“Every man is a debtor to his profession.”

One of Virginia’s Own Wins
2008 NSPS Plat Contest!
Boy Scout Surveying Merit Badge
2009 Convention Photos
Looking Back at VAS Convention 2009

See more photos on page 15.
The 61st VAS Annual Convention has come and gone. Planning began in November 2007, with many meetings and trips to the Hotel Roanoke and Convention Center. I have heard many positive comments on the new convention format and was pleased with the attendance, despite the current economic conditions which I am sure affected our numbers. I would like to thank Chip Richardson, Judy Hite, Rich Williams and numerous others who spent their time helping me with the convention details. I would be remiss if I did send a “thank you” to my employer, Gay and Neel, Inc. for the time off from work they gave me to work with the convention details. A special thanks goes out to my daughter Lisa for her uncounted hours of planning and attending meetings at the hotel to help keep me organized and on track.

The 2009 General Assembly session is now over and VAS has dealt successfully, for the most part, with several House and Senate bills pertaining to the surveying profession. House Bill No. 2147 was tabled until the 2010 session and VAS will continue to monitor and have an open line of communication with the patron of this bill. I wish to thank our lobbyist and legislative committee, chaired by Fred Shanks, for keeping abreast and monitoring the bills as they progressed through committee.

I have represented VAS at state conventions in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, and North Carolina and have had many conversations with fellow surveyors from other great States in our union and hope to incorporate some of what I have learned into becoming a more rounded president for VAS.

Trig-Star will be in full swing when you receive this issue of *The Old Dominion Surveyor*. I would like to request that each chapter fully support the efforts of our Trig-Star Committee Chairman Ken Sorrels. Ken has some great ideas to help chapters get up and running, if they have not participated before, and some new twists for chapters who are very active in Trig-Star. I would like to thank all the chapter presidents for submitting their chapter see *Tim’s Line-of-Sight*, page 14.
The auxiliary would like to say job well done to Tim Nash and his daughter Lisa for their time and effort planning the 61st Annual Convention at the beautiful Roanoke Hotel.

We’d like to express our appreciation to the vendors and affiliates who attended the 2009 convention. Your support of the silent auction and purchasing raffle tickets was greatly appreciated.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle (for the 2nd year in a row) was Mr. Rick Dreist who won $386.00. He bought the first raffle ticket this year. We’ve decided to enlist him to SELL tickets next year.

Due to your wonderful patronage the auxiliary was honored to be able to present Chip Richardson a check in the amount of $500.00 in support of the John Foster School.
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Jerry Spell ran a small and successful land surveying company, Jackson City Surveys, Inc., in Jackson, Mississippi. Much of his business was concentrated around new development and mortgage surveys. Occasionally, there would be the large rural tract survey that added variety to the work week. Jerry also would provide intern positions to engineering or surveying students during the summer. He enjoyed watching the bright young students, full of theory and ‘book learning,’ grow in knowledge as reality collided with concepts.

One of Jerry’s pet peeves was the “Principle of Proportional Measurement.” Because every surveyor’s licensing exam has at least one case of restoring lost corners by proportional measurement, most students who intern at Jackson City Surveys arrived believing that this principle is commonly applied. Jerry made certain that when the interns left to return to school, the principle they used to find corners was discovery of evidence. To this end, he set aside one or more rural, regular sectionalized land surveys for the summer so that the investigation and recovery of evidence in a rural setting could be demonstrated.

The summer of 2004 brought Billy Kent into Jerry’s intern program. After about a month of topographic, mortgage, and urban surveys, Jerry decided that it was time to introduce Billy Kent to real surveying. The project was the survey of the southeast quarter of Section 12, Township 3 South, Range 12 East in Killkern County, Mississippi.

The first visit to the site was to be what Jerry called a “g-2” trip, G-2 being that branch of a Division headquarters responsible for intelligence and mapping. The ride was a long one and Jerry filled the time with discussions about “being observant” and “considering all evidence,” and other such topics. More than once, Jerry felt as if he were the preachy old man and Billy the bored apprentice.

Upon arriving at Section 12, Jerry pulled over onto a wide spot on the shoulder of the asphalt roadway that ran along the south line of Section 12. He pulled out a roll of papers and spread them out on the hood of the pickup truck. With Billy looking over his shoulder, Jerry began to think out loud.

