

NCR NEWS

Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS
www.asprs.org/a/norcal/

Welcome to the Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS

By Lorraine Amenda

This is the final edition of the NCR News. On November 17, 2014, the Northern California Region of ASPRS ceased to exist. Don't worry – we didn't really go away, we have just changed. During the Board of Directors meeting for all of ASPRS, the Southwest US Region was dissolved and their territory was re-assigned to the Northern California Region. The next piece of business was the renaming of the newly expanded Region to the **Pacific Southwest Region**.

For those of you unfamiliar with the geographic coverage of both the Northern California and Southwest US Regions, our new Region includes the entire states of **California, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii**.

The next piece of business will be the adoption of new by-laws and the election of a new slate of officers to govern the new Region. Look for an email

Pacific Southwest Scholarships

By Lorraine Amenda

Sorry for the short notice this year. With the UAS Symposium and the proposed merger, the notification for the 2014–2015 scholarships are a little late going out this year. Application forms are available on the NCR website at www.asprs.org/a/norcal/. Completed applications are due no later than December 26, 2014. Once again, three scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are being offered – one each for students studying GIS, Photogrammetry, and Remote Sensing.

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alerting you to the proposed new by-laws for your review and comment in the next few weeks. That will be followed up with an election early in 2015.

The officers of both the old Northern California and Southwest US Regions would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all who have involved in the leadership in the last few years and those involved in overseeing the formation of the new Pacific Southwest Region.

Keep a close watch on your email for the various technical meetings and other activities that will occur in 2015.

Interested in Serving?

You will soon be receiving a call for nominations for the Pacific Southwest Region. The positions included in the call are:

President

Vice President

Secretary–Treasurer

National Director

Director (6 Positions)

Nominations should be submitted to the chair of the nominating committee, Devin Kelley, at devin.kelley@gmail.com. Self-nomination is permissible.



change is in the air

ASPRS UAS Technical Demonstration and Symposium

October 21-22, Reno, NV

UAS Mapping 2014 – a Recap

By Brittany K. L. Mabry

The ASPRS UAS Technical Demonstration and Symposium in Reno (Oct 21–22), organized by the Northern California Region of ASPRS, was a success surpassing expectation. Boasting a slate of presenters and demonstrators including many of the most distinguishable brands in the market of UAVs, imagery, lidar, and CAD, (Google, ESRI, Autodesk, BAE Systems, Pix4D, 3D Robotics, senseFly, Airware), as well as a host of up-and-coming business developers, the Symposium registration shot up markedly in the weeks preceding the event. Of the more than 530 attendees drawn to the Symposium, fewer than 200 were active ASPRS members, thus exposing the Society to hundreds of new potential members having a demonstrable interest in unmanned aerial systems and mapping.

The Symposium program, which opened with commendations by each of the local, congressional, and state representatives, commenced with welcoming remarks by ASPRS Executive Director Michael Hauck and ASPRS President Stewart Walker, both of whom addressed the role of ASPRS in the context of the emerging UAS industry and the restructuring ASPRS will undergo to lead the charge of development of this exciting and “disruptive” technology.

The Symposium included panels, keynote addresses, and special presentations clustered around specific topics of interest to drone flyers, data processors, and business developers in the UAS industry, including Vehicles, Data Collection, Sensor, and Data Processing. More remarkably, after being introduced to the Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems

Innovation Center (NAASIC) Business Director, Lt. Col. (ret.) Warren Rapp on Tuesday morning, attendees were later bused to NAASIC Nevada UAS Test Site for live demonstrations. Forty-five minutes out from downtown Reno, Symposium attendees reconvened at the Test Site where Altavian and senseFly demoed fixed-wing UAVs and DroneDeploy and the University of Hawaii demoed multirotor UAVs, all of which were successful flights from takeoff to automated landing.

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2014 New Members

Northern California Region ASPRS Membership Committee offers a Big Welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS!

