

SURVEYING AND MAPPING CONFERENCE FEB 12 - 15

As sure as an Anchorage mid-winter thaw, the 37th Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference moves in next month at the Anchorage Hilton. If you are looking for reasons to attend, there are several names on the schedule which may entice you.

SPEAKERS AND SHORT COURSES

For stature and history, Tuesday will feature world renowned climber, photographer and map-maker Bradford Washburn as the speaker for the Keynote Lunch. If acquiring raw surveying knowledge is your choice, "Chuck" Akin will be presenting a 2 day short course on dependent resurveys of mineral surveys. And perennial favorite Walt Robillard will be back with more stories and legal-ese for his devoted fans.

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Several ASPLS sponsored events which took place this past year will be discussed in technical papers on Thursday and Friday. The *Results of the Anchorage Bowl GPS Day* will be presented by Jim Mitchell and the *2001 NGS*

Alaska Calibrated Baseline Update will be provided by Martin Gutoski. In addition, technical papers will cover everything from survey notes to the *ASPLS Standards of Practice* (for the full schedule see page 6).

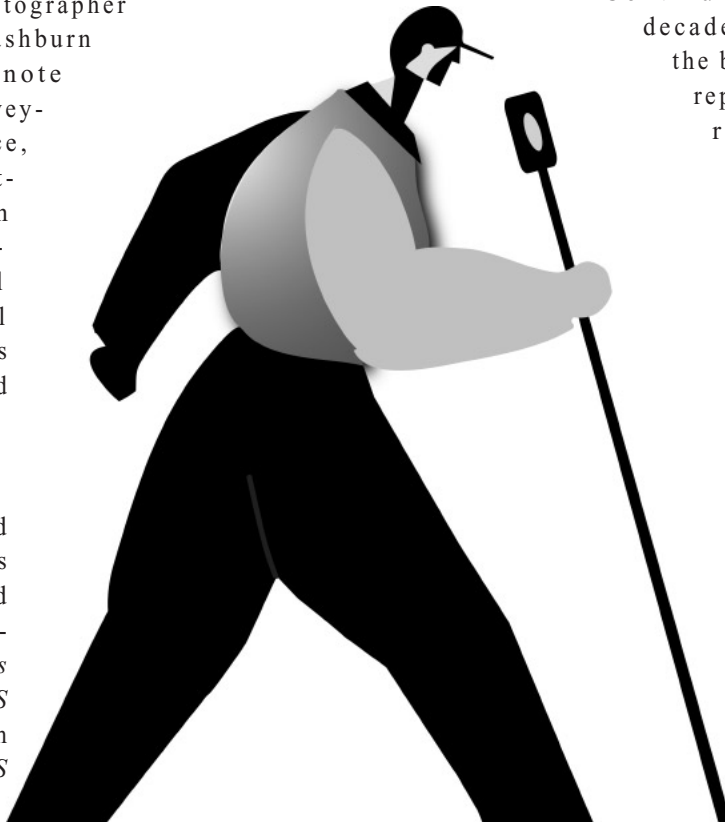
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The ASPLS General Membership breakfast meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13th with several important issues likely to be on the agenda.

Continuing education continues its decade long history of perching at the brink of possibility. Pat Kalen reports that a new proposal currently sits before the AELS Board. Also, HB 227, which would set minimum standards for surveys, awaits comment by the ASPLS according to APDC President-Elect Paul Whipple. The ASPLS Board will have at least one position to fill prior to the next general election. Craig Savage was elected Vice President of NSPS and will resign his NSPS Alaska Governor's seat as required the NSPS bylaws.

THERE'S STILL TIME

It is not too late to register online at:
www.logisticsllc.com/asmc



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Two days of courses organized by President-Elect Tuck Maakestad which run Thursday and Friday at the Surveying and Mapping Conference.



TRIG-STAR UPDATE

Hundreds of high school students have taken the Trig Star exam since ASPLS began sponsoring the event several years ago. This is a great chance to contact groups of students and let them know what careers are available in the surveying and mapping fields.

This year, ASPLS has purchased 2,400 of the ACSM brochures *Careers in Surveying and Mapping* for text proctors to hand out at each school as they explain surveying and our profession to the students.

