

# ***SURVEY NOTES***

Volume 9 Issue 10

October 2003

**CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**

P.O. BOX 80697, MAIL BOX 261, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92138

[sd-surveyors.org](http://sd-surveyors.org)

## **General Meeting:**

Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

Joint meeting with Orange County Chapter CLSA

## **Guest Speaker:**

Arthur R. Andrew III, PLS, Supervisor of the County of Orange/Geomatics -Geodetic Unit for the past 10 years. Art will be speaking to us about the County's "GPS Real Time System", implementation plans and what it will do for surveyors working in Orange County.

## **Location**

***Sarducci's Capistrano Depot***

**26701 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano (949) 493-9593**

5:30-6:30 p.m. Social/Networking

6:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30-8:30 p.m. Program

## **Amtrak Travel Arrangements**

***Plan on taking the relaxing train ride up and back. The train leaves the downtown San Diego station at 4:00p.m. Arriving at San Juan Capistrano at 5:21 p.m. The train leaves San Juan Capistrano at 8:50 p.m. and arrives at 10:20 p.m. in San Diego.***

***Roundtrip ticket cost is \$26.00 or \$13.00 one way. There are senior and AAA discounts.***

## **Dinner - \$23.00**

Choice of **Top Sirloin** or **Chicken Quattro** with mashed potatoes and vegetables or **Asparagus & Sun-dried Tomatoes**  
entrees include bread, soup or salad and beverage

Price includes tax & tip

Leave reservations and entrée selection no later than Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> with LISA MEJIA, Email is preferred: [LMEJIA@HUNSAKERSD.COM](mailto:LMEJIA@HUNSAKERSD.COM) Or phone at (858) 558-4500

## **GENERAL MEETING – Sept. 17, 2003**

*The September general meeting was held at the Holiday Inn, Stadium / Mission Valley on Aero Drive in San Diego. Ken Cyr, a senior title officer with Chicago Title Company, was the guest speaker. Ken was familiar to many in the group as he has over 20 years of local experience in the title insurance business in both residential and commercial real estate. Ken discussed the process of title insurance and how ALTA surveys are used as a tool to help prepare title policies. Ken fielded a wide range of questions from the group about the types of things that are or are not required from the ALTA survey. He provided worthy insight into what types of items the title companies are insuring against, and noted some of the specifics of a good ALTA. He also provided insight into items we sometimes are requested to certify that are not important to title insurance. This was an informative discussion as there is a wide range of opinion on what determines a proper ALTA. The questions, examples, and discussion from the group amplified this range and hearing Ken's perspective was useful to all of us.*

*Once again our guest was presented with the coveted chapter coffee mug. Thanks to Ken for taking the time to spend the evening with us.*

### **Presidents Report**

-Steve Martin welcomed members from Caltrans  
-Steve noted Caltrans interest in continuing to promote the Palomar College Program. Verne Klassen made an appeal to the group to join in and be more active in saving this program.  
-Surveyor Service has agreed to loan state of the art equipment to help generate interest in the Palomar College program.  
-Palomar College is offering a CAD and COGO class this semester. AutoCAD will be the software.

### **Vice Presidents Report**

-Dave noted James Yaccino's and Bob Elliot's support for the Padre tailgate food and beverages.  
-The next general meeting is October 9, 2003, (one week earlier than usual) as a joint chapter meeting with the Orange County Chapter, at Sarducci's in San Juan Capistrano. Art Andrew will be the guest speaker.

### **Treasurer's Report**

-Annie reported that the General fund has \$8,059.63 and the Education fund has \$356.26.  
-Annie circulated a form to ask for general meeting speaker ideas for next year.

### **Nomination Committee**

-Steve noted that we have 106 corporate members that qualify our chapter for a 6<sup>th</sup> representative.  
-Jas provided the slate of next years officers.

President:	Dave Ambler
Vice President:	Anne Hoppe
Treasurer:	Don Woolley
Secretary:	Andy Karydes
Immediate Past President:	Steve Martin

Chapter Representatives:  
1<sup>st</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> term: Jeff Safford  
1<sup>st</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> term: Tony Nothdurft  
1<sup>st</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> term: Gary Hus

1<sup>st</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> term Steve Martin  
2<sup>nd</sup> year 1<sup>st</sup> term: Allan Wake  
2<sup>nd</sup> year 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Jack Roth  
Alternates: Lonie Cyr, Jas Arnold, Dave Viera

-A motion was brought forth and seconded to nominate the slate as read. The vote was unanimous.

### **JPPC Report**

-DK reported that there were no new cases to be reviewed at last weeks meeting. This was the first time in 23 years that there were no cases.

### **Chapter Representatives**

-Allan Wake reported his action on the HP 48 GX calculator issue. This is in response to the ban by the NCEES of this calculator in future LS and Engineering exams. Allan is writing a letter and is encouraging us all to also respond.