*Welcome to ASPRS and
the Northern California Region*

June

Kimberly Mauch *

July

Sharon Dulava *

August

None

September

Luis Robles

* = Student Member

Identify an Historic Aerial Photo Contest

By Lorraine Amenda

If you can identify the area shown in the photo to the right, send an email to asprs.norcal@gmail.com and be entered into a drawing for an ASPRS hat, portfolio, or other similar item. Eligible entries must be received by December 20, 2014.

All who correctly identify the scene shown in the historic photo will be identified, along with the winner, in our next edition of the newsletter.

Hint: The site is within 20 miles of San Francisco City Hall.



Can you identify the area shown in this photo from the Towill, Inc., archives? Email your answer to asprs.norcal@gmail.com to qualify for the prize drawing.



Tim Hill, Christopher Curtis, David Lamphear, Ofelia Perez, and Ante Perez, and Adam McClure correctly identified the photo as that of downtown Arcata, California. Christopher Curtis won the prize drawing and received an UAS Symposium propeller. Congratulations Curtis!

Arcata

November 17, 1967 - This oblique photo features the downtown district of Arcata, California.

Your NCR Officers

The officers for the Northern California Region are working hard to provide you with quality technical presentations near to home.

In the last few years we've offered technical sessions in Concord, Sacramento, Monterey, and Fresno. We are currently planning sessions for 2014-2015. If you have suggestions for locations and topics for a session near where you live, please contact one of our officers or the region email at asprs.norcal@gmail.com.

We welcome any suggestions that would allow us to better serve ASPRS membership in Northern California, Northern Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands.

President:	Bill Zeman billzeman@gcsmapping.com
President-Elect	David Ruiz druiz@quantumspatial.com
Vice President:	Steve Barton Sbarton2001@gmail.com
Past President:	Devin Kelley devin.kelley@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Matt Coleman matthewcoleman242@gmail.com
National Director:	Lorraine Amenda lorraine.amenda@towill.com
Director:	Melissa Christie mchatigny76@msn.com
Membership Chair:	Alan Mikuni alan.mikuni@towill.com
Webmaster:	Jason Barnes jmb181@humboldt.edu

Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

The first Annual Meeting for the Pacific Southwest Region of ASPRS will be held at a technical session held the evening prior to the 2015 Geomatics Conference. The meeting will be held at Fresno State in one of the Geomatics Engineering lecture facilities. Join us for a time of food and networking prior to the session and be there to witness the installation of the first Regional Council for the new Region. Plan to stay and attend the Geomatics Engineering Conference in Clovis, California, on Friday and Saturday. For more information on the Fresno State Geomatics Conference, check their website at <http://www.fresnostategeomatics.com/2015-geomatic-engineering-conference/>.

Event Location: Engineering East, California State University, Fresno

Event Time: 6 pm

Event Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Upcoming Technical Sessions

By Lorraine Amenda

The 2015 slate of officers will be looking for assistance in planning future sessions as well as locations in which to hold sessions.

If you would like to suggest a topic for a future meeting, can provide a location in which to hold a session, or offer yourself as a speaker, please contact asprs.norcal@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events of Interest:

February 19 Fresno, CA	ASPRS PSW Region Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers
February 20-21 Clovis, CA	CSUF Geomatics Engineering Conference
May 6-8, 2014 Tampa, FL	ASPRS/JACIE Conference The Imaging & Geospatial Technology Four - IGTF 2015

UAS Mapping 2014 – a Recap (Cont.)

The presentations themselves served as critical and insightful introductions to components of UAS and their derived products, ranging from in-depth examinations of open-source computer vision (Kitware) and imagery compression (LizardTech) to broader-scope discussions of applications (3D Robotics) and big data cloud-based processing of archived imagery for interpretation (Google)—what Google Product Manager Peter Birch aptly described as “turning pixels into information.”

