“Every man is a debtor to his profession.”

Surveyor’s School Reborn
Backing Up Your Data
2007 Convention Highlights
From the Desk of the President

In 2005, planning began by my staff and myself for the 59th Annual Convention that was held in Williamsburg, Virginia January 16-20, 2007. Many hours of time and travel were devoted to making the 59th Convention a great success. We have received many letters from VAS members stating how much they enjoyed the 59th Convention. My thanks to a great staff and to the First Lady of the Virginia Association of Surveyors. Our Convention Planner, Joyce Brooks, did a great job organizing every aspect of the convention. Thank you, Joyce and staff members and thanks to all the VAS membership and guests who made the 59th Convention a great success.

After taking office on January 20, 2007, this office dealt successfully and with the help of our lobbyist and legislative committee had House Bills 1950 and 1951 tabled until the 2008 General Assembly session.

We have represented the VAS at the North Carolina, West Virginia, and ACSM conventions, the East Tennessee State University Awards Banquet, and several VAS Chapter Meetings. At each of these events, we have gained a world of knowledge from our fellow peers. We plan to share this information with our membership and our Board of Directors at the Board Meeting on Saturday, April 28, 2007. The Board of Directors Meeting is open to all members. I would recommend that each member attend and voice their opinion in the business sessions. With our staff, committee chairpersons and the membership, my goal in 2007 is to work to increase the membership of our Association by fifteen percent. There are 540 licensed surveyors in the Commonwealth of Virginia who are not members of this great Association. Each one of you know one or more Land Surveyors who you could convince to join the VAS. Without the VAS and the membership’s dedicated frontrunners, the Land Surveyor would have lost a lot of his professional rights years ago. As Land Surveyors, we have an obligation to our Association and to all Land Surveyors across our nation to promote

see President’s Message, page 6

Editor’s Minute

My time has finally rolled around to be your Old Dominion Surveyor editor for the coming year. To that means, I would like to ask each member to consider submitting an article of interest, with pictures if available, for publication.

If you are a member of another state’s surveying association and receive their publication, take a few minutes and scan it for articles of interest. We have a good working relationship with most associations and can reprint material from their publications with proper credit given to the author.

Chapter Presidents, a special request for you: take pictures, write a short summary of your Chapter meeting, and submit for publication, along with your meeting dates for the upcoming year.

Committee Chairs, a special request for you: keep the membership informed of what is happening within your committee by submitting a short summary for publication each quarter. Let our membership know that our standing committees are working for them.

Remember, this newsletter is YOUR publication, for the benefit of the membership, written by the membership, and used by the membership to pass on news of interest to the surveying community.

Thank you in advance for all your support this coming year.

Tim Nash, L.S.
Second Vice-President
Editor – The Old Dominion Surveyor
What makes one pole smarter than another?

A pole is smarter when it makes you significantly more productive. Introducing the Leica SmartPole.

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Can you afford not to backup your data?
Ways to keep our valuable data for years to come

Gone are the days of reading a vernier or micrometer and recording horizontal and vertical angles, pulling a steel tape, and writing them in a field book. Those days have been replaced with total stations, GPS and everything recorded digitally by data collectors that use memory and compact flash devices.

Along with storing the data digitally comes other challenges in preserving the critical information that surveyors obtain while performing their task that fill their everyday lives. This data is not only electronically collected in the field, but includes finished plats in cad programs, accounting data, spreadsheets, correspondence, email, contact list, and a whole array of files that we generally take for granted.

Backups are essential for any business that values its data. Have you ever been working on a project that was compiled over several days when there was a power surge that caused your computer to “black out?” Only to find your data was corrupted or even worse gone. No doubt it was a frustrating experience as a lot of time and effort had been put into it. I am sure that many of us have experienced data loss in some form or another and have learned to be wiser and backup our data to avoid any form of data loss.

Several things have to be addressed. First, a computer can be replaced, but what about the data it stores? Is a data backup solution part of your computer plans? Do you have a way to protect yourself if something goes wrong with your computer or its data? Computers are a very vital part of our lives, but we don’t always protect ourselves from their potential loss of data. Data can be lost through power surges, computer crashes, fires, and theft to name a few. You wouldn’t leave your home unlocked and the doors wide open without any occupants, so be sure to close the door to possible losses of data.

We often don’t consider how volatile our computer data really is. Do you keep sensitive information on your computer that you would be upset if you lost it? Not sure? Consider this...if I told you that I was going to format your hard drive right now and you will lose all of the information on your computer, would you be ready? Or would you need to get a few files first? If you are in the second group, chances are you don’t have a proper data backup solution in place to help you handle disasters.

