



THE BUZZARD



U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey Heritage Society Newsletter

March 2011

Luncheon and Annual Meeting

The Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting was held December 7, 2010, at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Silver Spring, Maryland. Those in attendance included: Martin Yellin, Bill and Connie Wall, Don Spillman, Maurice and Myrtle Ringenbach, Roger Parsons, Cheryl Oliver, Harley Nygren, George Myers, Gerald Mills, Frances Mayhugh, Donnie Marth, Curtis Loy, Diana Lewis, George Leigh, Russell Kennedy, Pete Kennedy, Freddie Jeffries, Gary Guenther, Melvin Gienau, Fred Ganjon, Angie Ferrara, George English, Don and Marion Denion, Charlie and Mary Challstrom, Grace Call, Dottie Brown, Teedy Blackwell, Dan Bella, Chris and Anna Andresean, and Warren and Lois Allin.

Following the luncheon the Society's Annual Meeting convened with special recognition for those who have served our Nation and for those members who have recently passed. We also shared messages and updates from our members who were not able to attend this event. We then conducted the election of Board Members and the presentation of Society awards.

Our Board of Directors includes nine elected Directors, an appointed Treasurer, and the President of the Northwest Chapter. Each elected Director serves a 3-year term and normally one-third of the Directors are elected, or reelected annually. Those elected in December for 3-year terms are: **Diana Lewis, Harley Nygren, and Charlie Challstrom.**

The Society presents awards to recognize individuals who exemplify the high standards, dedication, loyalty, and traditions displayed by former employees of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. During this year's Annual Meeting, we presented the Society's Distinguished Service Award to **Don Denion** for his significant contributions to the Society.

We concluded our activities with the keynote presentation by Roger Parsons on NOAA's activities during the Gulf Oil Spill Response.

President's Message

As we start another year of Society activities, I again have the honor of coordinating our Board meetings and compiling our update to the membership with this edition of The Buzzard. I very much appreciate the commitment from Board members and others to help provide news and update materials to share with you.

We understand the important roles of the agency where we served, and we feel an element of pride when the special roles are recognized by others. It is particularly appropriate during these times of federal budget challenges to note the contributions to our heritage as well as to our national economy.

We've had a busy season with the Society's cruise and then our luncheon and annual meeting. These activities help to honor, commemorate, and perpetuate the values of our federal service – and we have fun!

Thank you again for sharing your perspectives, your recollections, and your suggestions.

Charlie C.

Scholarship Awards

As announced during our annual meeting, the winners of the 2010 Clem Arens and Gerald Short Scholarship Awards are sisters Kate and Emi Jones of Evans, Georgia. Kate and Emi are the granddaughters of Jack and Shirley Kofoed. The Scholarship Committee was especially pleased to note the academic achievements of Kate and Emi as well as their outstanding service to their community. Congratulations to Kate and Emi!

Also in this Issue

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2011 Officers & Board of Directors

President	Charlie Challstrom
Vice President	Cheryl Oliver
Secretary	Roger Parsons
Treasurer	Don Spillman
Director	Charlie Kears
Director	George Leigh
Director	Diana Lewis
Director	Donnie Marth
Director	Larry Mordock
Director	Harley Nygren
Director	Dave Peterson

Northwest Chapter – Seattle

President	Larry Mordock
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2011 Committee Chairs

ACO Liaison	Don Spillman
Awards	Donnie Marth
By-Laws	Charlie Challstrom
Financial Review	Dave Peterson
History	George Leigh
Membership	Diana Lewis
Nominating	Charlie Kears
Scholarship	Charlie Kears
Merchandise Sales	George Leigh
Special Events	Donnie Marth
Sunshine	Diana Lewis

2011 Dues Notice

Member dues notices for the year 2011 are enclosed with this issue of The Buzzard. Dues are \$10.00 for all members except seniors, who are only charged \$5.00 per year. A senior member is defined as anyone 80 years or older on January 1, 2011. If you meet the senior criteria, please notify our Membership Chair, Diana Lewis, or enclose a note with your dues payment and adjust your payment accordingly. Look for the dues notice with a pre-addressed envelope. For those members who have paid in advance, the 2011 notice will show a zero payment balance. Likewise, in those few cases where members are in the arrears, the amount owed and the number of missed year(s) is also provided. Please send a check or money order. Do not send cash. New members who joined in late 2010 or early 2011 will not be billed again for dues this year. If you have any questions about your dues status, contact Membership Chair, Diana Lewis.