Zooming out to the industry-scale, however, it should be noted and emphasized that, in the United States, few Certificates of Waiver or Authorization (COAs) have been issued by the FAA to allow UAS flights. Despite its ostensible value as an imaging and sensing platform, UAS as an industry is, for the moment, as ESRI Senior Imagery Manager Gerry Kinn remarked, “chaotic,” yet imagery leaders like ESRI and Google are preparing for the imminent influx of data that UAS will inevitably provide. To address this deficit between UAS capabilities and implementation, helicopter pilot and Skyward.io Founder Jonathan Evans gave a detailed talk on the necessity of rules to govern commercial drone operation and compliance. Furthermore, DroneAnalyst CEO Colin Snow discussed their market research on UAS and how they might be monetized as a segment of the greater imaging and sensing industry. Effectively, the parties to the Symposium who attended to demonstrate their commercial UAS solutions for forestry, agriculture, mining, engineering, construction and even cinematography applications are at the starting lineup, poised sprint into prominence upon the rollout of national policies to regulate the use of UAS.

ASPRS has—and all the more through the success of this UAS Symposium—taken the helm of advancing and, perhaps more importantly, ordering this nascent technology and will do so with the creation of a UAS Division. According to the ASPRS bylaws, a minimum of 200 member signatures are required to

institute a new professional division. Consequently, a petition was circulated through the conference and appeared to have captured signatures from all members attending, however, more signatures are sought in order to meet the minimum. Once the requisite signatures are inevitably captured, Pierre Le Roux, current Director of the Primary Data Acquisition Division, will be Director of the UAS Division. While moderating the first panel session, Le Roux called for ASPRS to create a website, to be tentatively hosted at uas.asprs.org, to house expertly-assembled UAS best practices to serve as standards for the industry.

The Symposium also proved to be a boon to ASPRS Membership both within and outside the Northern California region. Heather Staverman, ASPRS Assistant Director of Communications, remarked on the demand for professional membership witnessed at the event. During the Symposium, Pix4D Business Developer Antoine Martin announced that Pix4D would join ASPRS as a Sustaining Member, with fellow Parrot company and eBee maker, senseFly, immediately following. For the student registrants, a bonus ASPRS Student Membership of one year was included with the conference cost, through which as many as thirty new Student Members have joined. The University of Nevada-Reno’s, Dr. Thomas Albright, after attending the Symposium has pledged to charter an ASPRS student chapter at UN-R. In addition, exhibitors, from long-standing supporters Leica Geosystems, RIEGL, TopCon, Towill Inc., and Penn State, to newer exhibitors such as DroneDeploy, Mapbox, Velodyne, and others filled the Exhibitor Hall which was constantly abuzz throughout the event.