### **Newsletter Committee**

-Steve noted that Allan is doing a great job on the newsletter.

### **Legislative Committee**

-Steve made available a report of the current legislative issues, along with Mike Butcher's report from the last State Board meeting.

### **Education Committee**

-Mini-Series start date to be moved to October 16, 2003 to avoid conflict with Joint Chapter meeting October 9. They will be held at Caltrans in Old Town.  
-Final schedule has tentatively been set. (see enclosed flyer) and much thanks to Don for tirelessly putting this together!

### **Old Business**

-Steve requests volunteers for the Dana Seguin CORS site. Search currently in Julian or Vulcan Mountain. Need volunteers to talk to property owners.

### **New Business**

-Steve Martin and Dave Ambler distributed the raffle gifts that were supplied by Allen Instruments, Lewis and Lewis, and Surveyor Service. Thanks to all donors.  
-Steve made available a flier on a Spatial Referencing Seminar to be held at UCR, October 15,16.

Meeting adjourned  
Submitted by,  
Don Woolley, PLS  
Secretary 2003

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

**October 1, 2003**

*ATTENDING: Jas Arnold, Steve Martin, Dave Ambler, D.K.Nasland, Allan Wake, Anne Hoppe, Don Woolley*

### **President's Report**

-The meeting was held at Nasland Engineering's conference room.  
-Discussed venues and menus for upcoming Christmas party. A motion was brought forth and approved to provide a \$1,500 budget for the upcoming Christmas party

-Will be looking for industry to provide raffle prizes for the Christmas party. Last year's participation was good and will be looking for this year to be just as good.

-Steve reported receiving email from State Education Foundation looking for input on scholarships. Steve will check with Armand on status of awarding scholarships.

#### **Vice - President's Report**

-Dave Ambler will coordinate with the Orange County chapter for the upcoming general meeting. (Menu, cost, train schedule, etc.)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

-Anne reported the General Fund has \$8,365.63, the Education Fund has \$208.37.

#### **Secretary's Report**

-The September General meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

-The third quarter report was sent to the State on Saturday.

#### **Nominating Committee**

-Jas submitted the 2004 Slate of Officers to the State.

#### **Membership Committee**

-Steve thanked Jas and Scott for their effort in the recent membership drive and for up-dating the database.

-There are currently 193 members and 5 lifetime members.

-Discussed importance of getting application to accompany dues. This will greatly reduce confusion and simplify the record keeping.

- Reminder - Section 8.07 of the State bylaws requires State membership after 1 year Chapter membership. - lets go for a 7<sup>th</sup> State Rep!

#### **Education Committee**

-The fall mini-series is scheduled to begin October 16, 2003. This was changed from the 9<sup>th</sup> to allow for the Joint meeting in Orange County. They will be held at the Caltrans office in Old Town on Thursday evenings from 6:15 to 8:30.

-The confirmed topics and presenters are:

10/16 Offshore Surveying - Jerry Wilson, Thales

10/23 Mineral Surveys - Jon Blake

11/06 City of San Diego Surveying Issues - DK

11/20 Cyra Technologies - Tony Grissam

*There will be at least one additional seminar to be announced.*

#### **Chapter Representatives**

-Next meeting will be held in Ontario, on October 18.

-Allan Wake sent a letter and a draft resolution regarding calculator controversy to the State for an agenda item. (see letter and responses further in newsletter).

-Allan noted that the focus of the Board meeting was to be committee meetings.

#### **JPPC Committee**

-D.K. noted that for the first time in 23 years there are no new cases to be reviewed at the meeting to be held next Thursday.

-D.K has agreed to be involved with the State JPPC.

#### **New Business**

-Steve talked to Steve Woods regarding Golf Tournament. He is looking to schedule early December. David Johnson to help organize.

-Will be looking for volunteers to organize and facilitate upcoming LS Exam Review.

#### **CLSA San Diego Survey Student Stipends:**

The Stipend program's goals are to: provide funding for local students working towards a degree in a surveying related field at a Junior College in San Diego County. They will receive \$100 for an A, \$75 for a B, \$50 for a C. It will be limited to one survey class per student per semester.

Applicants need to mail in a copy of their grade (of a surveying class) and address to: CLSA San Diego, P.O. BOX 80697, MAIL BOX 261, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92138

#### **CLSA Education Foundation**

- see attached PDF file. For those not on the Email distro contact the Central Office: P.O. Box 9098 · Santa Rosa · California 95405 Telephone 707/578-6016 for Foundation scholarship information and applications.

