



BOY SCOUT SURVEYING MERIT BADGE

L'ARPELITEUR LOUISIANE

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Special Thanks to our Contributing Writers.

Articles submitted will be considered for publication and should be emailed to: lsps@bellsouth.net. Please contact the office with any questions.

The *L'Arpeur Louisiane* is published quarterly as a service to the members of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors. As stated in the LSPS Articles of Incorporation, the LSPS is "organized for the following purposes and to carry out the same:

Enhancing the status of the Land Surveying Profession by:

- 1) Maintaining high technical and cultural standards for entrance to the Society.
- 2) Cooperating with educational institutions in the maintenance of high standards of education in Land Surveying.
- 3) Requiring a high standard of ethical practice by members of the Society.
- 4) Aiding in the adoption of high standard of attainment for the granting of the legal right to practice Professional Land Surveying.
- 5) Fostering among students of Land Surveying the study of philosophy and history, tradition and achievement, duties and social functions of the Land Surveying Profession.
- 6) Encouraging the personal and professional development of young Land Surveyors.
- 7) Supporting activities looking to the increased employment of Land Surveyors and seeking new opportunities for service in Land Surveying."



LSPS ADVERTISING RATES:

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*Prices apply to camera-ready copy.
A charge will be added for creation of an ad or art work.*



PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE



James B. Pellegrin, PLS
LSPS President

Hello fellow Surveyors. I recently had a chance to participate in career day for Terrebonne Parish Public Schools. I spoke to all tenth grade high school students enrolled in the four public high schools in Terrebonne Parish. The students were grouped by class – about twenty to thirty students per group. I spoke to almost sixty groups over the course of two days. The students traveled between booths set up by local businesses to learn about the different educational and employment opportunities available in our Parish. Each booth had less than ten minutes to talk to each group, but I feel that I was able to communicate the basics of what Surveyors do. I outlined the employment opportunities that surveying could provide and the education required to work as part of a field survey crew, CADD technician, and Professional Land Surveyor. I also set up a total station and RTK GPS unit and explained the basics of some of the technology we use in surveying. In Terrebonne Parish, tenth grade students must decide whether they are on a college or non-college path and schedule high school courses accordingly. The career day hopefully helps these tenth grade students to decide on a direction to take after they graduate.

While I could see that some of the students were clearly not interested in surveying, others expressed interest and asked for more information. We had pamphlets outlining some general information on surveying and the career opportunities our profession can afford that we provided to the students. This was a great way to recruit young people into Surveying as a career. It also was a way to educate members of the public on what Surveyors are and what we do. As a Surveyor, I feel that most of the general public has very little understanding of what surveying is about. They are unaware that we are professionals in our field and are governed by a state board and must be licensed, and have strict education and continuing education requirements to practice our profession. If any LSPS members know of similar programs, please contact the LSPS office and hopefully we can provide a licensed PLS to promote our profession.

On a different note, LSPS voting members will be receiving a ballot in the mail on the proposed LSPS dues increases. This ballot affects each LSPS member directly and I urge each of you to cast your vote for or against the dues increase and return it to LSPS. The LSPS board has made a great effort to notify and educate our membership on this issue. If you feel you need more information on this matter, please contact your district chairman or the LSPS office and we will do our best to answer your questions.

District 6 recently hosted the Fall Technical Session in Baton Rouge on October 26th. It was very successful and thanks go out to all those involved in preparing and hosting this event. Don't forget that the 2013 Convention Cruise hosted by District 1 will set sail March 3rd from New Orleans for Key West and the Bahamas. Toni McGrath with "Vacations by Crown" can answer any questions and will handle all the cruise booking arrangements. Contact her at toni@crowntourtravelinc.com or 504/378-8110.

