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# HOOSIER SURVEYOR

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QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
INDIANA SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, INC.

VOLUME 37  
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SPRING 2011



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## ISPLS Exhibits at IGIC 2011 Conference

ISPLS exhibits at the Indiana Geographic Information Council 2011 Conference  
(article page 7)

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# HOOSIER SURVEYOR

VOLUME 37 NUMBER 4 SPRING 2011

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## EDITORS NOTE

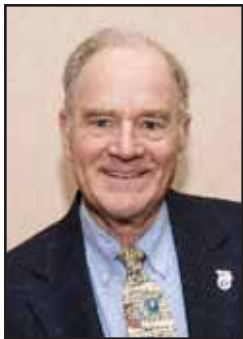
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## Tidbits from the President

by Charles M. "Chuck" Coyle, Jr., P.L.S., Columbus, Indiana



**G**reetings ISPLS Members, My desire is that this update finds each of you healthy and overflowing with work to be done! While we have seen some up turn in the economy, we have also experienced increases in the cost of fuel and food as well. And we all know that increased costs to those particular commodities lead to increased costs in other manufactured goods as well. All the while the government likes to tell us that inflation is nearly nonexistent,

but apparently the government doesn't drive fossil fuel vehicles or eat food?

As I write this update I have just completed my third month as ISPLS President. If I told you that I knew exactly what I was getting into when I allowed my name to be placed on the ballot for President-Elect a year and a half ago, I would be lying... extremely! But I must admit that while at times the task has almost seemed overwhelming, I remain committed to working for our membership and our profession... and even more so as I see the needs and challenges that are set before us.

I have some exciting news to share, so here is a rundown of my activities and of recent actions of the Board:

- In February I attended the Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors (KAPS) annual convention in Louisville. Similar to our own ISPLS Convention, but noticeably smaller, and a bit more laid-back.
- Then in early March I attended the second day of the Indiana Geographical Information Council (IGIC) convention that was held at the Horizon Center in Muncie. I again wanted to view what their convention was like, and also to see what IGIC is about and how our two associations can compliment and share the information that each of our professions generate. This is an area of great concern to our Board as I know it is to many of you.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, I conducted my first Board of Directors meeting. All in all I thought it went very well. We had good and productive discussion and established a course of action for the BOD to take over the next few months.
- At that meeting we unveiled the new "Opportunities for Education in Surveying" tab on our website. This was an item that I had championed for several months, and with the help of several of our ISPLS members who are involved in academia, in particular Carol Morman of Cincinnati State, the task was accomplished. If you haven't viewed it yet, please do so.
- One of the most important things that the BOD is working on is the topic "The Definition of the Practice of Land

Surveying and Unlicensed Practice". The Board is in agreement, and we recognize that many of you share these concerns. Therefore, we will be working on this with great focus. I have asked the Past President's Council initially to take the lead on this.

- On Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, ISPLS sponsored the LS Review Class at the Vincennes University site at the Indianapolis International Airport. There were 10 attendees present, along with Bill Clark, V.U.; Tony Gregory, P.U. Calumet; and Bruce Franke, I.U.P.U. Ft. Wayne as the instructors. Todd Schmidt and Jason Coyle, recent LS licensees shared their experiences in taking the exam. I showed up with breakfast and refreshments, served lunch, and otherwise served as an ISPLS recruiter and cheerleader. I thoroughly enjoyed the day. The instructors decided to conduct future classes in the new ISPLS offices.
- On March 19<sup>th</sup> many Indiana surveyors and surveyors from throughout the nation participated in "Surveying USA". This event was to "kick-off" the start of National Surveyor's Week on Sunday, March 20, 2011. In conjunction with this event the same week was designated as Surveyor's Week in Indiana with a proclamation signed by Governor Mitch Daniels.
- On or about the 24<sup>th</sup> of March the new Board members for the ISPLS Foundation met for an organizational meeting. The first acts of business was deciding on new officers for the 2011 year, and establishing some priorities for going forward with the overall purposes of the Foundation. Be watching for future reports.
- On March 26<sup>th</sup> the Board met in a "closed door" Executive Session... primarily to roll-up our sleeves and work on some important ISPLS business... no reports... none of the mundane stuff... just business. This meeting also went very well, and was attended by every Board member. I'm grateful to each Board member for his attendance and for the way we were able to approach the tasks at hand and come together with determination and resolve.
- The ISPLS sponsored SB 374, Right of Entry bill, is to return to the Senate for concurrence of amendments that were added in the House. It's been three years since this bill was first introduced. It now appears that it will finally become law.
- Most recently on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, our regularly scheduled Board meeting was held. We are preparing the ISPLS Annual Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Several items presented for consideration included. An

...continued Page 3

# ISPLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

by Dianne Bennett, Executive Director

## January 12, 2011

The ISPLS Board of Directors met on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at the Marriott East, Indianapolis. President Tibbett called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m. The minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

Membership - A motion was made and passed to approve the membership committee's list of new membership applications as submitted.

Board of Director Election Results - The new board members for 2011 are Perry Cloyd, Jason Coyle and Kevin Rowland. A motion was made and passed to destroy the ballots.

The board received and accepted Mark Isaacs' resignation letter from the BOD and ISPLS Foundation.

Financial Statement- The final financial report from Capin Crouse was presented.

Wallington Asset Management - Jeff Dowden presented ISPLS investment report.

Convention - Greenville Treaty Chapter will be the host for 2012, Central Indiana Chapter for 2013 with a joint convention with IGIC.

John McEntyre Scholarship - A written report was presented from Purdue for the John McEntyre Scholarship from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Michigan /Indiana State Line - Michigan S.B. 374 and 375 were signed by the Governor Granholm on 12/14/10.

Announcements : Next board meeting date is March 5, 2011 at the ISPLS headquarters.

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## Tidbits

...continued from Page 2

updated website; new office computers; new Boardroom/classroom furniture and presentation equipment; and apparel from designated vendors with the ISPLS logo. I'm excited to tell you that the Board "pulled the trigger" on moving forward on "all" these items. The website will be a few months in the making, but I am excited at what all these enhancements will mean to our Society and for the membership of ISPLS. Watch for details regarding all these things in the next few months.