Hard drives are your computers long-term memory. They are the devices in your computer that store the information on your computer. They are built with rotating mechanical parts. These parts break down. If they break down, your data can be gone. Their normal life expectancy is three years, but can fail sooner. Are you prepared?

Data on a failed hard drive can often be recovered by an expert data retrieval specialist, but prices usually start at $10,000 and go up. Want to avoid such costly recovering options? Establish a complete data backup solution.

You need a plan and a simple plan will consist of two basic elements. First, make a second copy of your data. This can be achieved through burning your data to a CD/DVD or an external hard drive. Burning your data to a CD/DVD or copying your data to an external hard disk will provide rudimentary data backup protection. However, there are some problems with this approach.

Second, get the backups off site. This is accomplished utilizing an online backup service like Rentavault.net or a similar provider. The data is encrypted at your location with an encryption key of your choosing, then transported from your location to the remote location of the service provider by your broadband Internet connection. This solution is an automated process, thus removing the human error from the backup solution. Scheduled backups are performed without any intervention from the users. Most providers allow for daily, weekly, and monthly scheduled backups. This solution is a must if your plan is to be successful.

No matter how you backup your data, you need to have the following items in your backup. It must be automated, have security, be data stored off site, and have multiple copies in case a file is corrupted. This will allow you to go back to an unaltered version of a corrupted file.

Along with the invent of technology, we are faced with a new set of ways to keep our valuable data for years to come. Remember, we are talking about the future of your business. If you make a plan and follow it, you will minimize the risk of data loss and, better yet, the loss of your business.

Doug Suttles, PLS
Suttles Surveying, PA
Rentavault Inc.
Owner
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our profession. As Land Surveyors we need to claim our right each day to our professional status. Our profession has advanced to heights that many of us in the past only dreamed of. The Land Surveyor has at his fingertips the most advanced technology and is capable of performing his job to the highest degree of accuracy. As Land Surveyors, we should never think minimum standards. We should excel past the minimum to the best we can be. The client remembers the Land Surveyor for his/her professionalism; his/her appearance; his/her equipment and his/her courtesy and professional attendance to their project. As we all know, every client is important and every client is our number one client and that client is our future, the future of our profession as well as our business.

In just a short time we will all be faced with mandatory continuing education. As a licensed Land Surveyor each person will be required to have fifteen hours of continuing education credits. The VAS has in the past and will continue in the future with its quarterly seminars and many different types of seminars at the Annual Convention. Our educators within the Association are devoted to education. We owe them our thanks.

I believe with each VAS Chapter and its members help, we can see the membership of the Association grow fifteen percent in 2007. I believe the membership will continue to grow in future years due to mandatory continuing education. As current VAS members, let’s reach out to the Land Surveyor that is not now a member and compel them to become a member of the VAS. The application for membership is on our Web site www.vasurveyors.org. Each person needs to take a part, become active, and attend all chapter meetings.

As professionals, we must strive to protect our rights and at the same time we need to promote this great profession of Land Surveying. The VAS stands behind the licensed professional and will continue to protect and promote the Land Surveyor and the profession in this great Commonwealth.

As your President, I am available to our membership. If you should have any questions, or if I can be of help, you may contact me via telephone at (434) 528-4674 or via e-mail at serca2@aol.com.

Thomas C. Brooks, Sr., L.S.
VAS President
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ETSU’s Silver Award
Honor for the Virginia Association of Surveyors

On February 9 and 10, 2007, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Brooks, Sr. had the great fortune of attending the East Tennessee State University Awards Banquet in Bristol, Tennessee and accepted the Silver Award on behalf of the Virginia Association of Surveyors. The University gives the award to entities or persons who contribute $100,000 plus to the University.

In years past, the Virginia Association of Surveyors has offered its professional and monetary support to East Tennessee State University. Each person involved in the promotion and education of Land Surveyors is to be commended for their desire to promote this great profession.

Thomas C. Brooks, Sr., President of the Virginia Association of Surveyors, receives the Silver Award on behalf of the Virginia Association of Surveyors from East Tennessee State University.