#### **Education/Seminars/Workshops**

#### **Letter of concern regarding the surveying program at Palomar College:**

9-29-03

To whom it may concern:

My name is Michael Wartenberg. I am a California Licensed Land Surveyor (LS 7007) presently employed at Caltrans in the Surveying Department in San Diego. I have been employed at Caltrans since 1992. I earned my AA degree in Surveying at Palomar College in June of 2001. I am one of two surveyors that make up the Surveying Adjunct Faculty at Palomar Community College. The other is Tom Yackley, presently employed at Project Design Consultants (PDC). We are both committed to doing everything and anything we can to make the surveying program here at Palomar current, cutting edge, viable and worthwhile!

We are facing a crisis. There are only two more semesters of surveying classes scheduled before the surveying program will be dropped at Palomar. There would be nowhere in and near San Diego County left where a student could earn a certificate or AA degree in Land Surveying! Cuyamaca, San Diego State, and Riverside College all offer basic surveying classes as part of their engineering program. Others (Saddleback, Mesa and San Diego State) offer classes in GIS. We feel there is a real need for a program offering advanced classes in surveying. There is a need for engineering mapping. We are slowly incorporating hands-on use of GPS in our control and construction surveying classes. And, we are using TDS software with our HP-48 data collectors. In our Survey Mapping class we are studying the Subdivision Map Act, The Land Surveyors Act, and filing procedures for Tentative still a chance at this time to convince Palomar that dropping the program would be bad for both Palomar and the engineering and surveying community. We hope you agree.

The Surveying Curriculum here at Palomar has been undergoing some long over-due modernization these last couple of years. We are building on the strong foundation developed and maintained by many others before us. We are upgrading the classes to reflect the new technology being used by employers in today's marketplace. Last fall we had our first surveying class (COGO and CAD) based strictly in a computer lab. We used C&G Survey (with IntelliCAD) donated by Jim Van Meter at Carlson Software. This semester we began using AutoCAD 2004 for surveying, Parcel, Subdivision and Record of Survey maps. We are striving to assist students to get the knowledge and skills they need to pass the LSIT and the LS,

and to be a valuable asset to any civil engineering or surveying department in the County.

We need your help! Enrollment in Palomar's surveying classes has been stagnating. We don't completely understand why. We would like to hear your ideas about the program at Palomar. **Please answer the questions on the survey below.** I know a lot of you have taken at least one class at Palomar. What are we doing right? What are we doing wrong? What could we do better?

If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to call me at work (619-688-6609) or at home (760-741-6128). My e-mail at work is [michael.wartenberg@dot.ca.gov](mailto:michael.wartenberg@dot.ca.gov). My e-mail at home is [w52berg@aol.com](mailto:w52berg@aol.com). Thanks for your time!

All of us here in the Palomar College Surveying Department wish you a happy and successful year!

Sincerely,  
Michael Wartenberg

### **Palomar Community College Survey Curriculum**

The Surveying program at Palomar Community College will be discontinued at the end of the Fall 2004 semester unless the Surveying and Engineering Community can convince the college of the viability of such a program. If you agree that losing the program will negatively impact the training of future engineers and surveyors in San Diego County we need your help! We must identify some specific and concrete ideas that will justify the continued existence of the program. Please help us in identifying those areas that you feel most strongly about. Both our strengths and weaknesses. If we can show enough support for the program, backed by fresh ideas on how to increase enrollment, we may be able to not only keep the program, but improve it! Please be specific as possible in your answers. We must prove a need, and an ongoing commitment to the program. Thanks for your support!

Please identify yourself:

Name

Business

Address

Phone

e-mail

As an employer are you in the least concerned about the possibility of the Surveying Program at Palomar College being discontinued? Why or why not?

What do you believe is the major deterrent to increasing enrollment and keeping the surveying program viable.

Would you be willing to teach/advise a semester long class or a one day or weekend seminar on your specialty?

Would you be willing to join, sit in on, or advise, our Survey Curriculum Advisory Committee?

Have you got any ideas that you feel could help the program if there was any way to continue?

Do you have any used equipment that you would be willing to donate/lend to the college?

---

### **Letter and Survey to Engineers and Surveyors in County**

- Surveyors Service Company would like to offer assistance in the instrumentation area. In the past we have sold, donated, and loaned instruments to various educational institutions. - When sold, they end up in a closet. When donated, they end up in a closet. When loaned, they are used. We will loan the Palomar program any of the instruments we have in rental or demonstration inventory (almost everything Leica sells) with a few guidelines we have found helpful to both the educators and Servco.

- Before the start of each semester, we will meet with the department head and review curriculum showing when and how the equipment will be used. We will provide the equipment at specified time, with instruction if needed, for the amount of time shown in the curriculum. We understand that schedules change and we will work with the institution. What we will not allow to happen is have the equipment sit in a closet. There will be no charge for the use or training and, if successful, we will continue as long as the program feels it is needed.