I would like to thank two LSPS district chairmen for their work recently on issues that are affecting our profession. Mr. Ricardo Johnson of District 3 has been monitoring and reporting on the issues surrounding the release of the 2012 Geoid model by NGS. Through his efforts, LSPS was able to inform our membership of potential problems related to the new Geoid. Mr. Gerald Fussell of District 4 has been involved with the La. One Call system and enforcement of the One Call laws by the La. State Police. Gerald has been meeting with One Call and State Police representatives to determine how these laws impact Surveyors. This is an issue that LSPS will continue to be involved with. Please read Gerald's article in this issue of *L'Arpenteur* for more information.

Also, congratulations to David Patterson on his appointment to the LAPELS board. Mr. Patterson was recently selected by Governor Jindal to represent Louisiana Professional Surveyors on the LAPELS board and I know he will do his best to represent the interests of our profession. I know that appointment to the board represents a significant time commitment and personal sacrifice. David is replacing current LAPELS board member Tim Allen. Mr. Allen has done an outstanding job serving on the LAPELS board and I can't thank him enough for the many years he has given to our profession. We were truly well represented during his term on the board.

Again, please remember that all LSPS members are encouraged and entitled to participate in our Society. You can contribute greatly to the success and effectiveness of LSPS by serving on one or more of the LSPS standing committees. Please visit the LSPS website at www.lsp.net for a list of our standing committees. If you are interested in joining or in forming a committee, please contact the LSPS office for more information.



BOY SCOUT SURVEYING MERIT BADGE

On Saturday morning, October 13, 2014, Riverlands Surveying Company (RSC) had the pleasure of hosting a session for the Boy Scout Survey Merit badge to the members of Troop 406 from LaPlace, LA. On hand to lead the troop were Scout Master Bill McClung and his leader Chuck Watkins. For Riverlands Surveying Company, the field instructors included Stephen Flynn, P.L.S., Cody DiMarco, P.L.S., and Travis Trosclair, Project Manager. In this article, we will describe the structure of our day and the benefits earned by all participants.

Prior to our Saturday field outing, Leader Watkins went over the surveying merit badge booklet covering the many surveying terms and instructions with the troop at a regular scout meeting. His briefing the troop before the Saturday session allowed the RSC group to concentrate strictly on the traversing and data processing.



At 8 a.m., the troop and the surveyors gathered at the RSC office in LaPlace. We quickly divided into groups and each survey party began to measure the traverse in the parking lot. Each survey party did the following tasks:

FIELD SURVEY

1. Begin the field notes by drawing the approximate traverse figure
2. With a cloth tape, measure each length to the 0.01' of a foot
3. Set up an instrument on each point and traverse the figure in a clockwise direction (the scouts learned to add angles for the polygon for check and closure)
4. Set up a robotic instrument on a random traverse point and shoot the points of the polygon
5. Use the GPS system to locate the points of the polygon
6. Use the GPS system to locate a point set by Cody DiMarco a couple of hundred feet away
7. Using a level and rod demonstrate how elevations are transferred from point to point

OFFICE – DRAFTING

1. Compare each group's taped distances explaining types of error
2. Add the angles of the polygon and check for closure $((N-2)180)$
3. The robotic demonstration was to show that we do not have to occupy all points to locate points.
4. The teaching moment for the GPS demo was to show that the linear measurements on the smaller polygon are the least precise.
5. The level loop led to an interesting discussion about sea level and elevations in our community

During the last thirty minutes of the session, the RSC group shared their experiences as survey professionals, the history of the profession, and the future opportunities in the field. Both groups agreed to meet again to review final results. On behalf of the Riverlands Surveying Company group, we appreciated the opportunity afforded us by Troop 406, and we look forward to offering the survey merit badge program again. Personally, I want to thank Wayne Hebert, P.L.S. for his passion for scouting and the survey merit badge. I believe his enthusiasm for the program in past years was our motivation to host the program this year.



LSPS & DISTRICT 4 PRESENT THE LSPS ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING SEMINAR!

The 2013 LSPS State convention is sailing soon to the Bahamas in March 2013! To sign up and for general information, contact Toni McGrath at Crown Travel – 504/378-8110 or toni@crowntourtravelinc.com.