Trig Star examinations will be given to high school students in Alaska on Thursday, April 25th, 2002. This exam is typically sponsored by each of the ASPLS chapters for the high schools in their areas. The student with the best score throughout the state is then entered into the national competition. The national winner and their teacher also get a trip to the next ACSM conference.

So far the chapter coordinators for 2002 are:

Bill Mendenhall, Fairbanks

Jamie Milton, Mat-Su

Ron Schwind and Jerry Lewis, Anchorage

Mark St. Denny, Kodiak

At the time of this writing we do not have any volunteers from the Kenai chapter.

The area coordinators contact the schools and make sure that there is a proctor for each school on the test date. Each chapter obtains the prizes for their area, and is asked to raise something for the state winners. Chapter coordinators will have to order their own test packets from NSPS. The chapter coordinators need to contact the

NEED MORE INFO?

Contact the Statewide Coordinator and National TrigStar Committee Member:

George Strother

work 745-9810

home 376-3865

fax 745-9825

email

strother@ptialaska.net

high schools, get listed on the school's activities calendars, and get a surveyor as a test proctor lined up for each school.

If you can volunteer to be a proctor or make a donation for the student prizes, please contact your local coordinator or your chapter president.

-submitted by George Strother

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This is the newsletter of the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors. ASPLS cannot guarantee the accuracy of any item or story within. Opinions expressed herein are solely those of the authors. The Alaskan Surveyor will be published quarterly on the 15th of January, April, July and October. Materials for submission are due the week before publication. To submit materials for publication, please contact Mike Zieserl at 563-3674 or mziesterl@hotmail.com.

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ALASKAN CRAIG SAVAGE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF NSPS

Craig Savage, National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) Governor for Alaska, was recently elected to the position of NSPS Vice President. The Alaskan Surveyor caught up with Mr. Savage to inquire about this new position.

Alaskan Surveyor: What is the title of your new office?

Mr. Savage: Vice President of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS).

Alaskan Surveyor: What duties will this new position entail?

Mr. Savage: Primary duties are to serve as back-up for the NSPS President-elect, to co-ordinate the NSPS committee reports, and to sit on the Board of Directors of NSPS.

Alaskan Surveyor: How will this be different from your former position as NSPS Governor for Alaska?

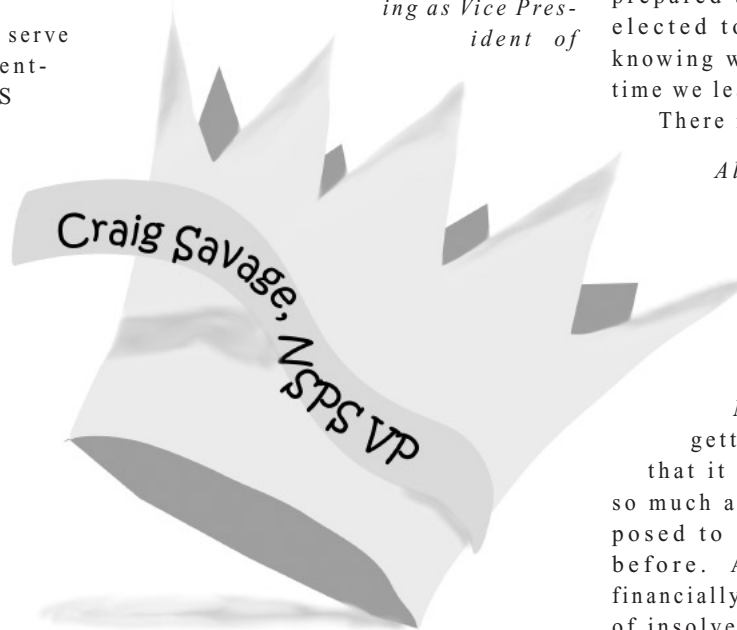
Mr. Savage: This position is different from NSPS Governor in that it is an office of NSPS, elected by the national membership. All elected officers have a seat on the NSPS Board of Directors, which is the decision-making body of NSPS. The NSPS Governor is elected by the state membership, and serves on the 50-member Board of Governors, which acts as an advisory group to the Directors. The Governors elect their own Chair and Secretary, and the Chair of the Governors sits on the Board of Directors.

Alaskan Surveyor: You have been active in survey societies for some time now. When did you begin your involvement on the national level?

