“Every man is a debtor to his profession.”

THIS ISSUE: Matoaca Middle School’s 2nd Annual Field Day
A Trig-Star for the Commonwealth
Colonial Williamsburg—We’re Going Back

Vol. 47, No. 2 July 2010
A Trig-Star for the Commonwealth
Will Nash

This year’s Trig-Star for Virginia is a senior from Ocean Lakes High in Virginia Beach, Zachary Garcia. Zachary scored 100 with a time of 31 minutes and 9 seconds. Not surprising that someone who has a GPA of 4.36 and has been accepted to Princeton University’s class of 2014 seems to enjoy math contests and other high level events. Honors and awards include: Virginia Wesleyan Math Competition (2010), 1st place individual, 1st place team; Christopher Newport University Math Competition, 1st place individual (2008, 2009) 1st place Freshman-Senior (2006-2009), 1st place team, (2008, 2009) and Ocean Lakes 8th, 9th, and 11th grade math student of the year just to name a few. Zachary also is a member of the 2009 Chesapeake Math Team, Columbia, MD. which has placed in such events as: the Harvard-MIT Math Tournament; the Princeton University Math Competition and the American Regional Math League at Penn State. The indication I got from the Trig-Star students I sponsored, after looking at this bright young man's bio, was that it was not a fair fight this year.

School activities include: Scholastic Bowl (Captain); Battle of the Brains (Captain), Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society) (Co-President); Varsity Tennis Team, (Captain and #1 seed) and National Honor Society (Induction committee member). He also tutors in all subjects and is an instructor at tennis camp and, oh yes, he is a Taekwondo Black Belt. My guess is that if he can’t beat you in math you don’t want to meet him on the mat.

Michael Starling, TrigStarChairman and Vice President of the Tidewater Chapter, proctored the National test for Zack on May 28th with Hayden Frye, Region III Director, who brought Trig-Star to Ocean Lakes High School. Hayden attended the June 11th Ocean Lakes Awards ceremony to present the Trig Star with a plaque and check for $250 from the VAS, as well as a $300 Savings Bond from the Tidewater Chapter.

Jenna Filipowicz coordinated the program within Ocean Lakes High and prepared the students for the exam, where 26 students participated. With SOLs and other time pressures placed on students and teachers this is a feat in itself. And we certainly can’t forget Zack’s trig teacher, Karen Wetzel, who laid the foundation for him to understand how to apply trig to the problems of surveyors.

The Tidewater Chapter will follow up with Zack as the National exam results become available in July, and wish him well in what is sure to be a very bright future.

We’re Going Back
Pete Moore

While the VAS has held a number of conventions at Williamsburg over the past dozen years, it’s been 14 years since the VAS has held a convention at the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge. Originally built in 1939, a two-year restoration project finished in late 2006, has changed the Hotel and Conference Center to a bigger facility while still maintaining its famous southern hospitality and charm. The Hotel now has 323 guest rooms and the Virginia Grand Ballroom has 12,000 square feet, plenty of room to hold all of our functions in one room. The Lodge is located in the heart of historical Williamsburg. The Powder Magazine can be seen from the entrance to the Hotel. There are specially discounted Colonial Williamsburg admission tickets available to lodge guests. With all the tourists gone, what a great time to take a stroll from the Governor’s Palace down Duke of Gloucester Street to the Capital Building. There are ten restaurants, four of them are historic dining taverns in the immediate area all with formal and casual dining options. There are 40 boutiques and Colonial Williamsburg Shops within easy walking distance as well. In selecting this site, one of the re-occurring requests was, if we go to Williamsburg I’ll bring my Significant Other. Well now it’s your opportunity. If rooms are available the Lodge will extend our group rates Saturday night after the conclusion of the convention.
President’s Corner

Greetings to all. I trust that this note finds everyone well. It’s hard to believe that the year is nearly half gone. My how time flies when you’re having fun! Seriously, the convention seems like a distant memory (as well as all of the subsequent snow storms), as well as my visits to some of the out of state meetings that I have attended. Since my last report, I have represented VAS at the South Carolina annual meeting and attended the NSPS Board of Governors meeting in Phoenix. The folks in South Carolina were warm, gracious and friendly and their annual meeting very relaxing and entertaining. Departing from their past tradition of holding their meeting in Myrtle Beach, they opted to hold the conference at the Isle of Palms, near Charleston. It was a bit of a long drive, but well worth it. As I have learned at the other meetings I have attended representing VAS, surveyors in South Carolina are facing the same issues that we are here in Virginia. It simply continues to reinforce the fact that we professionals all face the same problems.