“The south side of the highway, Section 13, has two working farms. The surveys I found in the courthouse to each farm indicate the section and quarter corners that are shared by Sections 12 and 13. Our traverse will tie these corners in and we can check them for consistency.” Jerry doubted that he’d find a reason to disagree with these reported locations. He continued, “The west side of Section 12 is bounded by a brand new subdivision and the subdivision plat reports both section corners and the quarter corner. I surveyed Section 1 15 years ago, so I have a lot of information on that line. The only line we need to really investigate is the east boundary of the section.”

That being said, Jerry and Billy located the southeast section corner, marked by a railroad spike in the asphalt roadway, and set off in a northerly direction along the remnants of a barbed wire fence. Jerry explained that the quarter section they were surveying had been farmland 50 years ago, and there was a chance that evidence of the quarter corner might have survived. The terrain was very hilly, but Jerry felt that an ATV would be able to navigate it. He began to make a mental note of the equipment that would be needed to tie the quarter corner into the traverse of the Section.

“When you were growing up, Billy,” Jerry asked, “Did you have a car?”

“No, sir,” Billy said.

“Well, I noticed that the trees began to be covered with a black mold,” Jerry said.

“Oh, that! Yeah, I saw that. The mold went all the way around the tree, not just on the south side,” Billy said.

“Well, that mold was there for a reason,” Jerry explained.

“The wind was to our backs, so we didn’t smell it, but that mold is a dead giveaway. There was a still nearby.”

“A still! You mean like moonshiners?” Billy asked. He couldn’t believe those things really existed.

“Yes, just like that. It is very unwise to walk up to a still uninvited,” Jerry said.

“Shouldn’t we call the Sheriff?” Billy asked.

Jerry let out a laugh. “The Sheriff probably owns the still or gets a cut of it,” he said.

“We could call the Feds,” Billy continued.

“You got a badge in your pocket, Billy?” Jerry asked.

“I’m here to survey the land, not be an agent for the DEA. Real crimes are different. Making corn squeezins is a local tradition.”

“Hop in the truck, Billy. We have to figure out how to survey this line without getting shot. You for that?” Jerry said as he started the engine. “I remember something I saw that seemed out of place. Let’s go take a look.”

What Jerry had remembered was an abandoned and tumbled-down country store in a weed-covered lot a few hundred feet east. He had noticed that even though the lot...
The VAS Plat Contest was held in conjunction with the 61st Virginia Association of Surveyors, Inc. Annual meeting held in Roanoke, Virginia, January 12-17, 2009. This year nine firms entered plats in the five announced categories.

Our judges this year were: James A. Witte, President, West Virginia Society of Professional Surveyors; Joe Baird, NSPS Area 3; Rick Dreist, D.C. Surveyors Association; Chris Witherspoon, NCSS President; and Randall Myers, Pennsylvania Association of Surveyors.

Special thanks for the assistance provided by the students from East Tennessee State University. The students were Brock Bowman, Matt Lindvall, Greg Gurney, Josh Sehl, and their Professor Jerry Taylor.

see page 14 for list of winners...

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was covered with weeds, there was a worn driveway near the front of the building.

He pulled up into the drive and got out of the truck. Billy did the same and followed Jerry as he walked along a foot path that ended at the corner of the half-fallen porch.

With Billy looking over his shoulder, Jerry peeked around the corner post. Sitting on the porch was an empty and clean Mason jar. Next to the jar, someone had written “5” with a felt-tip marker on the floorboard.

“Please get me that legal pad from the dash,” Jerry said. When Billy retrieved the pad Jerry wrote, “My name is Jerry Spell. I need to survey the line between Mae and McGlen.” He tore the page from the pad and folded it neatly. He placed the note and a five dollar bill under the jar.

“My name is Jerry Spell. I need to survey the line between Mae and McGlen.”

“Let’s go get that lunch,” Jerry said.

While they ate a couple of cold sandwiches at a filling station, Jerry continued his “Corner Recovery” lecture.

“The government surveys in this area were done in the 1830s. There is not a one of them where the original surveyor placed the quarter corner precisely halfway between section corners and on line to boot!” Jerry explained. “A proportional measurement would do just that. The only thing you can be certain about when proportional measurement is used to re-set a corner is that the location computed is most definitely not where the corner was set.”

That almost sounded like heresy to Billy. Science and math were to take a back seat! He listened, but was not fully convinced.