The “LSPS Annual General Business Meeting” will be held separately. At the June board meeting, District 4 agreed to move the winter seminar (normally held in January), to the following April. The dates chosen for the event are April 25th, 26th and hopefully the 27th, 2013.

The Seminar will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Shreveport. The Clarion is located at 1419 E. 70th Street, Shreveport. A small number of rooms have been reserved at a rate of \$89.00 + tax. Contact the Clarion at 318/797-9900 to make reservations. The room reservation cut-off date is April 4, 2013.

On Thursday, April 25th, there will be an Icebreaker with light Hors d'oeuvres from 5:00-6:00p.m., followed by one hour of Ethics and two hours on Standards of Practice (3 pdh's total).

Friday the 26th will run 8:00-5:00, with presentations by NGS on the OPUS Projects, the LSPS Annual Meeting at lunch, and filling out the day on the Louisiana-Texas Boundary (8 pdh's total).

On Saturday April 27th with weather permitting, a field trip is planned to recover some of the monuments on the LA-TX Boundary and tie them down with GPS. (4-8 pdh's possible). A separate fee will be charged for Saturday which would be refunded if the event is rained out.

The Registration form and schedule will be mailed in early 2013, and will be available in the February issue of the *L'Arpenteur Louisiane*.

Chairman Gerald Fussell wants to remind surveyors that for those renewing their license at the end of March 2013, there will not be a seminar in Shreveport in January 2013.

Check the LSPS website, www.lsp.net for updates to the April Seminar!

LSPS ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATION

We are seeking nominations for the LSPS Surveyor Excellence Award and the Life Member Award. Please review these specific considerations:

Life Member:

1. Must be LSPS Member of long standing, i.e. 25 years or more.
2. Must have actively contributed to the growth of LSPS during his career (e.g., may served as officer or director of LSPS), but need not be active at the time of nomination.
3. Should enjoy an outstanding reputation for his knowledge, integrity and professional competence, especially among the members of his District.

Surveyor Excellence Award:

1. Must be registered member of LSPS.
2. Must have taken an active and continuous role in contributing to the growth and advancement of both LSPS and the surveying profession (e.g., may have served as an officer or director of LSPS, may have served as a member of the State Registration Board or as an office or director of national surveying organizations).
3. Nominees should presently be actively involved in the operation of LSPS, as evidenced by attendance at chapter meetings and annual meetings, by serving on LSPS committees, etc.
4. Nominee should enjoy an outstanding reputation for his knowledge, integrity and professional competency, especially among the members of his district.

The Board of Directors of LSPS may choose to honor one or more members of the Society at the LSPS annual meeting. Presentation on an annual award is not mandatory. Any of the awards discussed herein may be presented to a single individual, may be awarded to more than one individual or, in some years, may not be awarded at all. A list of past recipients of these awards can be viewed at www.lsp.net.

Nominations may be submitted by any member of LSPS, **but should not be submitted by relatives or business associates.** Please submit your nomination to LSPS no later than December 28, 2012.

LA ONE CALL

District 4 had a meeting with Mr. David Frey, Executive Director of LA One Call, on October 4, 2012 in Bossier City. Mr. Frey stated that the LA One Call was begun in the mid 1970's as DOTTIE. In 1988, the Louisiana Underground Utilities and Facilities Damage Prevention Law was passed and amended in 1992, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2006, 2010, 2011, and 2012. In 1988 it became the LA One Call. It began with 78 members in 1988 and now has over 1000 members.

The law can be found at the webpage of LA One Call at www.laonecall.com by clicking State Law and is also available on the Louisiana Legislature's website.

The purpose is to promote the protection of property, workmen, and citizens in the immediate vicinity of an underground facility or utility from damage, injury, or death and to promote the health and well-being of the community by preventing the interruption of essential services which may result from the destruction of or damage to, underground facilities or utilities.