Mr. Savage: My first position on the national level was as the Alaska NSPS Governor. I was appointed by the ASPLS Board of Directors in 1994 to complete Tom Knox's term when he resigned. I was re-elected twice and am stepping down because NSPS by-laws do not allow any but the Chair of the

Governors to be both a Governor and Director of NSPS. I was elected to a three-year term as a Director of ACSM two years ago, and my term will end this December 31st. There is no provision in the by-laws of either NSPS or ACSM which prevents me from holding both offices. I intend to complete my term, but will not run for re-election as an ACSM Director. As ACSM is becoming more of an umbrella organization, I will be better able to serve the surveying profession from a position in NSPS.

Alaskan Surveyor: Who are you succeeding as Vice President of



NSPS?

Mr. Savage: I am succeeding John Fenn, from Michigan, who has just become the President-elect of NSPS. Other new officers are President Gerry Curtis (Texas) and Past President Gary Thompson (North Carolina). John Abenroth from Washington continues as Treasurer.

Alaskan Surveyor: How will your vacated position of NSPS Governor for Alaska be filled?

Mr. Savage: My replacement as NSPS Governor will be chosen, per ASPLS by-laws, by the ASPLS Board of Directors at the quarterly meeting which will be held immediately following the general membership meeting at the

ASMC conference in February.

Alaskan Surveyor: Do you have any particular goals you would like to accomplish as Vice President?

Mr. Savage: My primary goal for this year will be to assist the other officers, and keep committees on track. If I am able to continue through the hierarchy of offices, I intend to work toward strengthening the organization by encouraging more State Affiliates to include NSPS membership as a benefit, as we do, and establishing policies whereby incoming officers are better prepared to serve. Too often we are elected to an office without really knowing what is expected, and by the time we learn the ropes, our term is up.

There is a better way...

Alaskan Surveyor: Recently, the ACSM appears to have regained greater stability and found new direction. What is your perspective of the current state of ACSM?

Mr. Savage: ACSM is indeed getting stronger. I don't know that it is going in a new direction so much as it is doing what it is supposed to in a better way than ever before. ACSM is gaining strength financially, coming back from the brink of insolvency, and is under the direction of someone who understands the bottom line. Curt Sumner didn't do it by himself, but as the new Executive Director, he's the one who pulled it together, got the building sold with enough return to pay off most of the other debts, got expenditures down to the level of income, i.e. balanced the budget, brought staffing to the appropriate level and managed to keep the core programs of ACSM, including Government Affairs and Publications active. Membership is up and climbing.

Alaskan Surveyor: When is the next meeting of the NSPS and the ACSM?

Mr. Savage: The next meetings of NSPS and ACSM will be in Washington, D.C.,

continued on back page



ASPLS TALKING POINTS

So you're registered for the Surveying and Mapping Conference and really looking forward to the great breakfast at the ASPLS General Membership meeting. Myself, I'm not a big fan of hotel croissants or much of anything else at 7:30 in the morning. Nonetheless, what I am looking forward to is some good debate on a couple key issues sure to arise during the course of the meeting. This is a double edged sword. I dislike hotel croissants for lunch even more than I do for breakfast, and the General Membership meeting can make the Academy Awards look like the paragon of punctuality.

Still, I would be willing to risk a warmed-over Canadian bacon sandwich if only to hear some insightful commentary from the membership about the current issues of the day facing ASPLS and the surveying profession. The following is a list of items which will likely arise on the agenda at some point.

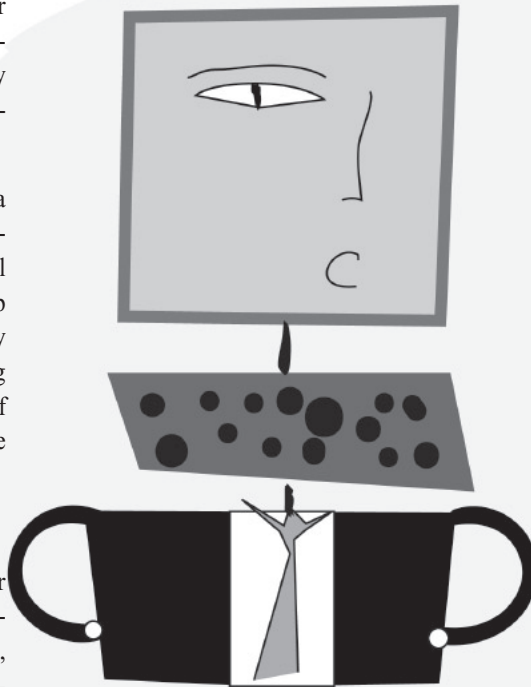
Continuing Education

You can certainly expect to hear something about continuing education. At the urging of the legislature, the AELS Board has recently investigated some potential requirements. A proposal drafted by a committee led by Karen Tilton was presented to the AELS board at their May meeting, but subsequent action has stalled.