As to the NSPS meeting, I will admit that this was my first exposure to the national association; and, it was a very interesting experience. The hot button topic of discussion that took up most of the meeting was the motion to study NSPS withdrawing from ACSM. With representatives from all over the Country, plus some folks from Canada, there were many opinions. Look for more details on this from Dave Holland, our NSPS Governor.

In other issues, I am anticipating an update from the Constitution & By-Laws and Membership Committee Chairs at the summer Board meeting. As you will recall, I asked that the chairs of these two committees explore changes to the VAS membership categories that would allow licensed surveyors in other states a more full membership status in VAS and, among other items, provide a membership category for the CST’s other than the current Associate membership.

Regarding education, I was asked by a VAS member in good standing to appoint a committee to study the potential of expanding the educational opportunities for surveyors in the Commonwealth. I have asked a cross-section of VAS and VSF members, the members of the VAS Education Trust, our college see President’s Corner, page 11

Editor’s Note

I hope everyone enjoyed the April issue of The Old Dominion Surveyor. Thanks go to David (The Sheik) Holland for a great article on his trip to Egypt, birthplace of surveying. Personally I thought he cast more of an Indiana Jones persona but he will apparently be remembered, at least for a while, as The Sheik. If there is anyone else out there that has an unusual vacation or work location with different or challenging environment, please share it with us.

Thanks to Judy Hite and Karen Cersley once again for an outstanding effort in putting together the newsletter. Please e-mail me or Judy with any suggestions or information you may have.

Will Nash, Editor
The Old Dominion Surveyor
wenashls@kinex.net
The shortest distance between two points is not a trip back to the tripod.

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The dream begins with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called “truth.” ~Dan Rather

Our sincerest thanks to the following volunteers for donating their time and talent for the March 19 field day:

**Bob Leyden** – Robotic Relay Course – Survey Coordinator with Gardy & Associates, PC

**Tommy Nichols, LSIT** – RTK Rover Topo Challenge – Sales Associate with Allen Precision

**Mike Carris, LSIT** – Trig Elevation Challenge – President, Carris Technology Solutions


**William F. Ware, Jr., LS** – Using Stadia to determine distance

Our thanks go out to all those volunteers who made this second annual survey field day a huge success. Along with those members of our Central Chapter of the Virginia Association of Surveyors who stepped up to the plate to help run one of the five stations we had set up around the Park, the parents, teachers and especially Matoaca Middle’s very own Vice Principle, Shannon Bramble and Earth Science Teacher, Cheryn Clark, for their excellent running in the final parents/teachers robot relay.

This year our five survey stations included:

- **Calculation of a missing line** by angle measurement, chained distances and the Cosine Rule. It was hosted and judged by Andy Bowles, LS, seen on the cover explaining the challenge to one of the groups and some of the interesting instruments he had brought along with him.

- **Robotic Relay**, a practical demonstration of the strengths and some of the challenges one faces when surveying using a robotic total station. It was hosted and timed by Bob Leyden, who can be see here encouraging Ms. Clark as she navigates Bob’s rather challenging course without losing lock.

- **Trigonometric Elevations**, a challenge for each of the five student teams because they had to calculate the elevation of various points on the ground using only a survey instrument that measured slope distances and zenith angles. It was hosted by Mike Carris, LSIT, who can be seen here surrounded by one of his teams as they asked questions on how to use math to solve this challenge.

- **Stadia Distances**, this challenge was set up so that each team had to calculate the total perpendicular distance between 5 points and a survey baseline. It was hosted by Bill Ware, Jr., LS and Stephen Letchford, LS. Shown in the photo is one of the team members adjusting the level as he tries to read the top, middle and bottom stadia hairs on a rod held by Mr. Ware almost 100’ away.