Excavation is defined in the law under article 1749.12 as "Excavation "or "excavate" means any operation for the purpose of movement or removal of earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground by the use of powered or mechanical or manual means, including pile driving, digging, blasting, auguring, boring, backfilling, dredging, compressing, plowing-in, trenching, ditching, tunneling, land-leveling, grading, and mechanical probing. "Excavation" or "excavate" shall not include manual probing.

Article 1749.13 Excavation and demolition: prohibitions.

- A. Except as provided in this Section, no person shall excavate or demolish in any street, highway, public place or servitude of any operator, or near the location of an underground utility or facility or on the premises of a customer served by an underground utility or facility without having first ascertained in the manner prescribed in Subsection B of this Section, the specific location as provided in R.S. 40:1749.14(D) of all underground utilities or facilities in the area which would be affected by the proposed excavation or demolition. Please note the phrase **"or on the premises of a customer served by an underground utility or facility"**. **This means private property that we are surveying if there is a possibility of underground facilities being present.**
- B. (1) Except as provided in R.S. 40:1749.15, prior to any excavation or demolition, each excavator or

demolisher shall serve telephonic or electronic notice of the intent to excavate or demolish to the regional notification center or centers serving the area in which the proposed excavation or demolition is to take place. Such notice shall be given to the notification, LA One Call, center at least two full business days prior to beginning work but not more than 120 hours, excluding weekends and holidays.

- C. This part shall not apply to activities by operators or land owners excavating their own underground utilities or facilities on their own property or operators' exclusive right-of-way provided there is no encroachment on the right-of-way of any operator.

Much discussion was held on the definition of excavation, making requests to La One Call Center to excavate, and how this applies to Surveyors. By strict interpretation of the law, anytime we search for a property corner with anything other than a manual probe, this is excavation. Anytime we drive a wood stake, nail, or iron rod, pipe or similar material in the ground, this is excavation. Even driving on the property with a vehicle is excavating under this definition due to compression of the soil by the tires.

Therefore, under Section B, we need to notify the LA One Call Center and request a ticket to locate the underground facilities. Some discussion ensued on how to describe the area we will be surveying and what happens if the field crew needs to expand the search area due to not finding enough corners to complete the survey. We have two options: 1) identify and make the original area of sufficient size to anticipate the necessity of expanding the search area, such as additional lots in a subdivision or additional sections for a rural survey 2) Suspend field surveying until a new ticket can be obtained for the LA One Call Center covering the additional area to be surveyed. This would require a two business day notice and delay the field survey operations for at least two days.

It was noted that not many citations of violations, for failing to notify the Call Center, had been written by the Louisiana State Police until recently. Within the last several months the number of citations has increased dramatically, as evidenced by reports received. It is apparent from these reports that a strict interpretation of the law is being enforced. It is similar to being given a speeding ticket for going 56 miles per hour in a 55 MPH zone. Going 56 MPH is very different from doing 90 MPH, but yet a ticket could be issued for the 56 MPH if a strict enforcement is made.

According to comments made at the meeting, the increase in citations is due to the fact that the State Police received a grant for overtime pay for personnel to monitor and enforce the violations. It was also pointed out that if lines for natural gas or similar materials are in the area of violation the fine increases due to hazardous materials being present.

It was pointed out that not only Surveyors are subject to fines, but also Real Estate Agents for driving stakes placing "For Sale" signs, others erecting political signs and garage sale signs, plumbers, home builders, brick masons (for shoveling dirt to level a scaffold), irrigation contractors, just to name a few.

It should be noted, that from our experience, request to the LA One Call Center for the location of utilities for a topographic survey resulted in little or no response by the Utility Company. On numerous occasions when the locators for the underground utility companies discovered that the request was for a topo survey they did not locate the facilities even after a second request and/or phone call.

In my career of fifty years as a Surveyor, I am personally aware of only one time that an iron rod driven in the ground, to mark a property corner, hit a water line. The water company sent a bill for repairs to the owner of the survey company. A response letter was sent to the water company, stating that the water line was neither in the proper location nor at the proper depth. The water company responded by threatening to shut off the water serving the house of the owner of the survey company.