“Time to see if we’ve got an answer,” Jerry said as he finished off his soft drink. Billy noticed it was a “Mountain Dew” and he smiled a the irony.

Back at the porch Jerry found the Mason jar, now sealed and full of what looked to be water. Under the jar was a note. “Don’t come until Monday,” was all it said.

“Monday it is,” said Jerry, “Time to head to the shop.”

Once they were back at the office, Jerry began to go over the plans for the GPS observations, intermediate traverse stations, and recovery plans with Billy. He explained search patterns and techniques and the importance of conducting a deliberate search. He used the unopened Mason jar as a paper weight as he spoke.

Jerry sighed and straightened up when he had finished and walked to the little kitchenette next to the conference room.

“Say, Billy,” he called from the other room. “How old did you say you were?”

“Made twenty-one last March,” Billy replied.

“That’s what I thought,” Jerry said as he reentered the conference room with two glasses in his hands.

Steve Estopinal is currently employed as a senior engineer and professional land surveyor at CSRS, Inc. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is the former owner of Estopinal Surveying and Engineering, Inc. in Chalmette, Louisiana. Steve has been involved in the practice of land surveying for more than 30 years and is the author of “A Guide to Understanding Land Surveys”, 2nd ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1993.


In Sympathy

Kenneth M. Hart

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Kenneth M. Hart. Ken passed away on February 16, 2009. He was a member of the Central Chapter served as VAS Secretary/Treasurer in 1966 under the presidential term of John H. Bartenstein. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Ray Oneal Snow

We would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Ray Oneal Snow. He passed away on March 4, 2009. He was a charter member of the Monticello Chapter. He will be missed by his family and friends.
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NSPS National Plat 2008 Contest Winner from Virginia!

In the NSPS 2008 Map/Plat Design Competition, Ivan G. Moody of Greenhorne & O’Mara, Inc. in Chantilly, Virginia displayed at the ACSM Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 21, 2009. He was awarded First Place for 2008 ALTA/ACSM Survey Map competition.

Moody’s entry was the Park Center, a 36”x48” plat of a sixteen story high-rise residential apartment complex with parking structure, consisting of two parcels, 7 acres, located in the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

On behalf of the VAS, congratulations, Ivan!

Mandatory Continuing Education

Continuing Education is now in Effect for Virginia. As of April 1, 2009 mandatory continuing education became effective for Virginia surveyors. The new Regulations are posted on the APELSCIDLA web site and also on our web site. It can be found at Continuing Education Section 18 vac 10-20-683. Anyone whose license renewal comes up after March 31, 2010 will have to have 16 hours of continuing education in order to renew.
NSPS Past President Tommy Brooks (Alabama) and current NSPS Area 4 Director Wayne Hebert (Louisiana) are in the process of putting together their team and strategy for the NSPS-sponsored Surveying Booth on the Merit Badge Midway during the 2010 Boy Scouts Jamboree to be held at Fort A. P. Hill, VA.

Typically held every four years, the 2010 Jamboree will held a year later than normal so as to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

Surveying was introduced in 1911, among the original 57 Boy Scouts Merit Badges, and remains one of only 11 of the original group to have been continually offered since then.

NSPS active involvement in the Surveying Merit Badge program came about somewhat inadvertently. In the summer of 1989, then NSPS Governor Curt Sumner (Virginia) was recruited by then NSPS Member Services Director Anne Glasgow to assist Army retiree Murray Manley of Fort Collins, Colorado in transporting surveying equipment from Dulles Airport to Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, to be used at the Surveying Merit Badge Booth during the Jamboree.

While being interviewed at the Jamboree, Manley’s comment that surveying wasn’t really being handled properly inspired Sumner to volunteer to lead an effort to revise the Surveying Merit Badge Handbook, and to make a commitment to encourage NSPS to take the lead for participation at future Jamborees.

Along with Richard Alvarez (who provided much of the content) of Menlo Park, California, Sumner began the process of gaining approval for revisions to the Handbook that had last been amended in 1984. In 1992, the revised Handbook was published. It was dedicated to the memory of Manley, who had passed away before it was completed.

Beginning with the 1993 Jamboree (International Jamborees are held every four years), NSPS has sponsored the Surveying Merit Badge Booth, and recruited surveyors from across the country to serve as instructors.

