more information visit <http://www.oceansurveys.com/> or contact George Reynolds at (860) 388 4631 x 112

People

Jeff Garlike

1945 - 2005

Jeff Garlike passed away on June 14, 2005 after a long and a brave battle with cancer. Jeff served in the Royal Navy for 15 years, most of which was spent in the submarine service. After leaving the Royal Navy, Jeff continued his relationship with manned submarines with Vickers Oceanics (later British Oceanics) in the North Sea. Jeff emigrated to the United States in the early 80s. After a brief spell in Houston, he moved to California where he worked for his good friend, Mike Todd at Rentec. Jeff moved on to work for Reson before returning to Houston where he subsequently joined VT/TSS. Jeff was a well-known and respected figure in our survey industry. Integrity and fairness were his hallmarks together with a personal drive for excellence in all of his business dealings. Jeff will be sadly missed.

Calendar

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
November 23, 2005	Closing of period for nomination of THSoA officers & trustees	
January 30-February 2, 2006	HYPACK Conference	Las Vegas, NV
March 20-23, 2006	GeoSpatial Technology U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Surveying & Mapping Technology	Denver, CO
June 5-9, 2006	CHC2006 Canadian Hydrographic Conference	Halifax, Nova Scotia
November 6-9, 2006	HYDRO06 IFHS Hydrographic Conference	Antwerp, Belgium
May 14-18, 2007	U.S. Hydrographic Conference	Norfolk, VA



Notice !

Nominations are being accepted for THSoA 2006 Election of Officers

A Nominating Committee has been formed and nominations are now being accepted for the positions of President (Andy Armstrong), Treasurer (Karl Kieninger), and two Trustees (Ray Williams and Chic Ransone). All incumbents, shown in parentheses, are eligible for re-election.

Nominations should be sent to THSoA, P.O. Box 732, Rockville, MD 20853 or by e-mail at mail@thsoa.org by 5:00 PM EST, November 23, 2005.

Your Management Team

President—Andy Armstrong

Secretary—Dennis J. Hill

Treasurer—Karl Kieninger

TRUSTEES-At-Large

Tim Griffin

Richard Byrd

Ray Williams

Chic Ransone

Executive Director - Jack Wallace

All officers and trustees can be contacted

Email: members@THSoA.org.

Post: P.O. Box 732, Rockville, Maryland 20848-0732

Every year the officers and trustees meet at least once as required by Maryland law. An Annual General Meeting is also held which is open to all members. The schedule for these meetings will be posted on the THSoA website (www.thsoa.org). Agendas will be posted on the website and distributed at the meeting.

Got News?

Send it to members@thsoa.org