Well, as you can see, it's been a very busy past couple of months, but again I tell you that I am excited about what I see in the near future! In the "Spring" of the year as "New" life appears in the "halls of nature", it tends to give us a fresh outlook on life around us. My hope for each of you is that you will each have good health, be prosperous, and strive to be the very best that you can!

Thanks to each of you for your support of ISPLS!

Chuck

## March 5, 2011

The ISPLS Board of Directors met on Saturday, March 5, 2011 at ISPLS headquarters. President Coyle called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The minutes and treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

The reorganization meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Staff Activity Report - A written report was submitted for board review. The report is stated under individual topics listed below.

Business by Email - Official email motions:

A motion was made and passed to donate the 25" TV/VCR to a school.

A motion was made and passed to reimburse Ryan Swingley for his registration fee to the IGIC Conference.

A motion was made and passed to approve 12 hour CEU's for the elective topic "Indiana Height Modernization" on Saturday, March 19, 2011.

Communications - Hoosier Surveyor - The winter issue is on line. Article for the spring issue need to be in by April 1st. The committee will be meeting on April 4th at headquarters.

Membership - A motion was made and passed to accept the recommendation of the committee of new members..

Public Information and Marketing - A verbal report was presented on "Survey America".

Professional Development - Convention - A motion was made and passed to accept the Wabash Valley Chapter request to host the 2014 convention.

LS/SIT Review - The LS/SIT review will be held on March 12th in the V.U. Aviation Technology Center, Indianapolis.

Scholarship - A written report was reviewed.

Government Affairs - Board of Registration - LSA #09-612 was discussed by BOD. A motion was made and passed to ratify the action of supporting the fee increase of \$20.

Legislation - An update of SB 374 Right of Entry was presented.

Internal Affairs - By Laws - The issue of "Felony Expulsion" was discussed by the BOD. The committee will report back to the BOD at a future BOD meeting.

Finance and Planning - Meetings will be scheduled for the committee.

Old Business - ISPLS Foundation - A motion was made and passed to accept the Foundation members and officers as presented.

Chapters - Chapter filing requirements was discussed and an email from ISPLS accountant, Capin Crouse was reviewed regarding chapter filings. Chapters will need to file IRS form number 990-N.

New Business - Discussed was the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale surveying program.

The ISPLS web site was reviewed and discussed.

Distance learning on-line seminars was discussed. Young Professional committee will review.

IGIC, ISPLS representative - A motion was made and passed to confirm Ryan Swingley as the ISPLS representative to IGIC.

Announcements: Next BOD meeting will be Saturday, April 16, 2011 at headquarters.



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# NSPS Surveying USA – Indiana

by Ryan Swingley, PLS, Fortville, Indiana

On Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm EST, 12 individuals and groups of ISPLS member set out to observe with static GPS, National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Benchmarks, historical monuments and new markers in highly accessible areas to the general public. These observations were recorded simultaneously with surveyors across the nation. This NSPS “Surveying USA” event was created to kick off National Surveyors Week and was designed to create geodetic data that will be used by NGS for future geoid validation and give surveyor’s an opportunity to host local events available to the public.

ISPLS would like to thank all who that participated. We hope that this event will continue each year and grow exponentially. For more information contact Ryan Swingley, PLS at [rswingley@usiconsultants.com](mailto:rswingley@usiconsultants.com).



NSPS “Surveying USA” Northern Participation



NSPS “Surveying USA” Central Participation



Observations at the Porter County Site by David G. Croft, PLS,(not shown) (left to right) Richard L. Hudson, PLS and E. Donald Bengel, PE, PLS.



Members of the Northwest Chapter, (left to right) Frank Walsko, PLS, Chris Fabian, Alex J. Fabian, Al Fabian, PLS observing during NSPS “Surveying USA” at the Lake County Vistors Center/John Dillinger Museum.



(left) Joe Mullins of the Central Indiana Chapter, observing a NGS Benchmark at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds.

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# Indiana Geographic Information Council (IGIC) 2011 Conference

by Ryan Swingley, PLS, Fortville, Indiana

Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, kicked off a two day conference hosted by the Indiana Geographic Information Council at the Muncie Horizon Center. In attendance were some 300 GIS data managers, software developers, parcel managers, GIS end users and even a few surveyors. This conference is made up several short sessions designed for users and developers to highlight the use of GIS to solve problems in data collection, analysis, and planning.

In an effort to extend and expand our knowledge of geospatial endeavors, the Indiana Society of Professional Land Surveyors presented a booth at this two day conference. To highlight the history of surveying and surveyors role in the early development of GIS, several old K & E Transits, Gunter's Chains and copies of old GLO notes were taken for display. It was unknown what type of crowd we would draw, but our worries were eased in the first five minute by someone asking if they could look through one of the transits. A lot of attendees were drawn to the Gunter's chain, as many had read in deeds and knew the distance of a chain in feet, but few had ever seen one.

I am continually amazed at the GIS communities open arms to surveyors. As far as I can tell any GISer that has been educated either formally or through serving under a GIS Professional, knows the value that surveyors bring in the areas of land boundary issues and geodetic control. Those who say that surveyors have "missed the boat" in GIS are obviously not engaged in the GIS world at all. Our role may not be what we thought it would be but there is a need and desire for our services. The next time you have the opportunity to discuss geodetic issues, height modernization or legal descriptions and boundary issues, I say give it a try. You just might be surprised how much we have in common.

ISPLS would like to extend thanks to the following members who helped man the booth: Brain Catlin, Rudy Vugteveen, Richard Ward, Hal Ashton, Chuck Coyle

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# Affecting Future Generations: An Epiphany

Lisa M. Dobrowski, PLS, MBA

While back, I had the worst semester a college instructor could ever have had. Whether the problem resulted from the students or the material or the teaching methods, I cannot comment on. But yes, I had a problem on my hands and I felt that this was a big enough issue to consider quitting teaching for good. That semester was the fifth or sixth time I had taught this particular class and the fact that this problem happened in a surveying class especially stung.

