

ASPRS POTOMAC REGION

The imaging and geospatial information society
Late Summer 2014 Newsletter



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Photos from GeoTech 2013 (courtesy of Yogen Singh)

Introducing the 2014 Potomac Region Board

The 2014 ASPRS Potomac Region Board was sworn in during the Region's annual dinner in May. Two vacancies were filled this year: Paul Bresnahan joined the board as the new Secretary-Treasurer, and Joe Governski joined as Region Director. Paul is a Principal Scientist with Integrity Applications Inc. with over 20 years of diverse experience in photogrammetry, geomatics, and remote sensing. Joe is a Project Manager at Leidos (formerly SAIC). The Potomac Region also said a big thank you and fond farewell to John Manzer, as he wrapped up his tenure as Past President and many years of service to the region. Many thanks to Josh Sisskind for organizing a great annual dinner, and welcome to the new board members!



Back Row, L-R: Michael Hauck, ASPRS National President; Joseph Governski, Region Director; Ashley Holt, President; Susan Oakley, Vice President; Paul Bresnahan, Secretary / Treasurer

Front Row, L-R: Allan Falconer, Past-President; Yogendra P. Singh, Historian; Joshua Sisskind, Membership Director; David Streutker, Region Director

Not pictured: Barbara Eckstein, National Director

ASPRS Louisville Conference Report

Dr. Barbara Eckstein, National Director, Potomac Region

The Louisville Conference was the first major event since Dr. Michael Hauck became Executive Director of ASPRS. At the ASPRS Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, Dr. Hauck stated that he will evaluate ASPRS's operating procedures on many fronts. For example, ASPRS's activities and its budget will be scrutinized to find cost savings, since at present ASPRS's expenses exceed its income. Dr. Hauck also wants to increase the revenue from ASPRS membership dues so as to have less dependence on conference revenue. Dr. Hauck's plans to realign, streamline, update, and modernize ASPRS's operational functions will ensure the vibrancy of ASPRS for many years to come.

ASPRS has a new Standards Committee Chair, Mr. David Stolarz, who will manage the standards created by ASPRS divisions. Mr. Stolarz plans to re-invigorate the [ASPRS Standards Committee](#), including updating the web site. ASPRS's [Photogrammetric Applications Division](#) (PAD) has a [new standard for map accuracy](#) and would like feedback from the remote sensing community.

Under David Alvarez's leadership, the [GIS Division](#) has created a complete series of webinars, with a 500 attendee limit, which are available to ASPRS members. The [GIS Division](#) is also working on GIS workshops for the November ASPRS Pecora Conference in Denver. Also, the [GIS Division](#) is matching mentors to young professionals.

ASPRS's [LiDAR Division](#) has a new Director, [Dr. Chris Parrish](#) of NOAA, and is standing up a new topographic/bathymetric committee. The [Airborne LiDAR Committee](#) is leading a Calibration/Validation (Cal/Val) Working Group to determine how to quantitatively assess geometric alignment and accuracy. The resultant Cal/Val software will be open source and will work on LAS-formatted files. LAS can now be customized to meet the needs of specific data providers, with the "[LAS Domain Profile](#)", now published on ASPRS website.

The [Remote Sensing Applications Division](#) (RSAD) has a number of on-going initiatives, newly led by Dr. James Blundell after the end of the term of the previous Director, Dr. David Szymanski of the Potomac Region. The RSADs Climate Change Committee and newly established Marine Working Group are looking for participants. RSAD members were also responsible for judging many of this year's ASPRS awards.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) are an emerging trend, led by Becky Morton. However, many firms & government entities have been recently burned by the proliferation of cheap, but not necessarily accurate, GIS sensors. Good metadata and data management are needed for UASs to mature. In addition, data standards are an issue: the experts do not know of any UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) metadata standards. Standards are needed for both geopositioning and radiometric metadata, including error propagation, so that the data are repeatable and re-usable.

The ASPRS [Northern California Region](#) is hosting a 2-day [UAS Symposium](#) in Reno, NV on October 21-22, 2014. The purpose is to assemble academia, UAS developers, survey and mapping companies and government agencies with interests in UAS applications, to share information, showcase new technologies and demonstrate UAS systems in action (in flight).

ASPRS members interested in these or any other initiatives led by ASPRS's divisions may contact the division directors and become members of the division or a division committee, thus receiving emails and participating in the division's activities.

Upcoming Tech Tours

We are planning several fun Tech Tours this Fall and Winter! Stay tuned for dates and more information about the following tours and social events:

- **ASPRS National Headquarters in Bethesda**
- **MapBox**

We also welcome your feedback and ideas about additional Tech Tours and activities that could be offered for Region members. Please contact the Region Directors (below) with your suggestions.

ASPRS Potomac Region - Contact Information

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For board meeting agendas, minutes, news, events and contact information, visit the Potomac Region website: <http://www.asprspotomac.org> or follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn.