

The UCLS Newsletter



*The UCLS Newsletter
is published monthly by the*

**Utah Council of
Land Surveyors**

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2.....Board & Committee
Page 3.....NCEES Testing Changes
Page 4.....NSPS Fall 2012 Report
Page 5.....Committee & Chapter
Reports
Page 6.....Engineering Surveys
Page 7.....Von Hill Interview
Page 8.....Hill Begins NCEES Term
Page 9.....UCLS 2012 Conference
Page 10.....Dastardly Deed

“It’s a great day to be a surveyor”
-John Matonich,
NSPS Joint Government Affairs
Committee Chair



What is it

Prior to Electronic Distance Meters, GPS receivers and total stations, the above tool was used to perform a surveying function. The first member who responds, correctly identifies the tool, and describes its purpose may be rewarded with a free meal at your next chapter meeting.

Answers and/or guesses may be emailed to mail@ucls.org or smerrill@ucls.org
the winner will be determined by the earliest received date and time response.

In This Issue: Von Hill just completed his second term as the surveyor representative on the DOPL licensing board. However, his service to the surveying profession is not yet complete-read about his NCEES assignment. This edition includes the latest news on the 2013 UCLS conference, a bio from the Roger Monsen Scholarship recipient, and an update on the ACSM dissolution. Additionally, you will find the latest chapter and committee reports. If a committee or chapter report is not included in this Newsletter, please contact the respective chapter president or committee chair for more information.

Do you have a picture to share? We invite you to share charismatic photos of yourself and/or coworker, panoramic images of Utah’s scenic wonders, or pictures of survey related tools and equipment. We need your contributions and suggestions. Remember, if you do not participate you have no right to complain. Please let us know your thoughts, recommendations, ideas, and/or complaints.

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Contributions are encouraged. Articles, Advertisements, Pictures, and Comments may be submitted to UCLS at mail@UCLS.org

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NCEES approves expanding computer-based testing to PE, PS exams at 2012 annual meeting

August 31, 2012

The state licensing boards that compose NCEES, the organization that develops and administers the exams used for engineering and surveying licensure throughout the United States, have voted to begin converting the PE and PS exams to a computer-based format.

The unanimous decision was made during the 2012 NCEES annual meeting, held August 22-25 in St. Louis Missouri. It follows a 2010 decision to convert the FE and FS exams to computer-based testing, a transition that will be completed in January 2014.

The PE exams will be converted to CBT in 2015 at the earliest, but as NCEES Executive Director Jerry Carter explained, the transition will be paced for each exam. "We offer 25 different PE exams in 17 different engineering disciplines, and NCEES will review each exam individually to determine what it needs to move to CBT," he said. "The language approved by the Council is at the earliest feasible date, and NCEES will move carefully and deliberately with each conversion to ensure that the exam continues to reliably measure professional competence."

There is no set time for converting the PS exam to a computer-based administration, but Carter explained that NCEES wants to gain experience with computer-based testing for the FE and FS exams before it moves another exam to the new format.

While recognizing the effort involved in converting an exam to computer-based format, Carter also noted the advantages, including greater scheduling flexibility for candidates, more uniformity in testing conditions, and enhanced security for exam content.

The PE or PS exam is typically the last step in the engineering or surveying licensure process. Licensure candidates who pass the FE or FS exam and meet education and work experience requirements must pass the PE or PS exam to become eligible for licensure as a professional engineer or professional surveyor.

Over 25,000 candidates took the PE exam in the past year, which included October and April administrations. Over 1,200 examinees took the PS exam during the same period.

NCEES focuses on industrial exemptions

Among other actions taken at the annual meeting, NCEES member boards expressed their support for strengthening licensure's protections by applying them toward engineered products and systems. They approved an amendment to the NCEES *Model Law* to require responsible charge of a licensed engineer over the engineering design of buildings, structures, products, machines, processes, and systems that can affect the public health, safety and welfare.

The amendment is a response to provisions in many state laws, known as industrial exemptions, that exempt firms that manufacture products from requiring a P.E. to oversee their design.

"The newly added requirement is subject to implementation at the state level," Carter said. "But adding it to the *Model Law*-which serves as a best-practice model for state laws- demonstrates the boards' commitment to protecting the American public."

Newly installed president Gene Dinkins, P.E., P.L.S., has appointed a task force for the coming year to study which U.S. jurisdictions have industrial exemptions and to develop discussion points that state licensing boards can use to begin talks with their legislators about eliminating these types of exemptions.

Full details on all motions considered during the annual meeting will be included in the official minutes, which will be published later this year.

Contact

For more information, contact NCEES Executive Director Jerry Carter at 864-654-6824.



National Society of Professional Surveyors

Fall 2012 Report

By: Steve Keisel

As they say in the movies - it is a done deal! The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) have acquired all rights, interests and liabilities of the American Congress of Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). Legal papers were filed in Maryland and the District of Columbia and the corporate office moved to Frederick, Maryland.

The NSPS is undergoing radical changes to re-establish itself while adhering to its mission statement; "NSPS strives to establish and further common interests, objectives, and political effort that would help bind the surveying profession into a unified body in the United States." Most of these changes were driven by drastically reduced income due to dwindling membership and a sluggish economy. Throughout the ACSM dissolution, NSPS consistently met both theirs and ACSM obligations and responsibilities. Additionally, NSPS continued to provide quality products and services for all surveyors and mappers - regardless of their membership or society affiliation. NSPS has tightened its financial belt and anticipates a monthly savings by:

- moving corporate office to Frederick \$2,100
- onsite storage at corporate office \$330
- converting two full time to two part time positions \$4,000
- eliminating and Administrator position \$5,700
- changing employee life and health insurance \$430
- electronic distribution of magazine \$980
- office supply incentive program \$430

If I was compensated with a dollar for every time I'm asked "what does NSPS do for me" I could probably afford a European vacation. Nevertheless, the following is a brief summary of what NSPS does for me:

- Provide a strong national legislative and regulatory voice (think lightsquared)
- Protect the future of surveying when working with allied professions
- Academic accreditation (ABET)
- Real estate settlement (RESPA)
- Joint Governmental Affairs Program
- Partnership in Government (NGS, USGS, NOAA, BLM, FEMA, FIG, NAFTA)
- Informative website
- PBS Show - Spotlight on Surveying
- Weekly Radio Show with Curt Sumner
- ALTA Standards
- Student Competition Programs
- National Surveyor's Week
- Trig Star Program
- NCEES Exam Prep Review
- Surveyor's speaker kit
- Insurance Program Discounts
- Scholarships
- Certification Programs (CST, CFED's Hydrographic, ALTA)
- Model Standards
- Publications (News and Events, SaLis)
- Stolen Instrument Bulletin Board
- Reduced Cost for Books
- Relationship with Vendors and Suppliers
- Organized Lobby Day with Congressional and Senate Leadership

During the fall 2012 meetings, NSPS Governors and Directors met with our Congressional and Senatorial leadership. These meetings provided opportunities to discuss survey and mapping related concerns with our nation's leaders. Specifically, GPS Interference Prevention, H.R. 4233 - Map it Once, use it many times act, Federal Prison Industries Competition in Contracting Act, Appropriations of the NSPS Trig-Star Program, and the Federal Land Survey and Height Modernization programs were presented. Although many senators and congressmen were unavailable, we did meet with their staff to promote our cause and to voice our concerns.

Approximately 8-12% of state surveying association members (including UCLS) is a member of NSPS. In future newsletters, you will learn about NSPS's 100% membership program - a program that will enhance your membership, benefit the state societies, and strengthen the NSPS.

April 2012 Pass Rates

FE EXAM

FE pass rates for examinees who attended EAC/ABET - accredited engineering programs:

Exam First-Time Repeat

Module Takers Takers

Chemical 85% 45%
Civil 72% 28%
Electrical 75% 32%
Environmental 82% 47%
Industrial 75% 50%
Mechanical 86% 49%

PE EXAM

Exam First-Time Repeat

Takers Takers

Chemical 74% 31%
Civil 70% 39%
Electrical/Computer 61% 32%
Environmental 59% 32%
Industrial* 66% 24%
Mechanical 74% 38%

SURVEYING EXAMS

Exam First-Time Repeat

Takers Takers

FS 71% 33%
PS 74% 37%

Announcement

Steve and Carol Keisel are excited to announce the birth of their fifth grandchild and first grandson, David Michael Hoffman. David was born on September 7, 2012 in American Fork Utah. He came into the world 18 inches long and weighting 7.1 pounds. Parents of the baby are Robb and Alisha Hoffman. Both Mom and baby are doing well.