I went “Walden” as it can be said, much like Thoreau hunkering down in the woods away from everything so that I could figure out what I needed to know to fix the problem. It is no secret that university administration expects you to come into the classroom knowing how to function like a teacher just because you are professional in the real world. Unfortunately, classroom handling skills don’t automatically kick in just because they hand you the room keys and a faculty parking permit. And so began a summer of reading and researching anything I could find on teaching. Much like when I was studying for my surveyor licensing exam. I must have logged in a thousand hours of internet research alone. The people I confided in provided me with links to web pages and websites about the teaching profession, about what it takes to be effective in the classroom, and about how students today are different than generations past and therefore have to be educated differently. These links gave me clues on how to fix the problem. I am pretty sure by the end of summer several friends had blocked my email address.

In the end, my search yielded that simple mantra familiar to all surveyors: “You can only show what you know.” Plain and simple. Why not just show my students about surveying, not just “tell” them? Why it is after almost twenty years, I still find surveying a fascinating field. For example, an advertisement for the newest equipment can hold me spellbound. When I pass a fellow surveyor out in the field, how curiosity kicks into overdrive and forces me to pull over and ask what they are working on. Or how projects finished years ago still ramble around in my mind. Think about it, if we didn’t love what we do, why are we still doing it and more importantly, why are we trying to hook others into it?

Most students do not want to sit still through lecture after lecture filled with slides. Reading to them is fine...if they are three years old. True in the majority of classes, they have to sit at a desk because of the course material. In surveying it is different. We need to take it outside the classroom, so that the students can see what we are talking about and appreciate what it takes to be a surveyor. Part of the challenge is to make the subject matter meaningful and to keep the students engaged, especially for those who were not necessarily going into the surveying field.

A recent fall project entailed surveying 13 acres using total stations and GPS to create subdivision design plans in CADD. This may be the only time some of these students will operate this type of equipment and work on a project of this nature. Yet, this short time will go a long way in influencing their thinking about what it takes to get data from the field and into the office for use by the client and the designers.

That being said, my first lecture that semester was on the public land system (I can spend days talking about that subject and I have, but this was a different school year). I cut my lecture down to thirty minutes and took the class outside to see actual section corners. Upon arrival at one of the corners, one of the first comments was: “They just leave this stuff outside in the road? What happens when they pave?” They were amazed at a system, perpetuated since our country’s inception, based on simple man-made and naturally occurring markers. Equally fascinating to them was to see how private property boundaries have been set from these public land corners. Another comment “Are everyone’s property corners like these?” That led to a discussion about Indiana Rule 12.

In another class, the lesson plan dealt with traverses, bearings, azimuths, and magnetic declination. Students in our program learn this material in their beginning surveying class so when they reach the computations class, they should be familiar with the concepts. I’ve always had a fascination with how the original surveyors laid out the sectionalized lands with only the use of a compass, chain, and Jacob’s staff. Sad to say, that until I attended a recent continuing education seminar, I had never actually handled these tools. To be able to work with them at the seminar was fascinating to me. I thought about how I could bring this experience into the classroom. I did some research and found that unfortunately Rittenhouse compasses were too expensive for our budget as were the Gunther’s chains and Jacob staffs. However, I was able to find student compasses that are comparable in assembly to a Rittenhouse and made use of regular tapes and range poles for the lab. The purpose of the lab, conducted indoors due to the weather and time constraints, had students measure the angles and distances of a six sided figure represented by points set around the classroom, i.e. a closed traverse and do traverse calculations. Of course, this type of work is handled easily through surveying software but for the course, an understanding of the theory and working the calculations by hand is necessary. Learning to set up the instrument over the point using a plumb bob and level was challenging for some students. Although once the class got into the lab, things went smoothly. I asked them if they had enjoyed doing this activity. Several remarked that physically taking the measurements in such a controlled environment made the topic easier to understand than if I had just done calculations on the board.

I know now I had a viable teaching model that keeps the students engaged and I hope to implement this model into other lesson plans. “You can only show what you know.” Plain and simple. Of course, some students will still come up with excuses not come to class or not do their work. Others will cheat. Labs will be rained out. Equipment may be unpredictable. Batteries will die at inopportune times, but in the end, it is part of a bigger picture. If I can affect at least one person, and maybe get them into thinking about becoming a surveyor or a mapping professional or just have an appreciation for the surveying and mapping fields, then I know that I have passed along what I know to future generations. And that is what being a surveyor and a teacher is all about.

Note: All photos by L. Dobrowski.



Students Kenneth Proud and Ryan Van Wardenburg set up a compass and tripod for lab use. The lab is part of the curriculum for the surveying computations class (CEMT 310) which is a requirement for the Construction Engineering Management Technology Program at Purdue University North Central.



Student, Veronica Kessler and Derek Tobolski read angles from the compass as student Josh Olney waits for his turn. The antique replica compasses are a recent addition to the surveying equipment at Purdue University North Central.



Recent Purdue University North Central Graduate, Melanie Billings, holds the rod and prism over a found property marker. The lab was part of a mock subdivision design project for US Public Lands and Subdivisions Class (CET 209). Students used a variety of surveying equipment to collect data.



Students (from the left) Melanie Billings, Matt Totten, Jason Teets, and Veronica Kessler are collecting data for their mock subdivision design project. Local residents, Vic and Donna Volom generously allowed the class to use their 13-acre property for the entire semester.



Senior Andy Farmer searches for a property marker in the woods as part of surveying for a mock subdivision project. The purpose of taking the lab outdoors was to create a 'real-life' learning experience. What Andy did not know at the time was that a coyote den was found later 15 feet to the west of where he was looking for property markers.