Grand Opening: Gateway to NOAA

Now open: **Gateway to NOAA**, a new interactive visitor experience. Located on the street level of 1325 East-West Hwy (SSMC2), Silver Spring. Free and open to the public, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays. Visit <http://PreserveAmerica.noaa.gov> for more information.

ACO Scholarship Opportunity

The Executive Committee of National ACO Scholarships, Inc. has issued its annual call to high school seniors and college undergrads for applications for scholarship awards for the 2011/2012 academic year. The two-page application form is available on the "Resources" page of the NOAA Officer Family Association website (www.nofaweb.org), under the heading "National ACO Scholarships, Inc." Application forms may also be obtained by contacting Secretary/Treasurer Captain Dave Peterson, NOAA (Ret), by phone at 301-921-6357 or by email at kmpdhp@comcast.net. Complete application packages should be sent to the corporation's post office address (on the application form) and should be postmarked this year no later than Friday, April 15, 2011.

Society Merchandise



Caps with Bench Mark	\$14.00
Bench Mark Patches (3 5/8")	\$ 4.00
Lapel Pins	\$ 3.00

(plus shipping)

To order, contact George.Leigh@noaa.gov
or 301-713-3167

Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting 2010



We received 124 ballots, a great response ahead of the Annual Meeting. Thanks for mailing your ballot!

Coast Survey Mapmaking Innovation Linked Slavery, Secession, in 1861

It isn't often that a map can visually display a moral issue facing a divided nation. Nearly 150 years ago, U.S. Coast Survey achieved that landmark representation. The map, showing the distribution of the slave population in the Southern states, is included in Coast Survey's new special collection of maps and charts that were produced during the Civil War. One of the collection's most important maps is the "[Map showing the distribution of the slave population of the southern states and the United States.](#)" According to both contemporary sources and historians, President Abraham Lincoln used the map to connect military forays to his policy of emancipation.

Note -- on the web: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/history>

"These maps were among the first to use shading to represent the human population," explains Capt. Albert Theberge (Ret., NOAA Corps), the chief of reference for the NOAA Central Library. "They are prime examples of how Coast Survey science aided the Union cause during the Civil War." Created in September 1861, the map graphically displays the density of the slave population in the Southern states, based on statistics from the 8th Census, which was supervised by Joseph Camp Griffith Kennedy. Kennedy wanted to include slaves by name in the U.S. Census Report, but Congress refused. Alexander D. Bache, the U.S. Coast Survey Superintendent, allowed his staff to undertake such a map. It was created under Edwin Hergesheimer, a cartographer with U.S. Coast Survey's drawing division. The development of this map was revolutionary for several reasons. In addition to initiating a trend of statistical cartography, its thematic display of "moral statistics" affected political change. Northern audiences were able to see that the first states to secede were those with the most slaves. By the use of shading to represent the human population, the darkest areas of the maps show the highest density slave populations, and the order of secession corresponds closely to the shade densities of the map. Even more to the point, a table in the map corner shows the number of slaves in each state, and the proportion of slaves to the total population. The order of the list, from highest density to low, again corresponds closely to the order of secession.

According to artist Francis Bicknell Carpenter, who painted *First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln* in 1864, President Lincoln frequently consulted this map in considering the relationship between emancipation and military strategy. Carpenter observed that Lincoln would look at the map and send his armies to free blacks in some of the highest density areas in order to destabilize Southern order. The NOAA connection to the map had been lost over the decades. John Cloud, Ph.D., a historian who was recovering significant Coast Survey cartographic products in NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program, recently discovered the connection with Edwin Hergesheimer and U.S. Coast Survey. Historian Susan Schulten made important historical contributions in connecting the map to Francis Bicknell Carpenter's painting and, in extension, to President Lincoln's strategy.

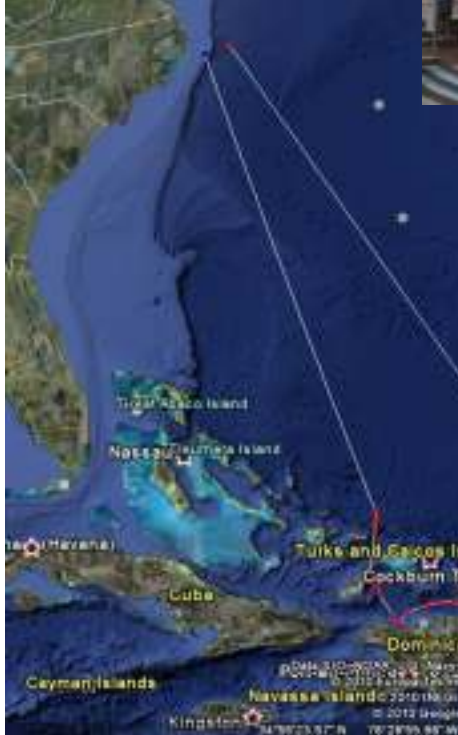
To access a high resolution image of the map, go to [Charting a More Perfect Union](#), (web address above) enter keyword **slave**, and preview the image or add to your cart. The image is free. This year the nation observes the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. To help people today envision the landscapes and coastal hazards that were important to military strategies, NOAA's Office of Coast Survey has unveiled "Charting a More Perfect Union," the collection of maps, charts, and sketches produced during the war by U.S. Coast Survey, NOAA's predecessor organization.