The ASPLS Board took an active interest in this topic at their latest meeting in November. Martin Gutoski noted that when Scott McLane was at the ASPLS Board meeting in August he wanted a vote of support from ASPLS for continuing education regulations by the AELS Board. The ASPLS Board deferred action then, citing a desire to poll the chapter members on how they felt about the topic prior to taking action.

At the November meeting, Pat Kalen

reminded the ASPLS Board that this issue has a long history and that a resolution was already adopted at a General Membership meeting in support of continuing education. What the AELS Board wanted to know, according to Kalen, was if that support continues. Pat noted that the next AELS Board meeting would occur in Juneau during the legislative fly-in on Feb 21-22, 2002, after the Surveying and Mapping Conference.



ASPLS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
7:30AM - 12:30PM
ANCHORAGE HILTON

He noted that there is already work in progress to propose a bill authorizing the AELS Board to enforce continuing education, so if the ASPLS Board wanted to present a supportive case they ought to do it before the state legislature would get into session in mid-January.

The ASPLS Board passed a motion that unanimously reaffirmed the

resolution adopted at the ASPLS annual meeting. The resolution supports and encourages legislation that would allow the AELS Board to adopt regulations for mandatory continuing education. Expect a status report from Pat Kalen regarding this process.

HB 227: Minimum Standards

At the last ASPLS Board Meeting in November, APDC President-Elect Paul Whipple reported that HB 227, which proposes minimum standards for surveys, is now on hold pending ASPLS response.

This bill, introduced by Representative John Harris, would charge the AELS board with drafting regulations "that establish minimum technical standards to ensure the achievement of no less than minimum degrees of accuracy, completeness, and quality" when surveying boundary locations (House Bill No. 227).

ASPLS By-Laws

Sam Best has been working diligently to straighten up a few areas of the by-laws. The proposed by-law changes cover the new dues structure which was necessary to accommodate ACSM/ASPLS joint membership. Also, the language on elections would be changed to adopt a two year presidential term as well as settling the election cycle for the two year term of the treasurer and secretary.

Appointment of NSPS Alaska Governor

This is actually an ASPLS Board prerogative, but mention will surely be made of the fact that the former NSPS Governor for Alaska, Craig Savage, has been elected Vice-President of NSPS and is required by NSPS by-laws to step down from the Board of Governors.

-portions compiled from the Nov. Board Meeting minutes by Martin Gutoski

NGS CENTER OF POPULATION PROJECT



With the completion of the 2000 census, the U.S. Census Bureau has computed the Center of Population for the United States, and the population centers of each state.

The National Geodetic Survey, along with the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM), the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and the American Association for Geodetic Surveying (AAGS) is encouraging local societies to set a commemorative geodetic control monument at the computed location of their state's population center.

NGS hopes to showcase the advancement of GPS positioning technology with this project, as well as to highlight the achievements of Surveyors, Geodesists, and Geographers.

A special 8" diameter mark has been designed by Berntsen and NSPS for monumenting the Center of Population point, although the final design is up to the local organizations performing the survey. Costs for the project are carried by the local volunteers.

The positional requirements of the monument must meet 1-2 cm horizontal accuracy relative to the network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS). All observations must be performed using dual-frequency, full-wavelength GPS receivers.

Alaska Population Center:
N 61.288254 W 148.716968

For more information, visit
<http://www.acsm.net/statecenters.html>

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ASMC TECHNICAL SESSION SCHEDULE



Technical Sessions will be held on Thursday, February 14th and Friday, February 15th during the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference at the Anchorage Hilton. ASPLS President-Elect "Tuck" Maakestad coordinated the Technical Sessions this year.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2002

8:30 a.m. *The ABC's of Photogrammetric Survey Control*
45 minutes *Mike Schoder, PLS*

This paper will provide a guide to performing photogrammetric control surveys. An insight will be given as to the requirements and procedures recommended to produce survey control data that works appropriately with the photogrammetric process. A discussion of pre-marked and photogrammetric identifiable feature types of control surveys will be made. Suggestions and tips for performance of these surveys, including guidelines and checklists will be presented to assist the surveyor in performing these types of surveys.