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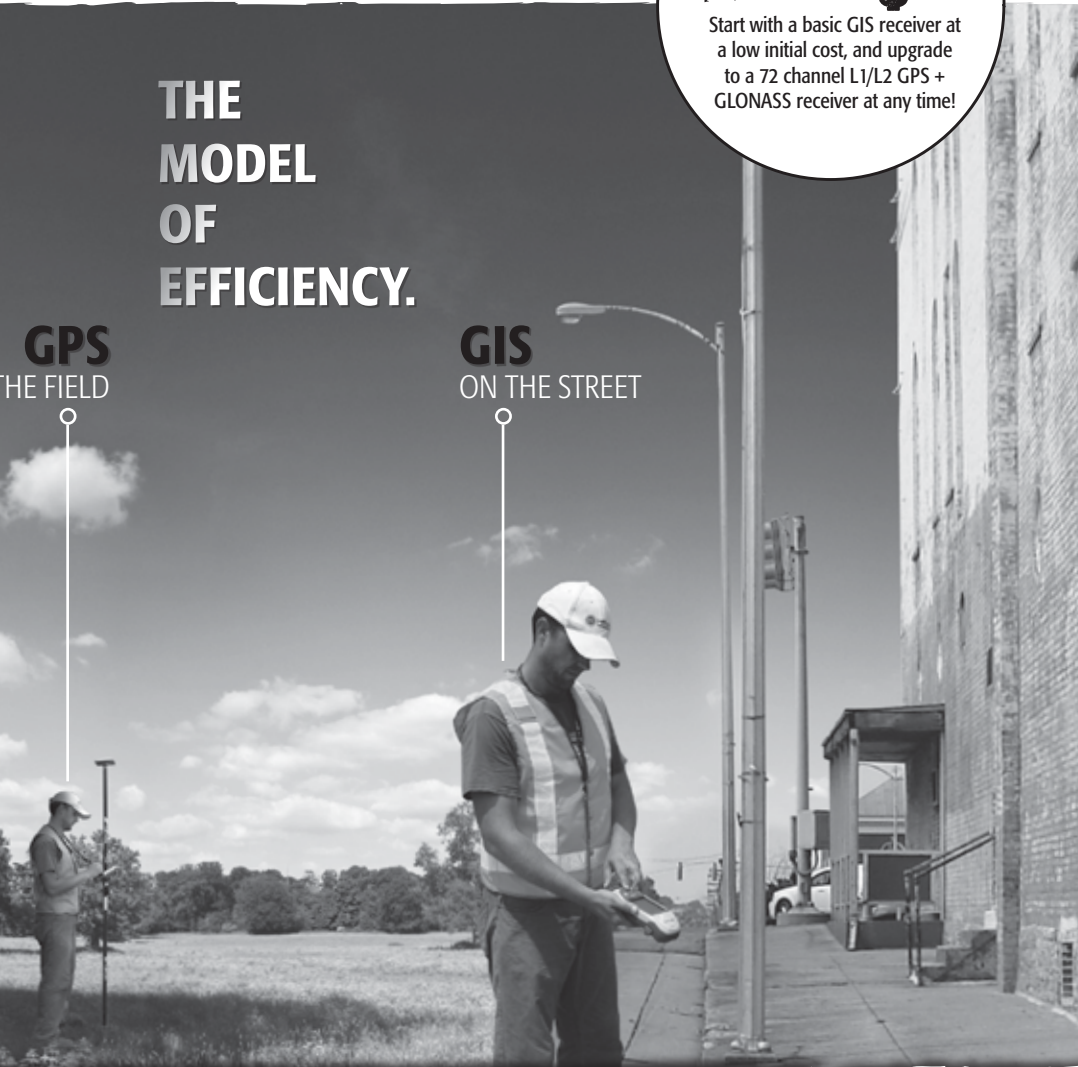
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# Meet An ISPLS Member

## Robert “Jason” Coyle, P.L.S.

as told to David B. H. Best, PLS



Pictured (left) Charles “Chuck” Coyle, PLS, Columbus, Indiana, ISPLS President with son Robert “Jason” Coyle PLS, Fishers, Indiana, ISPLS Director

### **1. Your father, Charles “Chuck” Coyle, is the current president of ISPLS and the chairman of its Board of Directors. You are a member of the B.O.D. To have a father-son combo on the B.O.D. is a first for the ISPLS. Tell about your experience so far as a member of the B.O.D.**

First let me say that I am honored that the ISPLS membership entrusted me with this responsibility and I consider it a privilege to be able to serve them and further our profession. Being a member of the Board of Directors (Board) under the direction of my father, Chuck Coyle, has been a great experience thus far. I have not heard of another father-son combination serving on the Board at the same time; so, this may be a first. The jury is still out though.

I became involved with the Board last year while serving as President for the Central Indiana Chapter of ISPLS. I attended the Board meetings on behalf of the chapter and found myself participating in their conversations. As a result, I became more involved and took some initiative by assisting with the signage for the new office, updating the “Related Links” page on the ISPLS website, and researching new tables and chairs for use in the conference room for small seminars. I was also recruited by my father to be a part of the ISPLS office painting crew. I was encouraged by a few of the Board members to be a candidate for the Board. In January, I was officially elected to the Board. I hit the ground running. I could not attend our first meeting due to a prior commitment. However, I sent a letter in lieu of my attendance with five suggestions for the Board’s consideration. The five items dealt with the following topics:

1. An upgrade/overhaul to the ISPLS Website;
2. ISPLS budget concerning revenues from convention, seminars, and distance learning;
3. ISPLS office computers and media components;
4. ISPLS office furniture (repeat from previous year);
5. and ISPLS apparel.



The Board granted permission to further research these items and I enlisted the help of the Young Professionals Committee. After about a month of research and talking it over with a few of the Board members, I presented the findings of four of the above topics during the April Board meeting. The Board responded positively to my suggestions. I am anxious to see what will develop in the next couple of months. I ask ISPLS members to stay tuned for future exciting news.

### **2. How can the ISPLS become more influential in promoting the land surveyor as an indispensable professional in our society?**

Tough question. . . Just because the first thing that comes to mind are the recent articles in *Point of Beginning* (P.O.B.) magazine written by Jeff Lucas, PLS, Esq. for his column, *Traversing the Law*. In the July 2010 edition, Mr. Lucas paints the following picture for his readers, *The epitaph on the tombstone of the land surveying profession will read, “Here lies the land surveying profession. No two surveyors could ever agree on a corner.”* If the public’s perception of the land survey profession is in agreement with the latter part of Mr. Lucas’ statement, then we may have some things to worry about. So, therefore, we should start by making sure our house is in order and hold our colleagues accountable for their actions or inactions. We need to confront our lawmakers as well by educating them on the importance of the land surveying profession. Lastly, we must find avenues in which we can educate the public about the profession. I have seen three great avenues recently: *The ACSM Radio Hour* with the ACSM Executive Director, Mr. Curt Sumner; the *Spotlight on video* produced by NSPS and NCEES for presentation on PBS stations nationwide; and the NSPS Surveying USA Event.