- **RTK Topo Challenge**, hosted by Tommy Nichols, LSIT. This challenge, by all accounts, was one of the students’ favorites. Not only did each student get to see what they were locating in real time as it appeared on the controllers see Field Day, page 6
Field Day, continued from page 5

computer screen but Mr. Nichols, being the consummate instructor that he is, had an unending amount of enthusiasm for each of the student groups that came his way and along with his extremely generous donation of ten compasses for the winning team was very much appreciated by all involved.

What a difference a year can make in this fledgling program to find young surveyors among the students of Matoaca Middle School. Here are some of the statistics:

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<th>No of Classes</th>
<th>Teacher participation</th>
<th>Parent volunteers</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
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At this year’s field day, Dr. Jeremy Lloyd, Director of Science for Chesterfield County Schools expressed great interest in expanding our program even further to include multiple middle and high schools within the Chesterfield region. His expressed hope would be to make it an event that exposes more students to the practical application of the mathematics that is taught in the counties class rooms. We look forward to next year and the steady growth of the program.

Many thanks to all that helped pull together this second annual field day, but especially:
Ms. Cheryn Clark; Ms. Travis; Mrs. Bramble, Vice Principal, Matoaca Middle; Mr. Wayne Carter, Principal, Matoaca Middle; all the parent volunteers including: Diane Perkins, Jill Donnelly, David Sadler, Kim Weinstock, Lee Kump, Roop Bhatt, Sharon Coreia, David Kling, and Michael Uzel.

But most of all, the students, who were courteous, engaged and showed appreciation for our demonstrations of what surveyors can do with the math and earth science being taught by their teachers. We hope that one day, a few of the bright minds we had the privilege to meet will think back on this event and decide to become part of the next generation of land surveyors in Virginia.

If you would like to take part in next year’s event, need further information on this year’s activities or have an idea on how we might improve the program going forward, please feel free to contact: Stephen C. Letchford, LS, (804) 267-1258, sletchford@jmt.com.
In a tough economy, the ability to react fast can make all the difference. The right field software might give you the edge you need to take on new projects – using resources you didn’t even know you had.

Due to a lucky series of events, our office has been running at full capacity for almost two months straight. Don’t get me wrong, we’re quite satisfied. After a long dry spell in this market, we fight hard for every opportunity we come across. That is how we ended up with an urgent deadline to make – and no experienced crews available to do the work.

When we heard of a road-widening project in our area, I jumped at the chance to do the 20 km stakeout. The problem was, the job needed to be done in four days and we were already completely booked for the week.

Ultimately we decided to enlist one of our new guys for the job. Although he didn’t have experience as a crew chief, he was familiar with Trimble field software, and has done some roading work in the office. With no time for lengthy training, we took the easy route. We outfitted him with Trimble Access™ and the new Roads workflow.

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We stayed in close contact throughout the project by transferring files from the field back to the office. Trimble AccessSync™ gave us the flexibility to check the work while he was still in the field. In the end, our one-man crew managed to finish the job on time and under budget. It’s amazing what you can accomplish by getting creative with field resources.

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At the recent ACSM conference in Phoenix I showed up on Monday morning, April 26th, for the NSPS Board of Governors meeting and walked directly into a quagmire. By now I am sure some of you, are perhaps all of you, have read or heard the news about the NSPS proposal to withdraw from ACSM. You can probably imagine the fireworks at that meeting. You had 50 governors who had for all intensive purposes, only first heard about this proposed withdrawal by way of the grapevine that morning or the previous evening.

Actually, a few of the governors had known about this proposal earlier due to an unpublished marketing report (called the Oser Report) that had been previously commissioned by ACSM and all of the MOs (member organizations) to help determine and improve the health of ACSM and the MOs. That report essentially concluded that there is a lack of awareness and perceived value about the structure of ACSM and recommended another restructuring effort as a single industry wide membership organization. Currently ACSM is composed of NSPS (National Society of Professional Surveyors), AAGS (American Association of Geodetic Surveying), and GLIS (Geographic & Land Information Society). CAGIS (Cartography & Geographic Information Society) has recently withdrawn from ACSM. So, with the recent withdrawal of CAGIS nearly 93% of the combined membership of ACSM is NSPS. Therefore, under the current ACSM structure, the 2600 member NSPS has the same representation as the 60 member GLIS, and the 200 member AAGS. However, the Oser Report had not been delivered and disseminated for the NSPS Governors meeting and was in fact addressed two days later at the ACSM Congress meeting on Wednesday. By that time, most of us had left Phoenix and returned to our respective home states. Therefore, we were all somewhat clueless when the meeting started and obviously had not been able to consider the ramifications that were about to unfold.