Permission was granted to use the following article from the "eNews Digest" Weekly News & information for Realtors, dated Monday, October 15, 2012:

Clarification of Louisiana One Call Sign Issue

On October 10, 2012 representatives of the Louisiana REALTORS® Association met with Colonel Mike Edmonson, Major Adam White and Other Representatives of the Louisiana State Police to clarify the "one call" issue. State Police advised that the intent of the one call law is the protection of public safety and property. State Police does not believe the placement of REALTOR® for sale signs or other marketing signs placed in the ground by hand or with a small mallet pose a public safety issue and for this reason LA One Call does not need to be contacted. State Police will not issue tickets for the placement of these types of signs for failure to contact LA One Call.

However, if you are placing a large sign which requires the use of a post-hole digger, auger, or other equipment, you will need to call LA One Call prior to beginning your digging.

Any small signs already placed on a property do not need to be removed and LA One Call does not need to be notified about the placement of these signs.

State Police requested that the Louisiana REALTORS® Association act as an intermediary with regards to any tickets issued for the placement of small yard signs. If you or someone you know has been issued a ticket for the placement of a small sign please contact Norman Morris at norman@larealtors.org

A meeting with District 4 and Mr. Gene Dunegan, Program Manager Emergency Services Unit of the Louisiana State Police, was held on November 1, 2012 in Bossier City. Mr. Dunegan gave a Power Point presentation on the law and the role that the State Police has in the enforcement, which is when hazardous materials are involved. Mr. Dunegan stated that a number of Police personnel had retired and were replaced by younger and eager troopers who wanted to impress their superiors by issuing tickets of violation of the La One Call laws. However, due to numerous complaints and even getting Legislators involved, the State Police have gone from a PROACTIVE to REACTIVE approach. This means that you will not be issued a violation ticket for not calling La One Call. However, the definition of EXCAVATION has not change. If you damage an underground utility and you do not have a La One Call ticket, you will be responsible for the damage to the utility facility and probably will be issued a ticket from the Police.

Mr. Dunegan also stated in his presentation that if you kicked a rock, then, by definition under the law, you are excavating. He also stated that the law was enacted by the request and input from utility companies. This explains the broad definition of excavation. The law has been in effect since 1988, but aggressive enforcement was not made until recently.

If this strict interpretation or a broad definition of excavation is not changed, it will drastically impact the daily operation of the way we perform surveys and put a great burden on the Surveying Profession. In addition, it will increase the number of requests to the La One Call Center and will require additional personnel to locate the underground facilities. The definition could be changed simply to exclude the first eighteen (18) inches as excavation.

We, as Surveyors, need to express our concerns to our legislative representatives, our lobbyist, the State Police, and even to Governor Jindal.

In summary, Mr. Frey and Mr. Dunegan listened to and were very sympathetic to our concerns. They answered the numerous questions raised. Mr. Frey will bring our concerns to the attention of the appropriate person and/or persons. Both meetings were very informative and productive and a step in the right direction to change the strict interpretation, definition of excavation, and enforcement issues.



GEOIDS – SOMETHING’S FISHY IN THE CORNPATCH

GPS only provides ellipsoid height – very accurate and very precise, but that is not elevation. To obtain elevation information from an ellipsoid height we must utilize a theoretical model of the earth’s gravity field called “the geoid.” Our knowledge of the geoid is only approximate, and it is very faulty in Louisiana because of the constant surface and subterranean movement due to consolidation, faulting, salt domes, and subsidence – the result being largely responsible for “coastal erosion” and the inability of benchmarks to remain reliable for more than a couple of years or so. Therefore, the primary thrust of research must be with regard to a better understanding of the geoid as it exists in Louisiana coupled with the systematic processing of the decade of GPS observations archived in LSU’s server banks. We have a research plan that is in physical geodesy which involves GPS observations, coupled with absolute gravity field observations at the same locations, and with zenith camera observations to determine the slope of the geoid at those same locations. Eventually, many of those locations will need to be observed in precise geodetic leveling campaigns (a very expensive proposition also).