### **3. As a registered land surveyor did you simply follow in your father’s footsteps as did George Washington and Thomas Jefferson? Or were there other factors that led you to become a land surveyor?**

I would not say it was as simple as following in my father’s footsteps as most would expect. I was really unsure what I was going to do after high school. After visiting several schools, I decided to attend Vincennes University for its Construction Technology program. I figured the things I would learn through this program would be something I could use throughout the remainder of my life. During my first year at Vincennes, I saw surveying students running traverses and level circuits around the campus. It sparked my interest. I discussed land surveying and the Surveying Technology program with my father. He encouraged me to pursue it. So, I did.

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**4. Tell about your early years, about your family life, your educational background and about your current family.**

Well, I guess it all began back in May of 1978. I was the second child born to Charles “Chuck” and Rebecca “Becky” Coyle in Indianapolis, Indiana. I have a brother, Charlie, who is two and a half years older than I. He and his family live in Virginia where he works for Worldwide Flight Services at Washington-Dulles International Airport. Charlie and his wife have five children who are always well-behaved and fun to be around. I also have a younger sister, Leah, who lives in Tallahassee with her husband. Leah and her husband are expecting their first child in June and we are very excited for them.

Our family moved to Columbus, Indiana when I was five years old. It was there that I lived out the remainder of my childhood. Nearly every Saturday morning during the spring and fall you could find me playing soccer in a Columbus Park and Recreation league. I was also very involved with our church and its Awana program.

I attended Columbus East High School where I continued to play a lot of soccer. I was playing soccer nearly year around. In the fall it was with the high school, indoor soccer in the winter and with a travel team in the spring. My interest in soccer and in the opposite sex resulted in average grades in high school. Looking back and having the chance to do it all over again, I would have focused more on my studies and less on other things.

After high school graduation, I decided to attend Vincennes University to major in Construction Technology. Half way through my first year at Vincennes, I decided that I would have a dual major by adding Surveying Technology. The only problem was I wanted to complete it in three years. This meant coordinating with both my construction and surveying professors to allow me to have an overlapping schedule my second year of college. I was named to the National Dean’s List in my second year while carrying an average of 22.5 semester credit hours and a GPA of 3.5. This was not at all like my years in high school. I would attribute the change to the study of subjects of great interest. In my third year at Vincennes that I met my best friend, the love of my life, and now my wife, Anne.

As planned, I graduated from Vincennes University in May of 1999 with an Associate of Science Degree in Construction Technology and Surveying Technology. After graduation, I worked for a short time at Beam, Longest and Neff, LLC and then a few months later with Cripe Architects + Engineers (formerly Paul I. Cripe, Inc.). In July of 2000, Anne and I married. We moved to the Castleton area. I worked for Cripe until May of 2002 when I was included in an unexpected layoff of ten percent of the work force. Not at all that thrilled about the situation, I asked my father for advice and guidance. He suggested that I contact land surveying companies in the Indianapolis area. One was

Stoepfelwerth and Associates, Inc., a company he had worked for nearly thirty years ago. I called David Stoepfelwerth the next morning. Later that day I had an interview with them. The following day I was hired and have now been with Stoepfelwerth for nine years. My wife and I purchased a home in Fishers and are blessed with two beautiful children, Noah and Bella. Noah will be five in November and is a hundred miles an hour, constantly. He and I will attend a parent/child soccer clinic throughout the month of May. This is something I am really looking forward to. Bella is sixteen months old and is still learning the finer points of walking and keeping her balance. I enjoy the time I have with my family and we are looking forward to a few vacations this summer to the Outer Banks of North Carolina and western South Dakota.

**5. Tell about your apprenticeship with a registered land surveyor.**

I have been fortunate to have worked with some great Land Surveyors in my short career. While at Cripe, I worked under the direction of six registered land surveyors: Brian Wood, PLS, Bryan Foust, PLS, Dennis Singer, PLS, Eric White, PLS, Matt Quillen, PLS and Paul Klodzen, PLS. Along with the registered individuals at Cripe, there were at least a half a dozen more individuals who contributed to my knowledge of surveying. These include Terry Miller, Dennis McGuire, and Jim Freed. I have relied upon David Stoepfelwerth, PLS, Curt Huff, PLS and Dennis Olmstead, PLS at Stoepfelwerth and Associates, Inc. Jim Rinehart, PE, also at Stoepfelwerth and I discuss engineering, flood and contractual issues. I can recount many instances in which each one has taught me something that I still carry with me today. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with each one of them.

**6. Tell about the well-established firm you are with and the role you play in its operation.**

I work under the direction of David Stoepfelwerth, PLS, and Curt Huff, PLS. In 2012 Stoepfelwerth will celebrate fifty years in business in the greater Indianapolis area. We specialize in land surveying and civil engineering services for residential, industrial and commercial developments. My responsibilities at Stoepfelwerth consist of preparing ALTA/ACSM land title surveys, boundary and topographic surveys, right-of-way and easement exhibits and documents, subdivision plats, and all related tasks. I also work closely with our clients in providing them with proposals and bids, working with their title companies and attorneys, and advising them on problematic situations.

**7. How most effectively can we attract young people to our profession?**

That is a great question and I wish I knew the answer. I don’t think I can share with you the “most” effective way we can at-

## Meet A Member

...continued from Page 13

tract young people to our profession. However, I will share with you the things I have been involved with that present our profession to them. Personally, I think that the Boy Scouts is a great place to start. The Central Indiana Chapter of ISPLS has had great success with hosting the surveying merit badge program. Our chapter has also participated with the Webelos' activity day by addressing components of the engineering activity badge.

Another avenue we can explore to attract young people to our profession is through the social media. I know that young people today are very much in tune with social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The California Land Surveyors Association has put together a website and a great video that asks young people to "Choose your Path. . . Make your Mark – Your Career as a Land Surveyor." I definitely think that adding a page on our website dedicated to educating young people about our profession would be a great start. We have already made some pretty good strides by adding a list of the colleges and universities that offer surveying courses in and around the state.