- This is a program that we have found very successful. It is used at Fresno and other institutions. The students will get to use the very latest in technology and the instructors will get our assistance if required.

- I hope you all get as excited about this as I am. I know that the surveying classes I took had old T-16 instruments that you had stand on your head to see upright. The Palomar students will get to use the latest technology GPS RTK, GPS post-processing, robotics, and conventional surveying total stations available. All they need to do is provide curriculum showing when and how.

- As far as getting people excited about the program, I would have the program managers contact someone like David Johnson at Guida Surveying. He has been involved in teaching and organizing for both the Santiago and UCR programs. I would bet that he could help put some life into it.

- The programs up north are attended by party chiefs, business owners, and practicing engineers, along with entry level students. Do you think that you, as a business owner or survey manager, would get something out of attending the Palomar program today? If not, then what would make you want to attend? It is a real part of the surveying community in Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties.

- Sadly, I am guilty of not knowing much about the Palomar program. I attended three land survey classes there in Spring of 1992 when I was a Marine Field Artillery Surveyor. We learned about laying out and computing strings of triangles, running traverse and computing using logarithmic tables, astronomic observation with ephemeris data extraction, and much more. I'd be interested in knowing what the current curriculum has to offer.

Regards, James

James Yaccino  
Geodesy Sales Representative  
Surveyors Service Company  
(800) 938-0606 Costa Mesa office  
(800) 282-4454 San Diego office  
(714) 308-3889 mobile  
[JYaccino@Servco1.com](mailto:JYaccino@Servco1.com)

### **Response from Jack Roth to the letter from James**

**Yaccino:** Way to go, Servco! James, that's excellent - I hope this kind of support will spawn renewed interest in the program and help preclude it's scheduled demise. I went to Mesa College in the early 70's, and we certainly didn't get to use "state-of-the-art" equipment. Way to go!

**Boundary Control and Legal Principles** – by Walter G. Robillard – The Man. Presented by CLSA on Oct. 31 in Ontario. Contact [clsa@californiasurveyors.org](mailto:clsa@californiasurveyors.org) or 707-578-6016 for registration info.

**Spatial Reference Systems Seminar** – see attached PDF file. U.C. Riverside on Oct. 15 & 16. Comprehensive agenda with all-star speakers.

- Go to [www.ucextension.net/gis](http://www.ucextension.net/gis) <<http://www.ucextension.net/gis>>. Then click on Spatial Reference Seminar 2003. The complete program is posted here. Please contact Jennifer Campbell at 909-787-5804 x11620 or Jason Wilbur at 909-787-5804x11621 if you have any questions.

**Topcon Technology Roadshow** – Presented by Lewis & Lewis Oct. 14 in San Diego, Oct. 16 in Costa Mesa - ½ day sessions in robotics and GPS technology - see attached PDF files or contact Lewis & Lewis at 760-747-8823.

**Trimble Workshops** – contact Dan McMahon [dan@alleninst.com](mailto:dan@alleninst.com) or @ 800-215-2737.

System Dividends will be conducting an **Advanced GPS Seminar** in Orange, CA on October 15<sup>th</sup> through October 17<sup>th</sup>. Topics are outlined on their web site ([http://www.gpstraining.com/courses\\_advanced.html](http://www.gpstraining.com/courses_advanced.html)). Several field exercises will be included in the class. Seating is limited to 12 persons per class and available on a first come basis, so sign up today! For more information, please contact [training@gpstraining.com](mailto:training@gpstraining.com).

**U.C. Riverside & Santiago College GIS/GPS Surveying programs** - see [www.UCRExtension.net/geo/](http://www.UCRExtension.net/geo/) and [www.sac.edu/degrees/geography\\_information\\_degree.htm](http://www.sac.edu/degrees/geography_information_degree.htm)

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**Hunsaker & Associates** is looking for an experienced Survey Mapper. This position requires the ability to manage mapping projects from start to finish. This position also requires experience and hands-on involvement with mapping related task including: research, writing legal descriptions, record boundary and encumbrance maps, ALTA Surveys, boundary analysis, subdivision maps, parcel maps, record of surveys and condominium plans. Experience with ACAD 2000 and Eaglepoint is desirable.