For most of the time since then, Tommy Brooks has served as the leader of the volunteers at Jamborees, and worked with the BSA to make arrangements for the booth. He has also led a group that continues to review the Handbook’s contents. Their work resulted in the current edition which became current January 1, 2005.

Brooks has also created a Power Point presentation called “How to Teach the Surveying Merit Badge,” which is posted on the NSPS website, www.nspsmo.org.

Brooks and Hebert expect to need about 22 surveyors to volunteer for the 2010 Jamboree in order to accommodate the anticipated number of Scouts who will want to work toward achieving the Merit Badge. During prior Jamborees, as many as 200 Scouts have attempted to complete the requirements. Their respective schedules, combined with a limited number of NSPS volunteers, have resulted in some of the Scouts not being able to complete the requirements.

NSPS views its participation with the Surveying Merit Badge, and being present at Jamborees, as fertile recruiting ground for future surveyors. Accordingly, it is very important that there are enough instructors present at the Jamboree to accommodate the Scouts who express interest.

As one might imagine, significant funds are required to assure the desired success of the NSPS efforts at Jamborees, and working with Scouts on the Surveying Merit Badge in general.

Although NSPS sets aside some money for the Jamboree, Brooks says that corporate sponsors are also needed to help fund the effort, plus provide instruments (such as GPS units, standard surveying instruments, and computers) on loan. It is estimated that up to $25,000 will be needed, plus the loaned equipment.

In the general sense, surveyors are needed to volunteer nationwide, at the local level. Many surveyors (often Dads of Scouts) already get involved with their local troop, but a much larger impact would result if a database of volunteers could be kept at NSPS headquarters, and by a unified effort between NSPS and its state affiliate associations to recruit volunteers.

Anyone interested in assisting NSPS in its efforts, either for participation at the 2010 Boy Scouts Jamboree, or on the local level, should contact either Tommy Brooks (Thomas.Brooks@mustangeng.com) or Wayne Hebert (WayneHebert@chevron.com). They can explain what is required to qualify as an instructor.

There is a plan to post a needs list on the NSPS website for volunteers, and donations (both money and equipment). You may also contact NSPS Executive Director Curt Sumner via email at curtis.sumner@acsm.net, or via telephone at 240-632-9716, ext. 106.
Transistion Period for Revised Elevation Certificate

The following memo from Acting Federal Insurance Administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, Edward L. Connor, explains the transistion period for the revised Elevation Certificate (FEMA Form 81-31).

The current NFIP Elevation Certificate form and instructions (FEMA Form 81-31) is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2009. This memo is intended to clarify the continued use of the form.

It is anticipated that the revised Elevation Certificate will receive an approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before the expiration date. In the event that the approval is delayed, the use of the form is automatically extended for a month, through March 31, 2009.

FEMA will permit a “phase-in” of the revised Elevation Certificate on a voluntary basis. Once the revised form is approved by OMB, we will accept either the new form or the old form with the expiration date of February 28, 2009, during a 12-month transition period. This voluntary transition period will allow sufficient time for coordination and training of all affected NFIP stakeholders. Elevations certified on or after the last day of the transition period must be submitted on the new Elevation Certificate form.

Following are highlights of the planned changes to the Elevation Certificate:

- In Section A, items A10 and A11 are added, asking: Engineered flood openings? Yes No
- In Section C, item C2.h is added, which reads: Lowest adjacent grade at lowest elevation of deck or stairs, including structural support __________ feet meters (Puerto Rico only) (This information is provided if the certificate is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F.
- The Instructions for Section A for items A.8.b-c (dealing with “the crawlspace or enclosure(s)”) and A.9.b-c (dealing with “the attached garage”) are revised, in part, to allow the height of flood openings to be determined from the interior grade or floor. The revision reads: Enter … the number of permanent flood openings … that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the higher of the exterior or interior grade or floor immediately below the opening. … If the interior grade elevation is used, note this in the Comments area of Section D.
- Instructions for other sections have been clarified and expanded, as needed.
- Two new Building Diagrams have been added:
  The new Diagram 1B is for raised-slab-on-grade or slab-on-stem-wall-with fill single- and multiple-floor buildings. (Diagram 1 from the old Elevation Certificate is Diagram 1A on the new Elevation Certificate.)
  The new Diagram 9 is for all buildings (other than split-level) elevated on a sub-grade crawlspace.