### 8. You participate actively in an ISPLS chapter. Tell about the work of this chapter and your involvement in it.

A few years before becoming a registered land surveyor, I began to take a more active role with the Central Indiana Chapter

(CIC) of ISPLS. Ryan Swingley, PLS encouraged me to become involved. I began by assisting him with the Boy Scout Land Surveying Merit Badge Program at Camp Belzer. I am encouraged by the success of this program and look forward to participating in it each spring. I hope that CIC can host a second event each year in the fall. The next step of my involvement was more of a leap. In November of 2009, the chapter elected me to serve as President for 2010. I was honored that they entrusted me with this leadership role and I gave it my best effort. I began by scheduling a speaker and/or a topic of discussion for each of our chapter meetings. I have always enjoyed the chapter newsletter *The e-Compass*, edited by Don West, PLS. Thinking that others have enjoyed *The e-Compass* as well. I continue with the newsletter to keep our chapter members informed. Currently, I serve as a Director for the chapter.

### 9. In recent decades land surveyors have adapted to the computer age. What additional dramatic changes do you see for our profession?

Yes, I am continually amazed at how far we have come in such a short amount of time. When I was in high school and college, the internet and e-mail were just starting to take off (at least for

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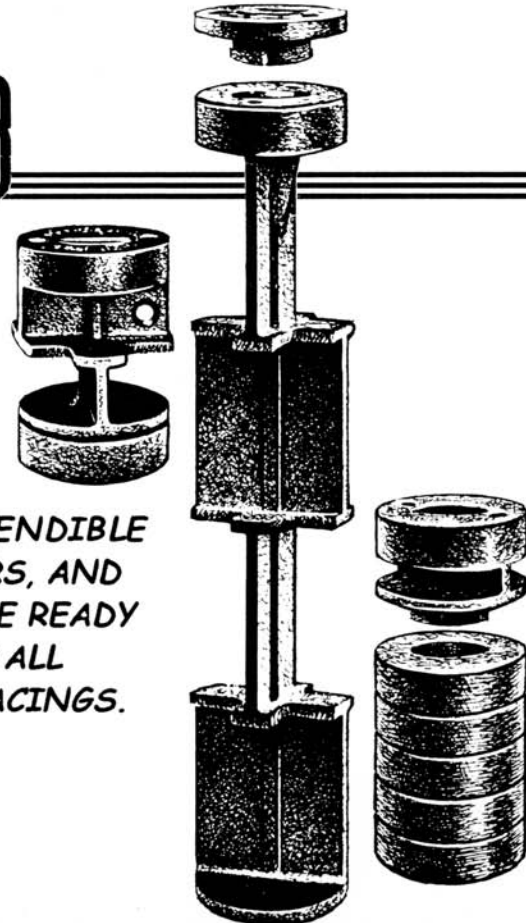
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# Book Review by David B. H. Best, P.L.S.

## George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps

by Barnet Schecter

Walker & Company, New York, 304 pages, \$67.50

The author provides a unique perspective on the life of the commanding general of the Continental Army and the first president of the United States through a backdrop of maps both acquired and prepared by George Washington. His experience as the county surveyor of Culpeper County, Virginia, while still a teenager, gave Washington a sincere appreciation for the value maps offered in establishing land ownership and in devising military plans for battle. In this monumental volume we find two sets of maps, one purchased by Washington, the other created by him.

On page 11 we find reproduced a page from Washington's expense account in 1776. On June 4, 1776 Washington recorded the following: "To Mr. Sparhawk for a collection of maps and a cover to the book, 14 pounds, 18 shillings." On page 12 is a copy of the receipt Washington received from John Sparhawk for "A General Topography of North America and the West Indies" dated June 4, 1776. Research reveals that what Washington received from Sparhawk was a collection of 93 maps that subsequently was auctioned off in 1876. What remains today are 43 maps owned by Washington. These 43 maps now reside in the Map Collection at Sterling Library in New Haven, Connecticut and are known as Yale's George Washington's Atlas. Cartography experts today conclude that the Yale atlas represents maps collected by Washington individually. The Yale atlas is not the Sparhawk book of maps. Without question both the Yale atlas and the Sparhawk book of maps provided Washington with valuable information for his plans of battle during the Revolutionary War.

Displayed on pages 70 and 71 in the Schecter book is a map titled *The Seat of War in New England*, by an American Volunteer that was printed in London on September 5, 1775. A notation indicates that Washington probably acquired the map through French dealers. These dealers traded with their colleagues in London throughout the war. Of creative interest in the map's details is the depiction of citizen-soldiers from throughout New England converging on Cambridge, Massachusetts to join together to form the Continental Army. Proceeding from the west is the March of General Washington. In a blown up detail of this section of the map we see General Washington mounted on his horse leading his troops, his horse drawn cannons, and his supply wagons. Washington arrived in Cambridge on July 2, 1775 to take command of the Continental Army. Impressive is the exquisite detail of the map. Depicted is Charlestown in flames, set afire by the English forces.

The book's contents on pages 6 and 7 reflect a surveyor's touch. It is drawn as a surveyor would draw a map scale beneath a north arrow. The ten chapter headings are listed at the unit marks beginning with Introduction: An Atlas Tells a Life Story and followed by Virginia, Barbados, and the Ohio Country; From the Monongahela to Massachusetts; The Siege of Boston; The American Invasion of Canada; From the Hudson to Philadelphia and Back; The War in the South; After the Revolution—Uniting an Expanding Nation; Danger on the Frontiers, Upheaval in Europe; Gains in the Northwest and Southwest, Trouble with France; and concluding with Back to the Land, Dividing Mount Vernon.

The book is not a page turner. It is written with scholarly dedication to detail and intense research. The maps are the key to the book. References are made continually throughout the text. To follow the drift of the writings and to gain a proper perspective of events geographically it is necessary to seek out the maps referred to. For example, the map referred to may be on the same page of the reference or elsewhere on another page. On page 77 we read: ". . . On July 11, Major Benjamin Tupper led four hundred men in whaleboats on a raid of Long Island (southeast of Boston and northeast of Milton, Squantum Neck, and Moon Island; see Boston Harbor, Detail #2, page 78). By turning the page and viewing Detail #2 we can view the location of Milton, Squantum Neck and Moon Island as these geographical features are situated in Boston Harbor. To gain the full value of the book it is important to continually refer to the maps as cited.