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Surveyor's School Reborn
John H. Foster School Makes Its Debut at Roanoke College

As all of us prepared to take the state license exams in the early years of our surveying careers, we sought out different methods, classes and seminars to help us reach our ultimate goal of being a licensed land surveyor. For many of us, we chose to attend a four-day school taught each spring at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. The school was named The Robert A. Marr School of Continuing Engineering Studies. The school was organized and run by VMI; with Virginia licensed Surveyors and Engineers comprising a large portion the faculty. Unfortunately, a few years ago the four-day school ceased operations. The exact reasons why are unclear. Possibly just simply due to a turnover of staff personnel at VMI and that no one was willing to carry on the tradition.

The Education Committee has received many comments and suggestions over the last few years from students attending it’s yearly Exam Review classes and from members of VAS. Based on those comments, the Education Committee has been working since the January convention in Williamsburg to resurrect the surveying school in a new, but similar format.

As of the date of this article, the final arrangements with the School's host have not been finalized. I can say that we hope to hold the School this July at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia. The facilities at Roanoke College are awesome. Students will be able to stay on campus at a new dormitory at a very, very, reasonable rate. The school’s format will feature two distinct courses of study. One course would be for the student preparing for the Fundamentals Exam and the other for the student preparing for the Principles & Practice Exam. The ultimate goal of this committee and its supporters are to offer classes that will also appeal to licensed land surveyors and engineers in Virginia and its surrounding states.

The most exciting aspect of this new endeavor is that the school will be named after the first president of the Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc. The school will be named the John H. Foster School. With the financial help of the Surveyor’s Foundation, this school is getting off to an excellent inaugural start. Keep your eyes and ears open to specific information on the school which will be released next month through mass mailings and the VAS Web site. Please feel free to contact me directly at chip@jorce.com.

Chip Richardson
Education Committee Chairman
Many thanks to each member of the Auxiliary, who contributed their time and money to the success of Convention 2007. The Silent Auction brought in $3,800. Raffle tickets sold by Auxiliary members brought in hundreds of dollars for the EDUCATION of up and coming land surveyors. Thanks again to members, affiliates, donators, and anyone who took part in Convention 2007.

Our annual Auxiliary meeting was held January 19. We’re pleased to announce our meeting attendance and membership is continuing to grow. With the Silent Auction now well-supported and under control, the Auxiliary is looking forward to taking on new projects.
Auxiliary Meeting

The Auxiliary recognized Curt Sumner for his service to the Virginia Association of Surveyors with an award certificate and gift. As president of the Auxiliary Joyce Brooks presented the Presidential Award to Ernest Hawkins, Jr. for his membership in the Auxiliary. Since day one, he has continually helped with the set up of the booth and absolutely everything regarding the Auxiliary. The Auxiliary has sent thank you cards to each exhibitor thanking them for their support at Convention 2007. Keeping you informed and looking forward to Convention 2008.

In Memoriam
Charles Gordon Patterson, Jr.
March 4, 2007

Charles passed away on March 4 at his home in Glen Allen, Virginia. He was a long-time member of the Central Chapter of the Virginia Association of Surveyors.
Memorial contributions may be made to the Mechanicsville Christian Center Parish Nurse Program, 8061 Shady Grove Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.
He will be missed by his family and fellow surveyors.
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Highlights of the 2007 VAS Convention

Congratulations to all newly licensed surveyors. We hope you will join the Virginia Association of Surveyors and support the profession of surveying.

Newly licensed surveyors in attendance

The 2007 Spouses Program was a success. We all enjoyed our time at Yankee Candle, at Chickahominy House for lunch, the historical tour of Jamestown Festival Park and a scope of ice cream at Williamsburg General Store.

Group ready to leave

Friday Night Hospitality — Mr. Hospitality (Steve Douty) came through once again living up to his name. Everyone enjoyed the balloon artist and the friendship gathering in the Hospitality Suite.

Steve Douty

Return of shoppers

Silent Auction 2007 “WOW”— raising $3,800 for the Educational Program

Silent Auction

Nancy Dunlap and friends

Our Executive Secretary Judy Hite just wants to say “Howdy!”
Highlights of the 2007 VAS Convention

The Plat Contest was held in conjunction with the 59th Virginia Association Of Surveyors, Inc. Annual Meeting held in Williamsburg, Virginia January 16 – 20, 2007. This year 14 firms entered plats in the five announced categories. We want to acknowledge Chip Richardson, Dick Smith, Charlie Pruett, Dave Holland, and Judy Hite for their assistance in organizing and hanging the entries.

Our judges this year were: Bill Coleman, NSPS Area 3 Director; Ron Collier, Maryland; Randall Myers, West Virginia; Brian Souva, North Carolina; Byron Rimmer, Pennsylvania and Chas Langelan, Surveyors Historical Society.