More detailed information will be included in the supplemental pages for the Flood Insurance Manual that will be issued following approval of the new form.
As many of you know, DHL has discontinued U.S. domestic air and ground express shipping services at the end of January 2009. This decision reduced staff dramatically and closed more than 320 stations and all of its ground hubs in the U.S.

For former DHL customers, we recognize that you need consistency and certainly seamless service. It’s easy to switch your DHL shipping to UPS. We’ve created a Welcome Center at ups.com/switchnow where you’ll find detailed information comparing our shipping and tracking solutions, including step-by-step instructions on how to transfer your DHL address book to UPS shipping systems.

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Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you at (804) 261-3411. We’re ready to help you switch your DHL shipping to UPS to keep your business moving forward.

— Carmen Malone, UPS-Sales Support Supervisor
2009 VAS Plat Contest Winners, continued from page 7

Entrants:

- Acres of Virginia, Amherst: 4 entries
- Acres of Virginia, Lynchburg: 5 entries
- Bay Design Group: 4 entries
- Charles R. Pruett & Associates: 5 entries
- Dewberry: 2 entries
- Gay & Neel, Inc.: 5 entries
- Hurt & Proffitt: 3 entries
- The Engineering Groupe: 9 entries

The Winners:

Subdivision Plats
1st - Dewberry—Pete Moore

ALTA/ACSM/ Land Title Surveys
1st – Gay & Neel, Inc.—Timothy Nash
2nd – The Engineering Groupe, Fredericksburg—William Flynn

Boundary/Cadastral Surveys
1st – The Engineering Groupe, Woodbridge—Ned Marshall

Topographical Surveys
1st – The Engineering Groupe, Fredericksburg—William Flynn
2nd – Gay & Neel, Inc.—Timothy Nash

Miscellaneous Maps
1st – Hurt & Proffitt, Norfolk—Page Cockrell
2nd – Bay Design Group—P. Craig Brown

Tim’s Line-of-Sight, continued from page 3

meeting dates to me and to the Central Office for publication on the web site and in The ODS. My goal this year is to attend at least one meeting at each chapter.

I encourage all members of VAS to attend the state board meetings. In doing so, your voice will be heard on subject matters affecting surveyors across the Commonwealth and you can experience how your organization runs. I hope to see everyone in Richmond April 17 and 18 for the Spring Board of Directors Meeting and Seminar.

— Tim Nash, VAS President
Looking Back at VAS Convention 2009
Calendar of Events for 2009

Appalachian Chapter—General Membership Meetings May 12, Abingdon (possible meeting with TAPS); July 14, Big Stone Gap, Tuck Mapping Solutions office; December 8 Christmas Dinner, Culinary School, Bristol. Contact Tony Holbrook, tony@holbrooksurveyors.com or Ken Sorrels, kсорrels@tuckmapping.com.

Central Chapter—Membership meeting dates – May 20, July 15, Trig Star, September 25 Picnic and Crab Feast, November 18, December 11, Christmas Party. Locations to be determined. Contact Alison Hanson at john_n_al@hotmail.com.

Monticello Chapter—Dinner Meetings – May 21, August 20, October 22. Locations to be determined. Contact Chris Kean at ckean.tblls@mindspring.com.

Mount Vernon Chapter—Dinner Meetings – June 10, Apprenticeship Graduation and board meeting, September 16, December 16 Holiday dinner; Board of Directors Meetings – May 5, July 22, October 28. Locations to be determined. Contact John Walsh at jwalsh@bccon.com.

Rappahannock Chapter—Dinner Meetings – May 21, July 16, September 19 Crab Feast, October 15, December 17, Holiday dinner; Board of Directors – April 16, June 18, August 21, November 19. Locations to be determined. Contact Eric Sullivan at 540-898-5878, ext. 15.

Southern Chapter—Meetings May 7, August 6, October 1. Locations to be determined. Contact Troy Williams, tdw@handp.com or Elizabeth Rosser at elizabethrosser@comcast.net.

Tidewater Chapter—Board meetings June 18, September 17, and October 15; General membership meeting May 21, November 19, December Christmas dinner TBD. Contact Timothy Fletcher at tim.fletcher@phra.com or 757-599-1050.

Western Chapter—General Membership meetings May 5, July 21, October 6, locations to be determined. Contact Chris Pappas at 540-639-0099 or pappas@greenforestsurveys.com.