9:15 a.m. *Understanding Least Squares Adjustments*
45 minutes *Cameron Clarke*

This paper will provide a brief insight into how least squares adjustments work and how they can be used by surveyors as a tool for blunder detection as well as for the adjustment of observations and production of final coordinates.

10:00 a.m. *Break*

10:30 a.m. *Results of the Anchorage Bowl GPS Day*
30 minutes *Jim Mitchell, PLS*

On April 21, 2001 the Anchorage Bowl was taken over by GPS receivers. During two sessions of GPS observations, 75 control points in the area were occupied with dual frequency GPS receivers. Over 50 receivers were used in each session in a cooperative effort of public and private land surveyors. This paper will discuss the results of the GPS observations performed on April 21. An analysis of the project plan, its implementation and the quality of the GPS data will be presented. The processing methods used and the final adjustment of the data as well as alternate adjustment schemes will be discussed. The use of the data and future enhancements to the network will be discussed.

11:00 a.m. *Survey Field Notes - What They Should Contain*
1 hour *Tuck Maakestad, PLS*

In today's modern equipment age, the surveyor is faced with a dilemma: what information, if any, is necessary to be manually recorded in the field book? When things go wrong with the data reduction, what safeguards have been written into the field book to help sort out what went wrong? The author of this paper will explore field note formats for different types of surveys, what he feels is essential data to be redundantly recorded in both the field book as well as the electronic data collection file. Example field note formats will be provided. Surveyors may bring their favorite field note formats to share. Selected example field notes may be included, with the author's permission and at the presenter's discretion, with the final paper on the conference proceedings CD.

12:00 p.m. *Lunch Break*

1:30 p.m. *2001 NGS Alaska Calibrated Baseline Update*
2 hours *Martin Gutoski, PLS*

In May of 2001 a dozen surveyors took a class in Anchorage put on by the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) to certify baselines for calibrating Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) equipment. The purpose was to recalibrate three existing

baselines set by NGS in the mid 1980's and certify two new ones set by the Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS) in 1999. This session will outline the techniques used to setout and measure an EDM baseline using NGS procedures. Martin will panel a discussion with some of the participants who helped measure the five baselines in Alaska.

3:30 p.m. *Break*

4:00 p.m. *ASPLS Standards of Practice CD - Operation and Use*
45 minutes *John Bennett, PLS, SR/WA*

The focus of this presentation will be on the October 2000 edition of the ASPLS Surveying Reference CD. The presentation includes a guided tour through the CD which includes an electronic copy of the 1994 ASPLS Standards of Practice Manual, an electronic image of the ASPLS Website, "on-disk" references and articles and a collection of public domain and educational surveying software. Discussion will follow regarding suggested improvements to and the future of these ASPLS Resources.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2001

8:30 a.m. *Alaska Tidelands Surveys*
30 minutes *Gerald Jennings, PLS*

Alaska Tidelands Surveys - the 5 w's. Surveys of tideland parcels are unique in several ways. Typically all corners are monumented with witness corners. DNR is usually the fee owner of the parcel, and the landward boundary is usually the mean high water line. Frequently, the line is fixed and limiting, because of avulsion or placement of fill. This paper will briefly discuss how an applicant applies for a tideland lease and how to conduct the survey and obtain state approval.

9:00 a.m. *Subdivisions in the Unorganized Borough*
30 minutes *Gerald Jennings, PLS, Bill Brown, George Horton*

Common mistakes and issues frequently encountered by DNR plat review staff. DNR has exercised platting authority for 3 1/2 years and our regulations are in place and procedures well established. Being aware of some of the typical problems, misunderstandings and questions will save time/money. Some of these include: Ownership of navigable water, monumentation requirements, Certificate to plat requirement, requirement for beneficiary approvals, Legal access and dedications, Native Allotments, vacation and replat requirement, supporting documents, RS 2477 trails.