So the meeting started off on good footing throughout the morning with the roll call and introduction of guests and a laundry list of reports (similar in many ways to a VAS board meeting). However, by then there was an undercurrent of anticipation and tension because nearly everyone in the room knew that there was to be a motion for NSPS to withdraw from ACSM. Finally the time had come and a NSPS governor stood up and made the motion that stated: Motion to begin the process of withdrawing from ACSM. To put it mildly, this motion caused quite a reaction and several governors spoke out for the motion and several governors spoke out against the motion. That motion was passed by a slim majority of 26 yes, 21 no, and 2 abstain. Then after more impassioned discussion an amendment was agreed on and passed by a second motion which expanded the first motion and stated: Motion to begin the process of withdrawal and assign a committee to study withdrawal and make a report by September 15, 2010. This motion passed with 36 yes, 5 no, and 7 abstain. This motion was then passed by the NSPS Board of Directors the next day by a vote of 11 yes and 5 no. A previous agreement with ACSM spells out a two year term of separation for any of the MOs, which can be rescinded at any point along the way. So, this final motion starts the clock and provides a two year window to work on the future of NSPS and its relationship to ACSM. However, let’s be clear about this; if NSPS ultimately decides to withdraw from ACSM and go there own way, I expect that ACSM will not survive. However, given the state of membership, the current financial situation, and the findings of the Oser Report; NSPS and the other MOs have reached a critical juncture.

What is needed is everyone’s input on the possible scenarios for the surveying/geospatial profession in particular. There definitely needs to be a national voice for the surveying profession in some form. If NSPS exits and ACSM does not survive, what organization will represent the various professions that fall under the umbrella of the geospatial community? Just as state issues do, national issues touch all land surveyors. ALTA standards, Qualification Based Selection, academic accreditations, real estate settlement survey issues, GPS height modernization, letters of map amendments (LOMAS) and many more issues are all dealt with at the national level. So, to paraphrase Bugs Bunny, “which way do we go doc?”

The ACSM 2010 fall meeting is scheduled for November 13-16 in Orlando, Florida. At that time the committee assigned to study NSPS withdrawal will present their findings during the NSPS Board of Governors meeting. Any VAS member who would like to share their input and ideas can contact me at Hol25@co.henrico.va.us and I will use your input to represent the Virginia surveyors during that meeting.
As we were walking along an old stone fence on the west side of the tract Mr. Carter suddenly stopped and said we need to mark off a pond. I replied that I can have a field party come out, make measurements and our Warrenton staff will design a suitable pond. “We don’t have time for that”, Mr. Carter exclaimed. After a few exchanges and not wanting to lose a valuable client I gave in.

This all started in 1962 when, Mr. Carter, a farm manager of a prominent citizen in northern Fauquier County called our office with a survey request. Since I was in charge of our firm’s surveying at the time, I made an appointment to meet with him the following day. This so happened to be on a Friday which left us no time to do any field work until the next week. We were to meet on Route 50 just west of Middleburg so he could show me the proposed parcel to be surveyed.

It was after lunch that we met and drove down a seldom used gravel road through an old wooded area and by a small pump house. We stopped and left his pickup and proceeded to view the proposed boundaries of this mysterious tract of land. There was no hint of whom this tract was to be for. However, I knew from past experience that many well known persons of wealth and prominence had bought land from his boss.

The shape of the overall tract was roughly rectangular with the east side along the entrance road. Mr. Carter said that the pump house will probably be added later. We agreed the north line should extend through a portion of the woods mentioned above. We discussed the advisability of this and both agreed it would be desirable to have some trees. I had recently bought a wooded tract for my own family.