Please e-mail or fax resume to [jobs@hunsakersd.com](mailto:jobs@hunsakersd.com)

(858) 558-1414 FAX, or mail to: Hunsaker & Associates Inc., San Diego, 10179 Huennekens Street, SD CA 92121

**Burkett & Wong Engineers** is seeking a top qualified individual for an office position. Person must be familiar with construction staking calc's, preparation of survey drawings including ALTA surveys, Boundary and Topographic surveys, Parcel Maps, Subdivision Maps, and TDS point management using AutoDesk Land Desktop 3.0. Excellent salary and benefits. Resume to Burkett & Wong Engineers, 3434 Fourth Ave., San

Diego, Ca., 92103 Fax: 619-299-9934; email to [c\\_austin@burkett-wong.com](mailto:c_austin@burkett-wong.com)

### **ProjectDesign Consultants**

Survey Analysts wanted at ProjectDesign Consultant's Temecula and San Diego offices. Experience in Survey mapping and boundary analysis is required. Must have good working knowledge of ACAD 14 and/or 2000. This position would include preparation of ALTA's, R.O.S.'s, Plats, and Legal Descriptions.

-Fax or e-mail resume to: ProjectDesign Consultants [careers@projectdesign.com](mailto:careers@projectdesign.com) (619) 234-0349 FAX [www.projectdesign.com](http://www.projectdesign.com)  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

**Lintvedt, McColl & Associates** is seeking a qualified Land Surveyor to provide office expertise in GPS, boundary, right-of-way and topo surveys. A candidate should have a working knowledge in research, calculations, ROS's and legal descriptions preparation as well as the desire to work and grow in a progressive friendly environment.

Competitive Compensation, Excellent Benefits and Opportunities.

EOE M/F

Resumes to: Lintvedt, McColl, 3737 Camino Del Rio S. #200 SD CA 92108

[LMA@LMAENGINEERING.COM](mailto:LMA@LMAENGINEERING.COM) Fax 619/280-1515

### **MAYGroup, Inc.**

San Diego based progressive civil engineering firm, MAYGroup, Inc. has opportunities for qualified individuals for the following position:

LAND SURVEYOR: Calif. LS registration. Fax or e-mail resume: (858) 505-0441/ [mail@maygroupinc.net](mailto:mail@maygroupinc.net)

### **NOTICES**

**CLOSEOUT SALE! 50% OFF LISTED PRICE!**

While supplies last.

- CLSA is having an end of the year sale on year 2003 publications.

-Included are the 2003 Complete package with binder, Complete package with disk, Complete package refill, Complete package refill with disk, 2003 PE Act & PLS Act with Board Rules, 2003 Subdivision Map Act with index, 2003 Celestial Observation Handbook & Ephemeris and Right of Entry Door Hangers.

-To receive discount, print this email and attach it to your publication order form.

-Year 2004 publications will be available on January 15th.

**Lintvedt, McColl and Associates Office Move** - We moved about a mile to the West. It's a glass building under the freeway ramp from 8 East to 805 South. Effective Monday, September 22, 2003 we will be operating out of our new office at the address and phone numbers listed below:

Gary A. Lintvedt, PLS

Lintvedt, McColl & Associates

2810 Camino Del Rio South, Suite 200

San Diego, California 92108

(619) 294-4440, FAX 294-4442

**LAND SURVEYING FIRM FOR SALE** -20 Plus years of successful service in San Diego. Surveying equipment, records and maps included. Some records and maps for Avalon, CA. -

Principal retiring and will assist with transition. -Please contact  
**Gene Gaddy:**  
Office (858) 279-2828 Fax (858) 279-4014

**Stolen Equipment** – forwarded by Dan McMahon, Allen Instr.:  
- a receiver setup in the City of Riverside. It was setup on the  
MWD control point (MWD BM UF616) near Arlington and Van  
Buren.

- Trimble 5700 Receiver: S/N: 11909066, Trimble Zephyr  
Rover antenna - S/N: 0220247109, Trimble TSC1- S/N:  
0220246997, 64mb data card, 6 amp battery, Antenna Cable,  
TSC1 Cable, Backpack, Tripod, Tribach  
- Thank You, Lisa Henstridge, PLS, Project Manager,  
PSOMAS, 3187 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 250, Costa Mesa, CA  
92626, (714) 481-7920 – Direct (714) 545-8883 – Fax.  
[lhenstridge@psomas.com](mailto:lhenstridge@psomas.com) [www.psomas.com](http://www.psomas.com)

### Lost Equipment

One of our crews "lost" a Trimble TSCe Survey Controller in  
the San Diego area.

Description: Trimble TSCe Survey Controller (similar to the  
TDS Ranger)  
Serial No. 00027020  
Caltrans ID: 88507

Thanks,

Adrian (Dick) Davis, PLS [Adrian.Davis@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Adrian.Davis@dot.ca.gov)  
Senior Transportation Surveyor

California Department of Transportation  
Division of Engineering Services  
Office of Geometronics  
1727 30th Street MS-35  
Sacramento, CA 95816

### Stolen Equipment

-On May 28, 2003 a San Dieguito Engineering survey crew was  
working in the vicinity of La Jolla Blvd. and Turquoise Street  
when equipment was stolen from the vehicle. Stolen was a  
Nikon 800 series total station, Sokkia level, Schonstedt and a  
tribrach w/prism. A police report was filed immediately after the  
theft was discovered. The approximate time was between  
10:00 - 11:30 am. If anyone has any information please contact  
me at [akarydes@sdeinc.com](mailto:akarydes@sdeinc.com).