Committee and Chapter Reports

Workshop & Convention Committee

By: Scott Bishop

I would like to thank everyone for supporting the Fall Forum this year, I am sure that I can speak for the more than 100 in attendance when I say it was a great event. I would especially like to thank all of the Utah BLM staff for their support. Their presentations were excellent and very informative. I would also like to thank UVU for hosting the event. Considering that this was their first time, things went rather smoothly. If you did get a parking ticket please send them to Dan Perry at the UVU Geomatics program.

If you didn't make it to the Fall Forum you missed out on some great information, and even better door prizes. You should check out UVU's Geomatics web site. They have a couple of short videos that are very interesting.

We are already working with SLCC to set a date for next year's Fall Forum and are looking forward to seeing everyone at the convention in Salt Lake City.

Publication Committee

By: Steve Keisel

The publication committee continues to solicit input and contributions from the UCLS membership but responses have been few. However reports by chapter presidents and committee chairs are always informative and greatly appreciated.

Do you have an amazing photo; an interesting description; an unusual work request; a favorite restaurant or destination; an employee or supervisor to recognize; a unique tool or technique; or a simple announcement that might be shared with our members? Please consider contributing.

Salt Lake Chapter

By: David Mortensen

I hope everyone enjoyed the Fall Forum. Thanks to all those at UVU, the Convention Committee, the presenters from the BLM and Susan Merrill for providing such a good learning experience for those that attended. We are looking forward to a good fall with meetings in the Salt Lake Chapter at Joe Morley's BBQ in Midvale (the usual spot). On October 18th we will be hearing from a panel of professionals dealing with GIS in our area. We will also begin our process of nominating Surveyors to receive the life time achievement award, the Surveyor of the Year award and to be UCLS officers. Ryan Atkinson from Monsen Engineering will be presenting a couple of door prizes. On November 15th we will be hearing from David Eaton, with Ameriprise Financial on the Economic Outlook and Business Finance options. We hope you all have had a good September and look forward to seeing you over the next few months.

Engineering Surveys

The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) wishes to engage in dialog with NCEES, and requests that NCEES reconsider its use of the term “Engineering Surveys”.

For your consideration, attached is a motion presented by the NSPS Board of Governors, and approved by the NSPS Board of Directors at its Spring 2012 meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, requesting that NSPS petition NCEES to remove the term “Engineering Surveys” and its definition from the NCEES Model Laws, Chapter 110.20 Definitions, Section A, Paragraph 5.

NSPS understands that NCEES has guidelines for addressing issues brought before it, and requests that this petition from NSPS be considered through this process, allowing NSPS as a member of the NCEES Participation Organizations Liaison Council (POLC) to participate in discussions related to the topic.

As is detailed in the attached motion, there are several reasons that are germane to the requested removal. Among these, we emphasize the mission of NCEES to protect the public through a licensing process which demonstrates a standard of competency in both engineering and surveying practices. Further, each professional member of NSPS, as a professional surveyor, has an ethical responsibility to also ensure and protect the public welfare. That said, we believe it is our duty as professionals to express our concerns regarding this matter.

Over time, all of the components of surveying, not just “boundary surveying” have become technically more demanding. At the same time, the need for reasoned judgment and nuanced decision making has become increasingly pervasive, and again not just within “boundary surveying” but throughout the broadest definition of surveying practice. This comes at a time when the breadth and the technical demands of modern engineering have also expanded. Engineering curricula have been adjusted accordingly. The unfortunate result is that engineering curricula have minimized emphasis on surveying principals at the same time surveying has become more technical and nuanced in all its forms.

In this circumstance, NSPS believes that we all should approach with great caution any actions that could potentially dilute or blur the standards of competency used to determine the scope of the practice of both surveying and engineering. NSPS, through its affiliates, the state surveying societies, has witnessed a national trend that would lead to just such a dilution, through the use of the term “engineering surveys”, to blur the definition between the scope of engineering and the scope of surveying. Several state legislatures have initiated legislation that would use this term to broaden the scope of engineering into practices that are, in the best public interest, left in the hands of surveying professionals who have been trained, educated and tested for competency in such practices.

It is our suggestion that the term “engineering survey” and its definition be removed from the Model Law. We believe this be an appropriate means to ensure the public safety without impeding commerce in any way it is not currently affected. There are no laws we are aware of that bar corporations or individuals from offering multi-disciplined practice for which there is demonstrated competence, nor laws that would prevent an individual from holding joint licenses, thus demonstrating competency in all areas of professional practice in which one engages.