From his childhood George Washington became keenly aware of the value of owning land. As a veteran of the Seven Years War Washington was due land grants proportionate to his rank as a Lt. Colonel in the British Virginia Militia. On pages 64 and 65 we find his effort to obtain land grants as a veteran. The British Proclamation of 1763 suspended veterans' land grants. Washington chose to disregard the Proclamation's authority. In a letter to William Crawford, a boyhood friend and a Pennsylvania surveyor, Washington proposed a partnership. In the partnership Crawford would scout out choice parcels of land in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. George Washington would secure ownership of the parcels by bearing the cost of surveying and patenting the land. In his letter Washington wrote: "I will have the land surveyed and keep others off and leave the rest to time and my assiduity." Within weeks Crawford identified five tracts near Fort Pitt. In 1768 Washington secured his first title to land west of the Alleghenies on the Youghiogeny 35 miles southeast of Fort Pitt. For the next fifteen years Washington and Crawford enjoyed a lucrative partnership.

In 1754 Virginia Governor Dinwiddie promised 200,000 acres in the Ohio country to veterans fighting in the Seven Years War. In December 1769 George Washington petitioned the Virginia governor and Council for the land. Two treaties had vacated land south and east of the Ohio River. The council did award this land to the veterans including Washington. In the fall of 1770 Washington and Crawford traveled 200 miles down the Ohio River from Fort Pitt to the mouth of the Great Kanawha River. There they selected some 200,000 acres that later Crawford surveyed into 25 tracts of various sizes. From 1770 to 1772 Washington supervised Crawford's work. Washington collected money from the veterans to pay their share of the survey costs. He then assigned parcels to these veterans or their heirs. Washington amassed 10,000 acres on the Ohio River and 23,000 acres along the Great Kanawha River.

The book includes the following maps and surveys prepared by George Washington: Page 30 – A survey of Lawrence Washington's turnip field dated February 27, 1747 (Drawn by Washington when he was fifteen years old); Page 45 – Washington's map of the frontier, a map prepared to reflect the route George Washington

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## Meet A Member

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this Indiana boy). Now, you have all those things and more at your figure tips on your smart phone. The flywheel of technology is spinning at an incredible rate. We, in the surveying profession, need to be proactive and purposeful in addressing issues that may arise from this ever-expanding technology. The Board of Directors, the Past Presidents Council, and the Young Professionals Committee are focusing their efforts this year to define and establish a more modern and up-to-date definition of the term "Land Surveying."

What additional dramatic changes do I see for our profession? Well, I am not real sure. I am of the opinion that if you can think it, then it can probably be done. There appears to be really no limit as to what can be done anymore. Only time will tell and I am sure we will adapt just as we have in the past.

### 10. Beyond your working environment what hobbies and outside interests occupy your time?

I have several interests that occupy my time away from work. First and foremost would have to be my wife and my children. I try very hard to give them the attention they deserve and desire. As a family, we enjoy being outside and being active as much as possible. We enjoy having family dinners together at the dining table, taking a walk with our twelve year old chocolate lab, AJ, or maybe a family bike ride to a local park, or playing with toy cars and monster trucks until bath and bed time. I really enjoy the fifteen to thirty minutes before our kids' bed time by reading children's stories to them and having our family prayer time. Weekends with them are very similar, but occasionally include a special event, such as visiting the Indianapolis Zoo, the Children's Museum, or a local state park.

The next couple of items that fight for my time and attention are ISPLS, the Indiana Awana Ministry Team and the Awana program at our church. Awana (an acronym for Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15) is an international evangelical nonprofit organization. The mission of Awana is to help churches and parents worldwide raise children and youth to know, love and serve Christ. I am the Awana Commander at Hamilton Hills Baptist Church where I oversee the entire program which consists of approximately 110 children and 35 volunteers. My involvement with the Indiana Awana Ministry Team consists of assisting the Indiana Awana Missionaries with special events, such as the Awana Bible Quiz and the Awana Games, held throughout the state. Awana is a program I have been involved with since I was four years old and I am delighted that my son can participate in it as well.

Other interest I have, when I can find some time, include hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, and woodworking. Currently, I am finishing up a crib for a niece that is due to arrive in June. The crib is being built of rough sawn, hard, white maple and will be stained a medium to dark brown. This is the third crib I have built with the first one going to my brother and his family and the second for my family.

### 11. Are you an avid reader? If so, what book are you currently reading? Do you have a favorite author?

No, I am not an avid reader, unless you count the children's books. Like my father, I do not find recreational reading all that enjoyable. However, a few years ago I got on quite a kick and read some of the books that Dave Ramsey requires all of this team members to read. They include: *QBQ – The Question Behind the Question* by John G. Miller; *The Legend of the Monk and the Merchant* by Terry Felber; and *The Go Getter* by Peter B. Knye. All are very good reads and recommend them.

### 12. What is your favorite movie?

I am not a huge "movie-goer" or "movie-buff" and have probably wasted more time watching bad movies than watching good ones. I do have a few though that grab my attention every time I come across them while channel surfing. They are *Braveheart* (Mel Gibson et al., 1995), *The Patriot* (Dean Devlin et al., 2000), and *A Few Good Men* (Rob Reiner et al., 1992).

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## Book Review

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followed to the French Fort Le Boeuf south of Lake Erie by order of Governor Dinwiddie when Washington was a twenty-one year old officer in the British Virginia Militia (Note the detail of the map); Page 64 – Washington's 1766 plan of his farm on Little Hunting Creek and the Potomac River, being part of Mount Vernon; Page 77 – Washington's hand-drawn map of the Boston area dated July 27, 1775; Page 219 – Washington's hand-drawn map showing three tracts he owned on the Ohio River (The three tracts total 9157 acres); Page 235 – Washington's map of his southern tour in April 1790 (The map sketches his route from Petersburg, Virginia to Wilmington, North Carolina); Pages 248 and 249 – Washington's survey of Mount Vernon in 1793; Page 256 – Detail of Washington's survey of Mount Vernon as shown on Pages 248 and 249 (The detail shows the Ruddy Hole Farm and River Farm); Page 260 – Washington's sketch of the rapids at Harper's Ferry in 1754 (To initiate Washington's life long interest to make the Potomac River navigatable); Page 262 – Washington's plan for his Capitol Hill houses; Page 269, 270, and 271 – Details of Washington's survey of Mount Vernon (See Pages 248 and 249 for the complete survey).