Thank you, Andrew G. Karydes, PLS San Dieguito  
Engineering, Inc. 4407 Manchester Avenue, Suite 105 ph (760)  
753-5525 - fax (760) 943-8236

### Point/Counterpoint

In last months newsletter the editor expressed concerns about  
the low pass rate for the Calif. LS exam noting that "something  
is seriously out of whack."

Counterpoint from **Robert McMillan** - First, congratulations to  
those candidates who passed the NCEES portion of  
the exam.

-You are absolutely correct, the cut score for the California  
specific portion of the exam is absurdly low. It should be  
higher. This is a "Professional" license, after all. Would you  
want your lawyer to know only 46.6% of what was on the Bar  
exam? What about your doctor?

**Editor** - But how do you explain the mis-connect between high  
Calif pass rates on the NCEES, but low pass rate on the State  
specific? My general opinion is that the Calif exam is testing  
for excellence, not minimum competence. As much

as we may like to have the stature of Attorneys and Doctors,  
that is not what Surveyors are about.

**Robert McMillan** - I've heard the NCEES exam is too easy.  
Easier than the LSIT. A non surveyor/engineer could pass with  
a little studying, if they are a good test taker. California has a  
fairly high standard of education overall compared with the  
other states, and our technician level surveyors are very good.  
So our guys kick butt on the National exam. The state  
exam, on the other hand, requires a more "well rounded"  
thought process, and better test taking ability from the  
candidates.

-The exam is not testing for excellence. Far from it, as  
evidenced by the low cut score. It is looking for solid  
fundamental thought patterns. Our clients, however ARE  
looking for excellence. If we, as a profession, don't  
strive for excellence, how will we ever get the stature of  
Lawyers & Doctors? Are you comfortable at a preconstruction  
meeting saying at least 46% of the stakes I set will be in the  
right place? How about telling your boss "I'll get 46% of my  
topo measurements correct today."

-Something is "out of whack", but taking aim at the Board of  
Registration is inappropriate.

-Land Surveying is one of the few professions in California that  
does not REQUIRE any college training or degree to obtain  
certification or license. As such, I believe that many applicants  
are ill-prepared to take the LS exam. I am not advocating that  
a AA or BS degree should be a qualification to take the exam.  
I feel that candidates must study harder, learn more, work  
faster, and become generally better prepared to take an exam  
of this type. If it takes college level coursework to attain this,  
so be it.

-Also, perhaps References need to be more selective about  
who they sponsor.

-The grading process is thorough, and fair, I've served as a  
Grader. I know I didn't think so when I failed each time, or when  
I saw guys I know get the dreaded failure letter, but after  
seeing it from the inside, it really is. Before leaving the grading  
session, I checked with Board members about what I could  
share with others, and was told sharing the process was OK,  
but the content was off limits. If you are interested, I can share  
that with you. I know that I wouldn't have cared about the  
process when I failed, I would have had sour grapes, but after  
going through it, I am now defensive of the process that I was  
once critical of.

-Any LS can contact the Board, submit a resume, and ask to  
become a grader for an next exam. What you see will open  
your eyes.

- As for the calculator issue, I think that is a load of bull... 41,  
48, who cares... it is a tool we use... Are they going to take  
away our scale & triangle next?

-*That's our opinions – what's yours?*

### Letter to NCEES

September 19, 2003

Jerry Carter  
National Council of Examiners for Engineering And Surveying  
280 Seneca Creek Road  
P.O. Box 1686  
Clemson, S.C., U.S.A. 29633-1686

Mr. Carter:

The San Diego Chapter of the California Land Surveyors  
Association is very concerned about the prohibited use of the  
HP48 calculators for the NCEES exams.

Evidently, the concern of NCEES is that this calculator allows the test to be copied through its alpha-numeric capabilities. The San Diego Chapter does feel that it certainly is important not to compromise the integrity of the test by allowing unauthorized copies to be made. Our chapter being located in San Diego, where the NCEES and California State specific exams are usually held, is willing to offer assistance in proctoring the exams. Exam proctors from our chapter have the experience and expertise in calculator use to easily notice inappropriate use of calculators. Current enforcement by the California Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors does include that the inappropriate uses of electronic devices will be reported for investigation as a possible violation of the laws regarding examination security and subversion.