Trevor Jensen Roger Monsen Scholarship Recipient

Trevor Jensen was born in 1984 in Provo, Utah and grew up in Lindon, graduating from Pleasant Grove High School in 2003 with a 3.92 GPA. He attended college at Utah State University majoring in Mathematics and Statistics. During this time he was called to serve a mission to Quito, Ecuador on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and today speaks fluent Spanish. Upon his return Trevor continued his education at USU where he met and married Brooke Moore in 2008. His father-in-law, Chris Moore, a surveyor here in the State, began talking with him about the surveying profession and although Trevor had transferred to Utah Valley University majoring in Math Education he really started to think about making a career change. He liked the idea of using his math skills in solving puzzles, working through problems, and just making things work together. Trevor began taking many of the required Geomatics courses at UVU even prior to the Bachelor’s degree program being approved in 2010. Trevor has been an outstanding student and is expected to graduate with a 3.90 GPS in Geomatics in the Spring of 2013, being one of UVU’s first Geomatics Bachelor of Science graduates.



Von Hill Interview - NCEES Western Zone Vice President

Why do you want to serve as Western Zone Vice President?

I want to serve as zone vice president in part because people I greatly respect asked me to. I want to encourage licensure by extolling the benefits to the licensee and the public and not by merely making it a legislative requirement. We need to reach out to the academic community and make sure they are on our side. I enjoy serving in the profession and in the community.

What insights from your professional experience do you bring to this office?

I have worked with the legislature and understand the legislative process. I know that you rarely get everything you want and you have to be able to adjust. The public and the legislature largely don't understand what we do. It is our responsibility to educate them and gain their confidence. We need to be able to look at things from their perspective.

What issues or goals do you want to focus on during your term?

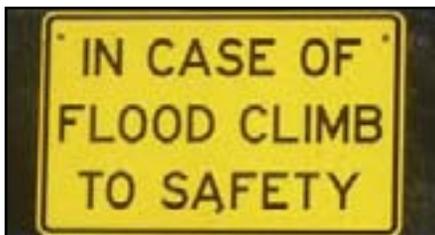
I would like to accelerate the process of requiring mandatory education for licensure as a professional surveyor. I would like to continue to do all we can to have the academic community be licensed and have them encourage licensure. Also, we must make sure that the model laws and rules that we propose are relevant, make sense, and are attainable. Lastly, we need to seriously look at how to best use the financial resources of our organization.

How can NCEES most effectively advance licensure and increase the number of people pursuing engineering and surveying licensure?

Convince the public and legislature that licensure of professionals is in their best interest. Our professions need to continue to promote ourselves. Encourage the academic community.

Von Hill, P.S. Utah Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Board

NCEES Experience; Committee on Finances Chair (2011-12) and member (2010-11), Committee on Nominations Member (2010-11), Evaluations of Applications Task Force Member (2009-11), Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors Member (2005-09), Special Task Force on Governance Member (2007-08), Surveying Exam Development Committee Volunteer (2005-12).



Questions That Haunt Me

- Why does a round pizza come in a square box?
- Once you are in heaven, are you stuck wearing that uncomfortable suit that you were buried in for eternity?
- What disease did cured ham have?
- How is it that we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?
- Why is it that people say that they, "slept like a baby" when babies wake up crying every couple hours?
- If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?
- Why do doctors leave the room while you remove your clothes? They are going to see you naked anyway.
- Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in a carpool lane?
- If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in the boat?
- Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- If the cartoon character Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all of the ACME crap to destroy the Road Runner, why didn't he just buy dinner?

September Where Is It

The monument marking the interior corner of Utah/Southwest corner of Wyoming was correctly identified by the following UCLS members:

1st Jerry Timmins, UDOT

2nd Ernest Rowley, Weber County Surveyor/Recorder

3rd Paul N. Scherbel

This sandstone monument was originally set on November 14, 1873 by U.S. Astronomer and Surveyor A. V. Richards, to delineate the intersection of the forty-first parallel of north latitude with the thirty-fourth degree of west longitude. In 1996, federal, state, and local organizations coordinated to set a plaque to memorialize the history of the monument.



Do You Know the Law?

Utah Code 17-23-14

(1) Any person who finds it necessary to disturb an established corner in the improvement of a road, or for any other cause, or finds a monument which needs rehabilitation, shall notify the county surveyor.

Utah Code 17-23-15

(1) No person shall willfully or negligently remove, destroy, or deface any government survey monument, corner, or witness corner.

(2) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor and is additionally responsible for:

- (a) the costs of any necessary legal action; and
- (b) the costs of reestablishing the survey monument, corner, or witness corner.