This project is supported by the NOAA Preserve America Initiative, part of Preserve America, a federal initiative to preserve, protect and promote our nation's rich heritage.

SEASTORIES 101-82 – Recollections from Harley Nygren

Flying on government business is not necessarily a pleasant way to travel. Any length career involving occasional flying can narrate numerous horror stories. These can be about terror, boredom, hunger, etc. However, just once in a while the odds shift to allow moments of pleasure. I used to fly to New York on business about four times a year. This was always by the cheapest and crudest available planes. On one trip I diverted somewhat to visit my brother in his great offices at JFK airport. While we were conversing, I was nagged by the necessity of getting back to LaGuardia Airport for the last shuttle flight, the airborne cattle car. He insisted that there were flights from JFK to DC, and that they would take my shuttle ticket. I doubted this, but allowed him to deliver me to an American Airlines ticket gate. No one was there. After sometime an agent appeared, and agreed that she could take my ticket. A little later the flight crew arrived. This consisted of a Pilot, a copilot, an Engineer, a Steward and six flight attendants. Finally the flight was called, and I was the ONLY passenger. They put me in First Class, plied me with drinks, and entertained me. Upon landing at Dulles the crew all lined up to escort me off the plane, apologized for the rough trip, and a mobile lounge came out to get ME. I have never been treated better in my life on an airplane. To this day I have no evil feelings for American Airlines. The plane actually was being ferried to Dulles so it could go on to Australia, hence all the professional talent aboard.

Society Cruise on Enchantment of the Seas



Rich Rewards from NOAA's CORS and GRAV-D Programs

Since 1807, NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its predecessor agencies have partnered with surveyors in both the public and private sectors to place hundreds of thousands of survey marks throughout the United States, determining positional information for each mark. Each survey mark is published with accurate horizontal and/or vertical information such as latitude, longitude, and/or height. This collection of more than 1,500,000 points, plus more than 1,300 Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) which the National Geodetic Survey coordinates and monitors, form the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

The NSRS provides more than \$2.4 billion in potential annual benefits to the U.S. economy, according to a new independent study. The study finds that the NOAA CORS network alone provides an estimated \$758 million per year in benefits. The study estimates that an additional \$522 million in annual economic benefits could be generated by the implementation of a new vertical reference system, allowing users to determine more precise elevations using the Global Positioning System (GPS), with approximately \$240 million saved from improved floodplain management alone.

Development of this new reference system would result from the completion of a new NOAA initiative, Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D), which will allow surveyors and scientists to employ GPS to determine more precise and accurate elevations than currently possible, in less time and with less effort. Because the current vertical datum is anchored by less accurate, more costly survey monuments, there are elevation errors ranging from 16 inches to 6 feet relative to sea level. When GRAV-D is successfully completed and the new elevation system is accessed using the CORS network, these elevation errors will be reduced to just under an inch.

The study, conducted for NGS by Leveson Consulting of Jackson, New Jersey, will be followed by a more refined evaluation of the benefits of the CORS network and the future impact of the new NOAA GRAV-D initiative designed to replace the existing North American Vertical Datum established in 1988 (NAVD88). More info on the Web: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>

In Memoriam

John G. Gergen – John Gergen passed away on February 22nd at the age of 77 from complications arising from Parkinson's disease. He was under the care of the Montgomery Hospice Care at his residence in Chevy Chase, Maryland. John had a distinguished 27-year career at NOAA's National Geodetic Survey as a geodesist. He held several high level positions including Chief of the Horizontal Network Branch, and manager of the NAD 83 project. John was born in Timisoara, Romania and graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Institute of Mines in Bucharest, Romania. He obtained American citizenship through his father, and he was able to migrate, with his wife Monica, to the USA in 1965. John received a Masters Degree in Geodesy from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where he also finished all the course work toward a PhD, in 1970. He taught graduate classes in Geodesy at the Department of Civil Engineering, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, for several years. John is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Monica, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and his sister, Carin Morariu, who resides in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.