9:30 a.m. *Break*

10:00 a.m. *Laser Scanning Technology*
2 hours *Ron Aarts, LEICA/Cyrax*

3D Laser scanning has become a major breakthrough in providing highly accurate survey data to the surveying industry. 3D laser scanning and mapping has enhanced topographic surveying as much, or more than GPS did several years ago. Examples of the use of 3D laser scanning in Alaskan projects will be shown. Examples

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of the use of this technology will include: land surveying and mapping, tank measurements, piping systems, contours, and highway design, and offshore structure design. In addition, Mr. Aarts will show examples of the use of 3D laser scanning in a wide range of applications from various of the world, from the ancient caves of China, to archeology sites in Japan, to offshore structures in Venezuela.

12:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. *Surveying & Mapping for the DOT&PF*
2 hours *Jim Sharp, PLS, John Kerr, PLS*

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT) has a generic Scope of Services (SOS) for Surveying for Design, Surveying for Right of Way and Right of Way Mapping. We propose to present our SOS and discuss Surveyor's comments, concerns and suggestions to improve it. The DOT will make the generic SOS available on our web site at least one month before the Technical Session, and spread the word about the web site and the technical session in advance of the presentation to help maximize participation. The DOT has a growing need for consultant services in the area of Survey and Mapping. The Department also has standards relating to survey and mapping. Everything is open for discussion.

3:30 p.m. Break - 10 minutes only
(Exhibit Hall closes at 2:00 p.m. today)

3:40 p.m. *RS2477 Ruling Update: Schultz vs. The Army - Who Won?*
40 minutes *Patrick Kalen, PLS*

The Alaska District Court's ruling in the RS2477 case of Schultz vs. the United States Army was overturned on appeal by the 9th Circuit Court and the decision was published. At the last ASMC conference presentation the published 9th Circuit Court appeal decision was presented as the current law. However, upon review, the 9th Circuit heard many friend of the court briefs, reexamined the case and then set their ruling aside, restoring the original court decision. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court was declined, upholding this decision. Pat will review the Court history and discuss what the final ruling was and what it means to RS 2477 precedent.

4:20 p.m. *Alaska DNR New Easement Vacation Process*
40 minutes *Gerald Jennings, PLS, Brian Raynes*

Discusses the Alaska Department of Natural Resources new easement vacation process. Implementing recently adopted 11 AAC 51.065 Vacation of Easements and due to changes in AS 19.10 relating to RS 2477, DNR has established a decision process for vacation of DNR reserved or managed easements. This paper will discuss the DNR, DOT/PF and borough roles and the steps to be followed.

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*To reply to the editor, please
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to mzieserl@hotmail.com*

Alaskan elected NSPS Vice President

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from Saturday, April 19th through Wednesday, April 25th. The NSPS Board of Governors will meet Saturday and Sunday, the NSPS Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, and the ACSM Board of Direction will meet Wednesday. Those meetings will be in conjunction with the international conference of the Federacion Internationale de Geomatiques (FIG). (We may still call it surveying and mapping, but the rest of the world calls it geomatics.) It will be a huge event. Alaska will be represented by my replacement at the Governor's meetings, by me at the NSPS Board of Director's and ACSM Board of Direction meeting and most importantly by Sam Best, who will chair the Board of Direction as President of ACSM.

Alaskan Surveyor: Will NSPS and ACSM have a presence at the Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference?

Mr. Savage: ACSM/NSPS will definitely have a presence at our Alaska Surveying and Mapping Conference. Both

Sam Best, President of ACSM and Curt Sumner, Executive Director of ACSM, will be there as guests. Walt Robillard is an ACSM Director and will be present as an instructor. Curt and Sam are both past presidents of NSPS

Alaskan Surveyor: Are there any issues related to ACSM or NSPS which the membership should be aware of before the ASPLS General Membership Meeting?

Mr. Savage: At the moment the only national issue which should be on the front burner for our ASPLS membership meeting is not so much an issue as a decision to participate in the NGS Center of Population Monumentation project. Our own continuing education and minimum standard issues will certainly need attention. Nationally, NAFTA and the Model Law are still being worked out in committees. Our Trig Star program is good and getting better. We should be taking greater advantage of the Surveyors Certifica-

tion program (CST). Every one of us will have opportunities to hear from Sam and Curt on the issues at our ACSM Section meeting Tuesday night, and our ASPLS membership meeting. And all of us will be around during the day to share opinions on the issues.