In the 1980s, benchmark densification projects were undertaken in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. These projects consisted of 1st- and 2nd-Order Geodetic Leveling observations accompanied by 2nd-Order Relative Gravity (double ladder) observation

surveys. The total number of benchmarks surveyed was over 500 monuments, and all observations and descriptions were *Blue Booked*, accepted, and published by the National Geodetic Survey. This was later followed by FG-5 Absolute Gravity observations first at the University of New Orleans which was observed multiple times and then at numerous GPS Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) sites throughout the State of Louisiana, some more than once by either the National Geodetic Survey or the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. The density of these observations were at approx. 100 mile distances, and are not sufficient to provide significant data points to improve the geoid model. The primary purpose for these observations was to provide an independent check on changes in ellipsoid heights observed at the LSU CORS sites.

Equipment needed is an A-10 Absolute Gravity Meter and a CODIAC Zenith Camera to supplement GPS observations in South Louisiana (and eventually North Louisiana). The National Geodetic Survey recommends an observational density grid of 40 kilometers which will occupy field researchers for many years. That data combined with our existing database will insure that the LSU GPS Real Time Network will provide centimeter-level accuracy for elevations throughout the state; a prime example of the direct impact that research has on practical applications.

**THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS – DONATING TO THE
“EVERY MEMBER CAMPAIGN” \$250 AND ABOVE!**

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A \$1000 Scholarship is awarded to a High School Senior residing in Louisiana, planning to pursue a career in surveying through the “Geomatics” program offered at Nicholls University. The scholarship is awarded in 4 equal payments over a 4-year period, as long as the recipient remains a full time student and maintains a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. The Foundation requires that the recipient submit their class schedule at the beginning of each semester and their grades at the end of each semester.

Return this application along with:

- School transcript,
- Three character recommendations (no relatives) and extracurricular activities to the address above.

DEADLINE March 1, 2013.

1. **Personal Information**

Name _____

Address _____ Parish _____

_____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian _____

2. **High School Information**

School Name _____ Phone _____

School Address _____

Principal/Counselor _____

3. Did applicant participate in the LSPS Trig-Star Competition? Yes ____ No ____

THIS SECTION MUST BE CERTIFIED BY YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Academic Background

ACT Composite Score _____

High School Grade Point Average _____ (seven semesters)

_____ **Signature of High School Counselor**

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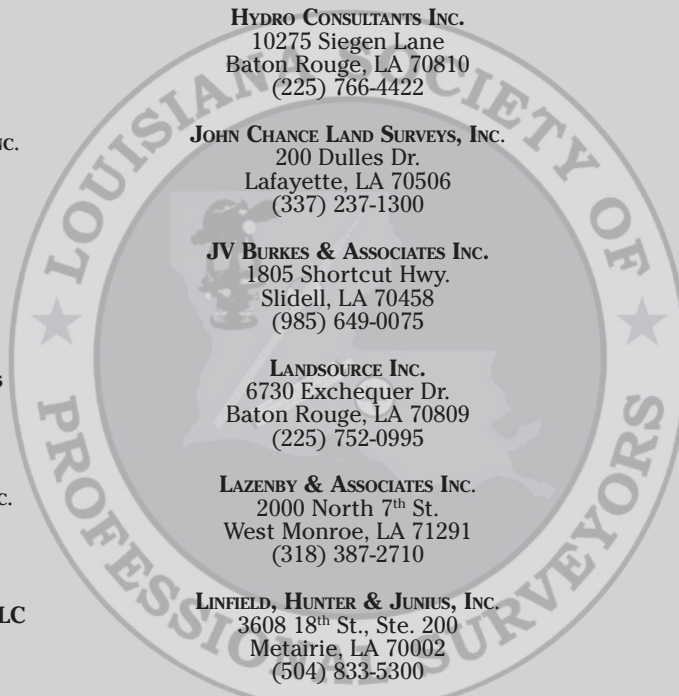
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