The HP48 calculator is an integral tool in the current standard of Surveying practice. Also, the complexity of the Surveying exams requires it use. The argument can be made that surveying problems may be solved with simpler calculators, slide rules, and tables. This is true, and may be of some historical interest, such as the use of a compass, chaining pins and plane tables, but these are not the usual current methods and tools used for Surveying practice. The exam could be changed to test for the ability to use Surveying formulas, mathematics, slide rule and tables with less questions to allow for the time involved, but testing of current standards, practice and procedures requires the use of the HP48 series or similar calculators.

Please reconsider the restriction of the use of the HP48 calculator. It is unfair and unrealistic to not allow this calculator's use. As mentioned, the San Diego Chapter of the California Land Surveyors Association will gladly provide monitoring of the test to insure the test's integrity.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. You may contact me at the San Diego Chapter address, by email - akw@cox.net or phone - (619) 446-5309. A written response to the Chapter concerns is requested.

On behalf of CLSA San Diego, Allan K. Wake, PLS 6908

Immediate Past President and State CLSA Representative  
San Diego Chapter of the California Land Surveyors  
Association

cc: Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors  
California Land Surveyors Association  
ACSM  
CELSOC

**Responses to the NCEES calculator restriction:**

-Thanks for your concern of the calculator issue. I use a HP48G and am very familiar with its functions. For my future licensing exams, I feel like this particular calculator will be of immense help, and am disheartened to find out that the board will no longer allow its use.

Please, as a respected official in the profession of surveying, continue to address the issue to officials that will make the ultimate decision.

**Jonathan L. Boone, E.I.**  
Civil Engineer  
Design Branch Civil Section  
Vicksburg District, USACE

Ph: 601-631-5502  
Fx: 601-631-5583  
EM: [Jonathan.L.Boone@mvk02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Jonathan.L.Boone@mvk02.usace.army.mil)

**From NCEES:**

Mr. Wake:

The examination procedures must be uniform throughout all our sites since this is considered a national exam. Although we appreciate the offer of assistance by your local chapter, this would not be an option we could utilize.

This was a difficult decision but one that was made by practitioners in the field who realize the impact of restricting candidates to a limited number of calculators. We met this past week with the national marketing director for HP who acknowledged the problem and expressed the desire of HP to try to offer models that will address the concerns of NCEES and other testing agencies pertaining to the communication and text editing capability of the higher end calculators.

We appreciate the concern but have to take necessary precautions to protect the integrity of the exams which in turns helps to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by insuring that candidates who passed the test and become licensed do so through the demonstration of their knowledge of the engineering and surveying professions and not their ability to circumvent the tests.

Jerry Carter  
Associate Executive Director  
NCEES  
T: 864-654-6824  
F: 864-654-6033  
E: [jcarter@ncees.org](mailto:jcarter@ncees.org)

- **From Armand Marois:** - Hey Allan - Your letter made it in the Professional Surveyor Magazine's newsletter. Congratulations, Armand

- **From D.K. Nasland** - I support your letter. It's on point! It's good to see you get a little worked up! Dk

- **From Dave Viera** - Nice job Allan. I'm hopeful that other surveyor and/or engineering chapters and associations throughout the country will forward similar concerns to the NCEES. With the efforts of others like yourself, the NCEES will have little choice but to rescind its decision.

- **From Greg Hopkins** – This is like expecting you to build a house and then taking away your hammer!

**From Curt Sumner, ACSM Exec President, to NCEES:**

Hi Jerry,

I received the attached letter (from CLSA SD) with regard to the decision by NCEES to ban certain calculators from use during exams.

Our fall meetings are coming up this weekend, and I am sure the matter will come up. If NCEES were to consider changing its policy regarding the use of the HP-48GX, what would be the process?

It was my understanding that the decision was taken by NCEES during its annual board meeting in August. Does that mean that any change to the policy would have to be made by

the Board at a subsequent meeting (such as next year)?

ACSM has not discussed the issue yet, but it would be helpful in addressing the concerns that will inevitably be expressed if we know what process is required to consider a change.

Hopefully, you can let me know before the weekend.

Thanks, Curt

**Response from NCEES to Curt:**

To: 'Curt Sumner'

Subject: RE: NCEES calculator policy

Curt:

The decision by the Council was to enforce the existing policy which prevents the use of calculators with communicating capabilities. The policy also covers any other devices that might compromise the integrity of the exam so we have also included calculators with text capability.

We had a meeting with HP last week and they are working to offer a model that will address our concerns and will also be a model that PEs and LSs will be interested in.

Hope this helps. Jerry

**- Editors note:** I contacted Hewlett Packard about information on any plans for a calculator with similar capabilities to the HP 48 that would be acceptable to NCEES. So far, HP's response is that they may introduce a replacement for the HP32S that does not have capabilities for modular programs, only programming by key stroke. Future upgrades for the HP 48 and 49 would probably not be acceptable to NCEES. Changes to their calculator models could take several years from conception to market.