In conclusion, I cite this book as a most important addition to any surveyor's library. It is scholarly in nature. It provides a complete view of George Washington's life from his childhood, through the Revolutionary War and the years of his presidency, and in his final years at Mount Vernon. As noted previously, the unique feature is the inclusion throughout of maps that trace salient events in the life of a man recognized as the Father of our country.



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# No Dumb Questions

By Ronald E. Koons, RoSaKo Safety

I have always gone by the philosophy that if someone truly doesn't understand something there are no dumb questions. I have always been convinced that without asking questions and making an occasional mistake or two we will never grow our knowledge base. That is why I always try to leave ample time at the end of a presentation for the audience to ask questions. I would like to present a few of these questions along with my response from the seminars we have done just this year.

The first question came from a Convention this year during a break from my presentation. The person asking the question was a one person operation. He was a Registered Land Surveyor who had been downsized and tried to pick up some work while looking for a full time job. He was doing some construction staking for a contractor that he had known for years. He was operating at the time as a sole proprietorship. He started asking some questions about how much OSHA could fine him for not complying with some of the items we had discussed earlier in the presentation. After verifying that he indeed had no employees and the company was a sole proprietorship he seemed shocked when I told him that OSHA couldn't fine him anything! One of the determining factors in whether OSHA can enforce their regulations is that there must be an employee/employer relationship. Someone has to work for someone else. In today's workplace that factor is really being stretched a lot by companies trying to avoid OSHA compliance by subcontracting to individuals who might otherwise be considered employees. OSHA and the labor department are looking into making some changes to this apparent "loophole" that has been allowing some companies to avoid OSHA compliance efforts. They are looking strongly at who controls the workplace, how the individuals know when to go to work and where to go. Along with that they are looking at if the individuals have their own business insurance, checking accounts as a business, and anything else that may help to determine if there is an employee/employer relationship in disguise. The one thing that remains certain is that a single person company who is a sole proprietorship can not be fined by OSHA. However, make that company a corporation and things change drastically. If the individual decides to incorporate then he/she is an employee of the corporation. In that case the corporation can be cited by OSHA for any workplace safety violations. One might then think that this surveyor could just go wild and forget about any OSHA Regulations. The most obvious reason to forego that direction is that his safety is important to both the surveyor and his family. In a one person operation if you can't work you aren't making any money. Also, while I said the surveyor can't be cited by OSHA I didn't say that others couldn't be cited. Under the multi-employer policy at OSHA the Controlling Employer on a jobsite can be cited for the actions of others. That would normally equate to the General Contractor or host employer on a non-construction jobsite. Even beyond that if a lone person operation were to create a hazard they could be responsible for getting other contractors cited if their employees were exposed. Try to explain to the company who has hired you why you aren't getting cited by OSHA but the GC and others are getting cited for something you did wrong. I can assure you that won't be a pleasant conversation.

My next question came from a surveyor during my presentation at the Illinois Convention this year. He wanted to know the percentage of each fine issued by OSHA that goes to the Compliance Officer. He had been told at a previous seminar that the compliance officers get a percentage of the citation they issue and that is how they get paid. Kind of like a car salesman. I can assure you that the individuals inspecting you from OSHA get no "percentage". All of the funds generated go directly into the general fund of the entity operating the OSHA program in that state. In Indiana that would be the general fund of the State of Indiana and in a Federal OSHA State the money goes into the US Treasury.

The next question was a follow-up to the above question. The surveyor stated that he heard OSHA was totally self funded and they make their money from the citations issued. This statement has actually been going around since OSHA was started back in the 1970's. This gets the same answer as above; all of the monies generated go into the general fund and not the OSHA operating budget.

The next question came from a field technician at a seminar. He said that the company he worked for had a policy that no one was to enter a Confined Space. He also said that the field crews get work assignments on a frequent basis that almost requires them to go into the Confined Space to get the data. I asked if the company had provided any Confined Space training. He indicated they had not done so. I asked if any of the crews had asked their supervisor about how they were to get the data without going into the Confined Space. He said they had been told it was their job to get the data without getting hurt. First of all I want to emphasize that I don't believe this company would intentionally send anyone into a situation where they knew that person would get injured. I believe this company just doesn't understand the potential for danger in a Confined Space. The image that comes into mind for me in this case is the three Chimpanzees of Hear no; Speak no; and See no evil fame. This situation is not uncommon. I have been asked variations of this question many times in the past 18 years. An entry of a Permit Required Confined Space without proper procedures being observed is clearly an OSHA violation. Why is it a violation? Because there is a higher probability that someone could get injured. We either have to eliminate the hazard or protect the entrant. All of this requires extensive training for all parties involved in the entry. Lack of this training along with lack of the proper equipment and procedures is not only an OSHA violation; it is a path to potential injury or death. A business can't put on blinders to the entry of Permit Required Confined Spaces by any employees.

Over the past 18 years I have met several thousand surveyors throughout the country. One thing I know is that none of them would intentionally send an employee into an area if they knew that employee would get injured. Obtaining a better understanding of safety will help everyone to elevate their ability to achieve a workplace where employees are truly safe. Back to the title of No Dumb Questions; True, but I have heard a lot of dumb answers in my life. Keep it safe!

## CALENDAR

### May 21, 2011

ISPLS Board of Directors meeting, ISPLS headquarters

### May 30, 2011

Memorial Day

### June 13, 2011

Indiana County Surveyors' Bass Fishing Tournament, Patoka Lake, for more information contact:

Meg Butcher at Christopher B. Burke Engineering  
317-266-8000 or email [mbutcher@cbel-in.com](mailto:mbutcher@cbel-in.com).

### June 25, 2011

ISPLS Board of Directors meeting, Location TBA

### July 7-12, 2011

ACSM Annual Conference, Esri and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM)  
July 7-12 in San Diego, California

### August 6, 2011

ISPLS Board of Directors meeting, ISPLS headquarters

### January 18-20, 2012

ISPLS Annual Convention,  
Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel, Indianapolis.

## WELCOME NEW ISPLS MEMBERS

Timothy Beyer - Professional  
David Bufink - Professional  
Nichole Frank - Associate  
Jason Fuchs - Associate  
Nathan Grimes - Professional  
John Kolb - Associate  
Eric Meeks - Associate  
Thomas Michalak - Professional  
Ralph Morgan, III - Associate  
James Morley - Professional  
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