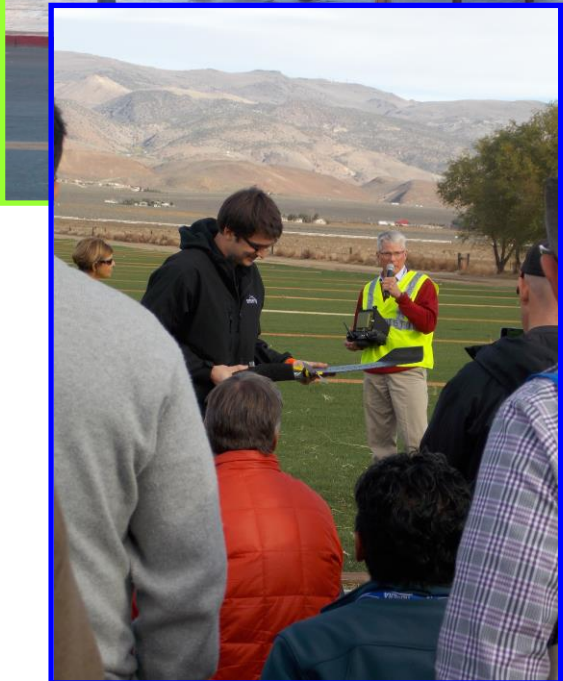
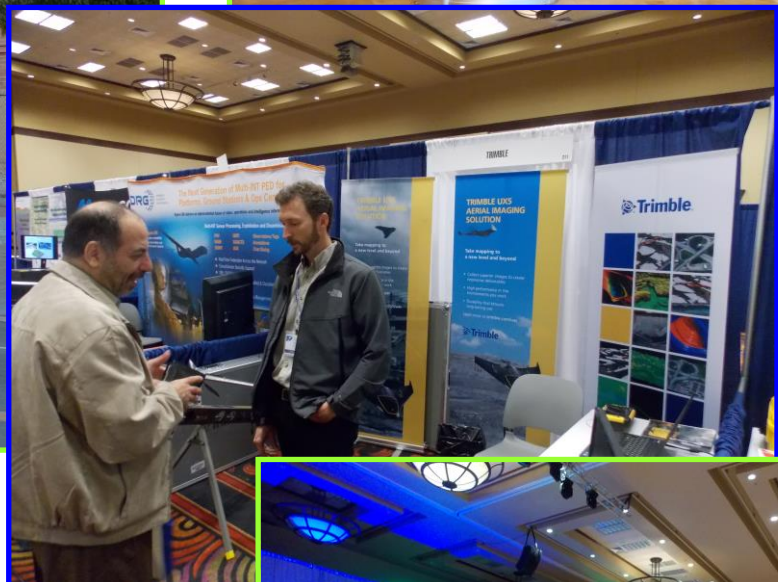
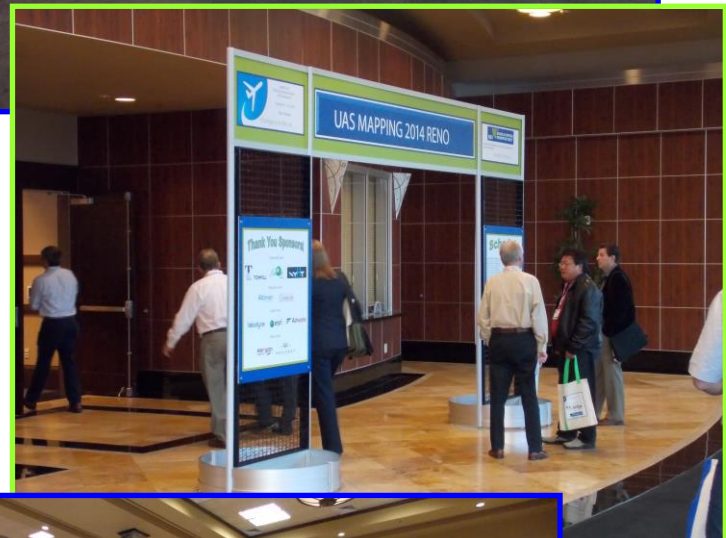
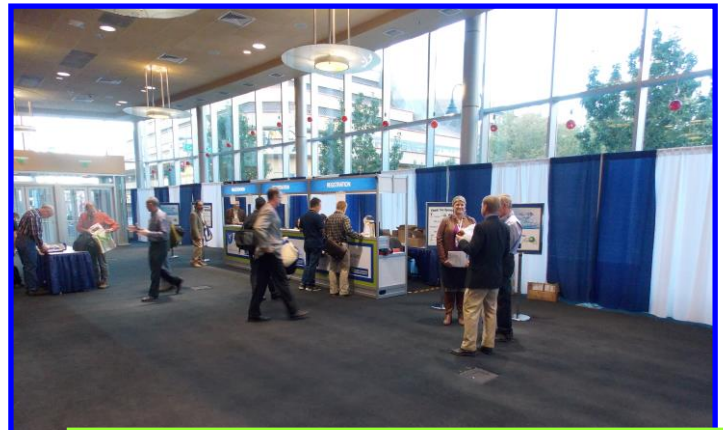
Following the Symposium, GeoCue’s Lewis Graham and Steve Riddell hosted an optional and very informative sUAS Workshop on Thursday, replete with demos of mission planning of sUAS flights and post-processing of data captured thereby in AgiSoft PhotoScan, Pix4D Mapper, and GeoCue’s own LP360.