The calculator issue will be brought up at the State CLSA Oct. q'ly meeting in Ontario.

**Newsletter**

Articles are encouraged for publication in the newsletter. Send reports and articles to Allan Wake by the first Friday of the month. Please email to [awake@sandiego.gov](mailto:awake@sandiego.gov) and at [akw@cox.net](mailto:akw@cox.net).

Members are encouraged to receive email newsletters in lieu of mailings. To request an email newsletter only contact Jas Arnold at [jarnold@rickeng.com](mailto:jarnold@rickeng.com).

**Advertising policy approved by the Board:**

1) full page one time in newsletter \$150.00 charge. 10% discount one year paid in advance. 2.) ½ page one time in newsletter \$100.00. 3) Business card size ad one year in newsletter \$150.00. 4) Employment offers by a member free for 3 months, extended if needed. 5) Web-site banner

\$100.00. Other Web-site advertising charges to be determined.





**CALIFORNIA LAND SURVEYORS ASSOCIATION**  
**SAN DIEGO CHAPTER**  
**P.O. BOX 85152, MAIL BOX 261, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92186-5152**  
**2003 Officers**

Steve Martin, P.L.S.  
*President (858-694-3161)*  
David Ambler, P.L.S.  
*Vice-President (858-558-4500)*  
Anne Hoppe, P.L.S.  
*Treasurer (619-446-5290)*  
Don Woolley, P.L.S.  
*Secretary (619- 291-0707)*  
Jake F. Roth II, P.L.S.  
*Representative (858-576-9200)*  
David P. Viera, P.L.S.  
*Representative (858-558-4500)*  
Scott A. Hurst, P.L.S.  
*Representative (619-235-6471)*  
D.K. Nasland, P.L.S., P.E.  
*Representative (858-560-1141)*  
James W. Arnold, P.L.S.  
*Alt. Representative (619-688-1449)*  
Lonie Cyr, P.L.S.  
*Alt. Representative (858-614-5000)*  
Allan K. Wake, P.L.S.  
*Immed.Past President/Representative (619)-446-5309*

**MINI-SEMINARS 2003**

**Thursday, 16 OCTOBER**  
**Hydrographic Surveying**

**Jerry Wilson, Thales GeoSolutions**

Jerry will present some of the new and innovative techniques being used in Hydrographic surveying.  
- Thales GeoSolutions is part of a group of companies that are world leaders in providing offshore survey services including high precision positioning systems and hydrographic, geotechnical, geophysical and geodetic surveying

**Thursday, 23 OCTOBER**

**Mineral Surveys**

**John Blake, PLS**

John will present on establishment and retracement of mineral claims. John holds the distinction of being one of only a handful of federally appointed mineral surveyors.  
- John Blake, PLS, has been licensed since 1976 and has built his practice consulting for unusual and difficult boundary surveys.

**Thursday, 6 NOVEMBER TBA**

**Thursday, 13 NOVEMBER**

**City of San Diego Surveying Issues**

**Lee Hennes, D.K. Nasland, Rex Plummer**

This panel will report on and discuss the progress ongoing regarding the surveying issues in downtown San Diego. They are part of a larger group made up of both private and public professionals that have reviewing these issues over the past several months.

**Thursday, 20 NOVEMBER**

**Cyra Technologies**

**Tony Grissam, Cyra Account Manager**

Tony will present his "Introduction to 3D Laser Scanning for Land Surveyors" workshop which he made at this years CLSA/NALS conference.  
- Tony Grissam has over 20 years of experience in the field of land surveying and has spent the past five years pioneering the use of 3D laser scanning for civil engineering and land surveying applications. He is the Major Account Manager for Cyra Technologies, a Leica Geosystems company .

---

**REGISTRATION FOR 2003 MINI-SEMINARS**

SD CLSA Members:                 \$15 for each Mini-Seminar, \$50 for all five Mini-Seminars  
Non-Chapter Members:           \$20 for each Mini-Seminar, \$75 for all five Mini-Seminars  
(Non-Chapter members may send a \$45 check for local chapter membership (\$15 for the rest of 2003 + \$30 for all of 2004) and then may pay the members rate for the Mini-Seminars.)

I would like to attend the following seminars: (circle all that apply)  
          ALL           16 OCT           23 OCT           6 NOV           13 NOV           20 NOV

AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All seminars begin at 6:15 SHARP at Caltrans, 2829 Juan St, San Diego.

A Certificate of Completion will be given to those who attend at least 4 mini-seminars.  
Make checks payable to SD CLSA and send with registration form to  
Don Woolley, 5620 Friars Road, San Diego, CA 92110.

We are looking forward to having a great turnout. Please email me at [dwoolley@rickeng.com](mailto:dwoolley@rickeng.com) your intention to attend so that I can get an accurate headcount. See you there.