The Winners

Subdivision Plats
1st - Acres Of Virginia – Amherst
2nd – The Engineering Groupe, Inc.

ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys
1st – Dewberry – Fairfax
2nd – Land Design Consultants

Boundary/Cadastral Surveys
1st – Jordan Consulting Engineers
2nd – The Engineering Groupe, Inc.

Topographic Surveys
1st – Acres Of Virginia – Amherst
2nd – The Engineering Groupe, Inc.

Miscellaneous
1st – Dewberry – Manassas
2nd – Engineering Concepts, Inc.

The Past Presidents joined us for lunch on Saturday where they were presented with a certificate and gift. We appreciate their service to the Virginia Association of Surveyors.
Introducing SmartWorx from Leica Geosystems: Maximize your productivity with the smartest surveying software on the market.

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Our Affiliates at Convention 2007
Loyola’s exclusive RTK-Net GPS infrastructure is controlled by Leica SpiderNET. This advanced GPS network processing software is built on the Master-Auxiliary Concept.

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Looking Back

Can you identify any of these VAS members in our archival photos and advise the Central Office?

George Washington’s surveyor’s office visit. Left to right: Jud Gustin, Jack Hill, Jack Bartenstein, and Lee Ebert.

Early English-made measuring wheel is examined by Ebert, Bartenstein, and Cook in Washington’s surveyor’s office.

The VAS display in Washington’s office.
CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA SURVEYORS’ WEEK

WHEREAS, George Washington, the first President of the United States, founding father of our nation and a native Virginian, was a renowned land surveyor, as well as, a distinguished military and agricultural engineer; and

WHEREAS, North American land surveying began in Virginia during the 17th century and the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia became the first institution in Colonial America to license land surveyors; and

WHEREAS, our Commonwealth’s earliest surveyors charted our nation’s westward expansion and many of Virginia’s surveyors, including America’s first President, also enjoyed careers as great statesmen; and

WHEREAS, surveyors are professionals who rely on special education, training, experience and knowledge of mathematical principles and related physical and applied sciences to successfully perform their jobs; and

WHEREAS, surveyors are uniquely qualified and licensed to determine and describe land and water boundaries for managing our natural resources and protecting private property rights; and

WHEREAS, Virginians recognize the valuable contributions surveyors have made to the history, development and quality of life in Virginia and throughout our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize March 18-24, 2007, as SURVEYORS’ WEEK in the COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Calendar of Events for 2007

**Full APELSCIDLA Board Meetings** – June 14, September 13, December 13, 2007

**Land Surveyors Section Meetings** – May 24, August 16, November 8, 2007

**Land Surveyor-in-Training Exam Dates** – April 21, October 21, 2007

**Deadlines for application and fee** – December 21, 2006 and June 29, 2007

**Land Surveyors Exam Dates** – April 20 and October 26, 2007

**Deadlines for application and fee** – December 22, 2006 and June 29, 2007

**Land Surveyor-B Exam Date** – April 21, 2007

**Bull Run Chapter** – Membership meetings - May 16, September 19, December 5 (tentative), 2007. Contact Ed Dodd 540-428-2900; edodd@doddsurvey.com

**Central Chapter** – Membership meetings - May 22, July 24, Sept. 21, picnic, November 6, December 13 Christmas Party, 2007. Contact Keith Shrader, 804-746-5285; kshrader@youngblood-tyler.com

**Monticello Chapter** – Membership meetings - May 24, October 25, 2007. Contact Tom Gale 434-977-0205: tom@roudabush.com

**Mount Vernon Chapter** – Board meetings - April 18, August 15, October 24, 2007; Membership meetings June 7, Apprentice Graduation, September 12, December, 2007. Contact Ralph Jones 301-528-4300; ralph.jones@phra.com

**Rappahannock Chapter** – Board meetings - April 19, June 21, September 20, November 15, 2007; membership meetings – May 17, July 19, August 18 Crab Feast, October 18, December 13 holiday dinner, 2007. Contact Randy Grymes 540-672-4282; herndongrymes@ns.gemlink.com

**Tidewater Chapter** – Board meetings – April 19, June 14, September 20, November 15; membership meetings – May 18, October 18, December 5. Contact Hayden Frye 757-491-7228; hfrye@haydenfrye.com

**State Board Meetings** – April 27 & 28, 2007 Bull Run Chapter hosting; June 22 & 23 Tidewater Chapter hosting; Fall meeting in conjunction with the Surveyors Historical Society, September 14 & 15, 2007