The south line was no problem as it was along the stone fence mentioned above. Now back to the pond. If it had not been for the need of a pond we could have used the stone fence as the west boundary. Mr. Carter had stopped us at evidence of a “dry stream” bed. This helped us with our informal design of a future small pond. However I had no instruments with me. I was depending on my visual abilities. I took a stake and picked a spot along the fence that I thought would make a good starting point. I asked Mr. Carter what he thought and he agreed. I then walked west along the base of the “dry weather” streambed. When I got to what seemed a good ending point I again asked for his approval. I then repeated the same process along the lower side of this future body of water.

Mr. Carter said your men will be here tomorrow won’t they? I said no sir they don’t work on Saturday. He made some strong reply about this “younger generation” but still gave no hint of the purchaser’s name. On Monday we were there and the field party located all the stakes we had set. Furthermore we used the Geodimeter for the distance measurements and I am sure it was the first time private surveying was done in Fauquier County with electronic equipment.

I asked our office personnel to be especially careful in preparing the plat and description because I was beginning to be suspicious that this might be for the Kennedy’s. We knew they were looking for land in the County. This was confirmed the day I took the completed survey to Mr. Carter’s boss. He looked at it and said yes that it is exactly what they want. I am going to take it to them the first thing tomorrow morning.

Later when I was visiting in North Carolina the truth came out. Mr. Carter and I had replaced the United States Corp of Engineers. We had designed a pond for the President of the United States. At least it seemed that way to me. The enclosed portion of Eugene Scheel’s map of the property shows the outlines of the said pond. He has exaggerated it slightly for effect. After all it was primarily for inventory and not meant to illustrate precise boundaries.

Several years later I was walking along the west boundary on another project and noted that the “pond” encroached our agreed to line by approximately one foot.
Memoriams

Fred T. Wilburn, Jr. passed away the end of April, 2010. Fred was in business for many years in Fairfax City and was a member of VAS for many years as well as the Mount Vernon Chapter. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Marvin Lloyd Crutchfield lost his battle with cancer and passed away on May 14, 2010, in Chase City, Virginia. He was a member of VAS and the Southern Chapter for many years and his son, Steven continues to be a member. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Marvin L. Crutchfield Golf Scholarship, payable to Virginia Tech Athletic Fund and mailed to Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, Marvin L. Crutchfield Golf Scholarship, P. O. Box 10307, Blacksburg, VA 24062.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the his family and friends.

Kyle Austin of Buchanan, Virginia, a local surveyor, passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Mr. Austin was not a member of VAS, but we wish to extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

A February 15, 2010 letter from Jerry D. Taylor, Associate Professor at East Tennessee State University stated the following:

We “thank the Virginia Association of Surveyors for its generous donation of over $2,683.83 to the surveying and mapping program at East Tennessee State University. I’d also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for the donation of $1,500 by the Virginia Surveying Education Foundation to cover the expenses of our faculty and students in attending the 2010 annual meeting in Alexandria.

The contribution to the surveying and mapping program is being placed in our surveying and mapping foundation account and will be used for items that are needed to maintain and improve the education we seek to provide to our students. Our needs are many, so we haven’t decided exactly which of them we’ll apply these funds to, but we will likely make that decision later this summer.

We appreciate the contributions of the Virginia Association of Surveyors towards the education of our future surveyors and we invite you to share any ideas for improving the preparation of students to enter the surveying profession.

Thank you again for your support.”
The recent NSPS meeting in Phoenix was probably one of the most emotional since NSPS was incorporated in 1981. A motion was introduced at the Board of Governors to request the Board of Directors to initiate the process of separating from the umbrella organization of ACSM. This certainly got everyone’s attention and the discussion started. It was emotional at times, rightfully so, bringing many comments and suggestions forth. The end result was a motion passed by the Governors 35 yes, 5 no and 7 abstentions requesting the Board of Directors to initiate the process of separation while charging a committee to study and make a report, by September 15, 2010, on the financial and membership impacts of this action if it were to go full term. This motion was then passed by the NSPS Board of Directors by a vote of 11 yes and 5 no.