Hill begins term as NCEES Western Zone vice president

Von Hill, P.S., recently received his commission as NCEES Western Zone vice president at the 91st NCEES annual meeting, held August 22-25 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was elected to the position by delegates from the Western Zone during their interim meeting in May 2012. As vice president, Hill will serve on the NCEES board of directors and as the zone's administrative officer through 2014.

A resident of Bountiful, Utah, Hill has been a member of the Utah Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors Board since 2004. He is the current vice chair of the board and a former chair. He has served on a number of NCEES committees, including chairing the 2011-12 Committee on Finances.

Hill has been a licensed professional surveyor since 1985. He is president and co-owner of Hill and Argyle, Inc., a firm providing civil engineering and surveying services in Utah and Idaho.

Hill holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Utah State University and a master's of business administration from Thunderbird School of Global Management. He is a member of the Utah Council of Land Surveyors and a past president of the organization's Salt Lake chapter, as well as a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Utah.

ABOUT NCEES

NCEES is a national nonprofit organization composed of engineering and surveying licensing boards representing all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. An accredited standards developer with the American National Standards Institute, NCEES develops, scores, and administers the examinations used for engineering and surveying licenser throughout the United States. NCEES also provides services facilitating professional mobility for licensed engineers and surveyors. Its headquarters is located in Clemson, S.C.





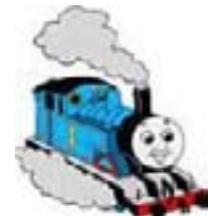
“ARE WE TRAINING OUR SURVEYORS RIGHT OR RITE”



The UCLS Convention Committee is pleased to announce the location and date for the UCLS Annual Convention for 2013 which will be held at the South Towne Expo Center, 9575 South State Street, Sandy, Utah on February 26 – 28, 2013.

We have moved the convention up north to involve our sister agencies and as many of our out-of-state organizations as would like to come. You will notice that we have expanded this year's convention by an extra day and will be starting on Tuesday and concluding Thursday afternoon. We are very happy to announce the NSPS Student Competition will also be joining us at our convention.

Our keynote speaker for the conference will be Charlie Tucker. Charlie provided a brief presentation last year on Rail Road Surveying and he has agreed to come back and provide an encore presentation to us.



In addition to Charlie some of the featured speakers will be centered on property and water rights and surveying right in Utah. We are pleased to have Assistant Attorney General Charles Stormont, The Office of the Property Rights Ombudsman – Brent Bateman, Water Rights, Surveying/Machine Grading, Field to Finish as well as several other wonderful breakout sessions.



We will be having the scholarship auction once again to help our students and upcoming Professionals. There are Totally Awesome door prizes. We have arranged a Hospitality Suite for Tuesday night right after our first sessions. So come be wowed, learn a lot and look for more information as the convention gets closer.

Questions That Haunt Me

- Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune? Why did you just try singing both of those two songs?
- Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a ride in the car, he wants to stick his head out the window so the wind will blow in his face?
- Why do toasters even have a setting that burns toast to a horrible black crisp, which no human being can eat?
- If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about it?
- Why are you IN a movie, but you are ON television?
- Why do people pay to go up in tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?
- Why do you have to “put your two cents in”...But only get back, “a penny for your thoughts”? Who gets all those extra pennies?

Dastardly Deed

Our thanks to Ernest Rowley
Weber County Recorder/Surveyor, who shared this deed

Esther Freborg
TO
Weber County

Filed for Record and Recorded July 22 A.D. 1897
at 1:15 o'clock P.M.
F. J. Handershat County Recorder.
By David M. Maltman Deputy Recorder.

Quit Claim WARRANTY DEED.
Esther Freborg

Grantor of Lincoln City Weber County State of Utah hereby
conveys and warrants to Quit Claims to Weber County State of Utah

Grantee of City County for the
sum of One DOLLARS
the following described tract of land in Weber County State of Utah
it part of the south east quarter section 22 T5N-R1W-S2M the same
being a tract of land for public roads and is fully shown on map following this description and
which is made a part of this deed said tract of land containing 4.57 acres Reserving the right to strike the
water should ~~struck~~ be struck on this right of way

May of May A.D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven

Signed in the presence of
J. W. Stewart

Esther Freborg

State of Utah
County of Salt Lake County

On the 27 day of May A.D. 1897
personally appeared before me Esther Freborg

the Signer of the above instrument, who duly acknowledged to me that she executed the same