The Symposium organizing committee and its moderators, headed up by NorCal Region leaders Becky Morton, Alan Mikuni, and Lorraine Amenda (complete list here), are to be commended for this precedent-setting conference. Morton summarized the event,

UAS Mapping 2014 – a Recap (Cont.)

saying, “...the number of exhibitors and the level of excitement and participation to the very end of a packed program was extraordinary. The quality of the information provided during the general sessions was key to the success. In addition, the opportunity for live UAS demonstration and on-site data processing and analysis was also exciting and informative. I know that I learned a lot and I believe there was ample information and networking experiences provided during the 2-day symposium that allowed everyone to walk away with something new to consider.”

For those who missed this event and wanted to attend, there are resounding calls for this event to be hosted annually. To follow updates and for the web-release of the videos from the Symposium, be sure to check asprs.org and norcal.asprs.org.



GIS Day 2015

The Northern California Region once again sponsored refreshments at several GIS Day events throughout the Region. In 2015 GIS events were held at Sonoma County; California State University, Fresno; and the University of California, Berkeley. Following are brief reports on the events in Fresno and Berkeley.

GIS Day 2014 at the Geospatial Innovation Center at UC Berkeley was a great success on a variety of exciting levels! Although the evening of the event brought much rain to the Bay Area, approximately 200 people attended (150 registered officially, but since there are multiple entrances into the building, many did not register). Previous years' events averaged from 50 to 100 participants.

Participants represented a diversity of ages, with posters hosted by local professional and a high school student. Interactive displays and organizations that tabled at the event included NASA AMES, a 3-D clay relief model created by a 4th grader, 3D image viewing by SenseEarth, and Berkeley-based eeGeo explaining mapping for video games. Participants also had the chance to explore a LiDAR Mobile Data Collection Vehicle which Michael Baker International parked outside the venue. A table with ASPRS pamphlets and membership materials was placed at the front entrance to the event.

Oral presentations included a standing-room only panel discussion on the Future of GIS, 13 individual

2014 Summer Social

By Bill Zeman

The Northern California Region of ASPRS hosted a BBQ in Oakland on Saturday, August 23, at Joaquin Miller Park for our members and their families. We all gathered at the Beaverwood picnic site. The Region provided hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks (soft drinks, beer, and wine). The board members brought the side dishes which included potato salad, baked beans, fruit and salad. The event started about 11:30 AM and lasted until 3:30 or so. It was a lovely day and everyone had a great time.

We hope to make this a yearly gathering at locations that will rotate throughout the Region.



GIS for Maintaining Levees and Flood Risk Management at Fresno State



Critical Infrastructures Solutions: Mobile LiDAR at UC Berkeley

talks in concurrent sessions, an OpenStreetMap open hack session, and an exemplary keynote by Ben Fash, Director of Special Projects at the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

The ASPRS Club, Fresno State Geomatics program, and the Fresno State Lyles College of Engineering hosted the 2014 Fresno State GIS Day on November 19, 2014. Over all, around 50 students, professionals, and staff attended the event. All these people weren't drawn in by just the free pizza and pastries; we had some great speakers as well!

The three speakers were Dr. Zhi Wang, a professor of Hydrology and Soil Physics, who gave a presentation introducing the basic concepts of GIS; Seth Scott, with the Fresno Council of Governments, who gave a presentation on Model Builder in ArcGIS; and Landon Blake who gave a presentation describing the application of GIS to land surveying and civil engineering.

In all, the 2014 GIS Day was a success. We would like to thank sponsorships from Northern California ASPRS, Esri, the Fresno State ASI, and all the students and professionals who had attended the event.