A previous agreement with ACSM spells out a two-year term of separation for any of the member organizations (MOs) which can be reversed at any point along the way. The motion that passed holds a lot of wisdom and keeps all options open for NSPS, but it does start the clock and provides a two-year window to work on the future of NSPS and its relationship to ACSM.

Why is this process so important? The answer to that question may be found in the marketing report commissioned by ACSM and all of the MOs to help improve the health of the ACSM and the MOs. An ACSM committee made up of members from all the MOs worked very hard to read through and understand the report. The report gathered information from various sources including association leaders, current and past members, various government agency heads, related association executives and publishing-oriented contacts. There were also online surveys conducted with over 4100 current members from all the MOs worked very hard to read through and understand the report. The report gathered information from various sources including association leaders, current and past members, various government agency heads, related association executives and publishing-oriented contacts. There were also online surveys conducted with over 4100 current and former MO members and state affiliate members. The results weren’t especially surprising, but were very significant.

The primary challenges identified were:

- Lack of awareness
- Lack of perceived value
- Perception of ACSM and MOs as an outdated group that is behind the times
- Negative stereotype of the term surveyor
- High levels of competition amongst the state affiliates, MOs and other associations

The report also recommended “the formation of a single industry-wide membership organization that included all the MOs as well as the state and local pieces of NSPS”. The Ad-Hoc committee reported this to the ACSM Congress where a motion was passed to charge a committee to study a possible structure of a unified member organization. Their report is due on September 1, 2010.

Given the state of membership, the current financial situation and the findings of the commissioned report, NSPS and the other MOs have reached a critical juncture and there is no luxury of extra time to move this in the right direction whatever that direction may be. The work that will be done by both the NSPS and ACSM committees will be extremely valuable in the discussions about the future. The two-year time frame keeps the importance of this issue where it belongs…at the top of the list.

What is needed is everyone’s input on the possible scenarios. If you have a doubt about whether there needs to be a national voice for the surveying profession, you need to think again. Just as state issues do, national issues touch all surveyors. Public, private, topographic, boundary, layout and many others all have national tones. ALTA standards, Qualification Based Selection, academic accreditations, real estate settlement survey issues, GPS height modernization, letters of map amendments (LOMAs) and many more issues are all dealt with at the national, not the state or local level.

These issues won’t go away and some organization will deal with them nationally for the surveying community. The question is which one? The American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, the Management Association of Private Photogrammetric Surveyors or a true national voice of the Surveying Profession. This is the question being dealt with today and over the next several months. There will be many opportunities for input and when they present themselves, take the time to share your input and counsel. Together, the result will be the best option possible for the entire surveying profession.

—Wayne Harrison, NSPS President
—Curt Sumner, NSPS Executive Director
—John Matonich, NSPS Immediate Past President

President’s Corner, continued from page 3

liasons, representatives from the Northern Virginia Apprenticeship Program and others to serve on this committee; and, hopefully, we will have a report from them by the fall Board meeting in September. Also on education, a huge thank you is extended to the Education Committee for the very successful DPOR Seminar held in Waynesboro in May. This seminar was very informative and very well attended.

In closing, I want to again emphasize that I do want to hear from the members. As I stated, I have no specific agenda, am here only to serve the membership and am willing and able to do anything I can to assist the membership. Communication is the key. I look forward to meeting and speaking with each of you as I attend as many of the Chapter functions throughout the Commonwealth during the remainder of this year.

— Charles F. Dunlap
VAS President

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Calendar of Events for 2010 - 2011

VAS ANNUAL CONVENTION, JANUARY 26-29, 2011. Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia

VAS Board Meetings — Fall Board Meeting at Natural Bridge— September 17 & 18, 2010, hosted by the Southern Chapter

Central Chapter — September 24, picnic and crab feast; November 17; December 10, Christmas party. Contact Alison Hanson at ahanson@hbsurveying.com.

Land Surveyor Exam Schedule – October 29, 2010
   Deadline for Exam Fee – September 17, 2010

Peninsula Chapter — Membership meetings September 8, November 10; Board of Directors’ meeting October 13. Contact A. D. Potts at dpotts@adotts.hrcoxmail.com.

Surveyors Historical Society & Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors Rendezvous 2010—September 16-17, aboard the Delta Queen, Chattanooga, Tennessee.