

THE SUMMIT

News From and For The Washington GIS Community

WAURISA

The Washington State Chapter of
The Urban & Regional Information Systems Association



AUTUMN 2007

WWW.WAURISA.ORG

ISSUE 9

KING COUNTY GIS CENTER LAUNCHES REGIONAL IMAGERY ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Chris Jansen, King County GIS Center

Regional Imagery Forum

The King County GIS Center hosted a Regional Imagery Forum in Seattle on October 2. The Imagery Work Group of King County's GIS Technical Committee hosted the forum which attracted 25 attendees, representing 13 cities, three utilities, three fire districts, and the Muckleshoot Tribe.

The goal of the Imagery Forum was to bring representatives of agencies within King County together to discuss imagery needs, current plans, and the potential for future cooperation. King County described its 2007 county wide imagery acquisition and future planned purchases.

During a round-robin discussion, representatives from the regional agencies in attendance described their completed or planned 2006-2007 imagery acquisitions. The group also discussed agency imagery specifications, control and ortho processing, storage and compression issues, and web usage considerations. Agency contracting requirements were also discussed.

KCGIS Imagery History

The King County GIS Capital Project began in 1994, however acquisition of digital orthophotography or related imagery resources was not included in the original GIS development plan. Countywide digital orthophotography was not acquired by KCGIS until 2000. In 2002 KCGIS benefited by a major investment in imagery by the County to aid in the response the ESA listing of the Chinook salmon.

Because of the cost to acquire suitable imagery covering the 2,000 plus square miles of the County, coupled with the severe financial crisis within King County several years ago, KCGIS has had to compile its current imagery catalog from a variety of sources. However, the result was a patchwork of imagery from a variety of sources, built to variable specifications, and with no plan for future replacement. A description of the current King County GIS Center imagery collection can be found in the KCGIS Data Spatial Catalog at: http://www.metrokc.gov/gis/sdc/raster/ortho/Ortho_Data.htm.

See: KCGIS Regional Imagery Program, page 2

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

A GIS Code of Ethics	p. 4
WAURISA Volunteer, Cort Daniel	p. 6
2008 Washington GIS Conference	p. 7
Editorial Page	p. 11

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Warm greetings, Washington State GIS colleagues. As the newly elected president of Waurisa, I'd like to express my gratitude for all of the past and current board members, committee members and volunteers. This organization is full of truly inspired and motivated members who care very much about our GIS community. I am thankful to be a part of this group and to have the opportunity to learn from every person I meet.

During August, I had the good fortune to attend the international URISA conference in Washington DC along with our Treasurer, Steve Schunzel. We were able to attend the Chapter Leaders Forum, where leaders from all the state and regional URISA chapters met to share ideas and needs. We also attended a URISA workshop and many educational sessions. I was absolutely thrilled to meet URISA members from all over the country and hear about the exciting things happening with GIS now, and learn more about what the future holds.

Last month WAURISA held its first URISA sponsored workshop in Issaquah with overwhelming success. The workshop topic was 'Building an Enterprise Asset Management System'. We were so encouraged by the turnout and response to this event that we are planning more workshops over the next year. To find out more about your interests in future workshops and conferences, we recently conducted a survey to hear from you. We are analyzing the results now, which should give us good direction over the next year on how we can best serve you. Even though the survey has ended, please feel free to communicate your thoughts to any member of the board – you can email us from our website www.waurisa.org.

One of my goals for this next year is to empower and activate our committees. Right now, the board and committees are working on defining and describing the work that each committee performs. After we refine this information, we will be posting it on the website so that all members can have a quick and easy way to see the work that is being done by WAURISA. The activities range from managing the website, to setting up workshops, and contacting schools to let students know about our Dick Thomas competition, to selecting a GIS Person of the Year. My hope is that the more you know about WAURISA, the more you will want to be involved. All of this work helps build our community by forging relationships, presenting new opportunities for professional development, and connecting people.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. I am looking forward to working with the board, committees, and volunteers to build on the great foundation that we have, and find new ways to serve our members.

-Angela Johnson, President



KCGIS REGIONAL IMAGERY PROGRAM

Continued from page 1

KCGIS Imagery Workgroup

By 2005 it was apparent that KCGIS needed a comprehensive plan for imagery acquisition. A Digital Imagery Workgroup was formed by the KCGIS Technical Committee (see: www.metrokc.gov/gis/kb/OandM/2007_OM.pdf - chapter 7). The purpose of the KCGIS Digital Imagery Workgroup is to develop and manage a long-term acquisition and coordination strategy for geo-spatial digital imagery that meets planning and engineering-level requirements for all King County Departments.

The group is tasked by the GIS Technical Committee to be knowledgeable of current digital imagery assets and future digital imagery needs, research and recommend acquisition solutions, coordinate with internal and external agencies where appropriate, and explore realistic funding options. The goals of the workgroup include:

- Provide a resource to county departments in need of geo-spatial imagery and maximize opportunities for cost reduction and elimination of duplicative efforts within the county
- Develop, in coordination with the KCGIS Center, a catalog of existing geo-spatial imagery products in the county
- Develop an inventory of current imagery products, users, user needs and purposes, current and potential funding sources, and technical requirements - including spatial accuracy, resolution, spectral issues, file access and handling issues, acceptable latency of imagery
- Identify areas of common and unique imagery needs, and classify in the most succinct way possible the various needs into general categories to simplify resolution of potentially conflicting efforts
- Work to develop cooperative ventures with other agencies to minimize and share costs, maximize suitability, and where appropriate eliminate duplicative effort among agencies in acquiring new aerial imagery
- Investigate and make recommendations on potential imagery acquisitions
- Evaluate and report on emerging trends pertinent to King County geo-spatial imagery needs
- Review and edit (as appropriate) metadata for imagery sets in support of KCGIS data coordinator
- Develop guidelines and recommendations for use of the various imagery products in cooperation with the product authors
- Develop training/educational materials to assist county users in maximizing the use of imagery
- Develop or provide assistance in developing contracts and specifications for acquisition and/or processing of geo-spatial imagery

By early 2006 the KCGIS Imagery Workgroup had achieved most of the objectives outlined above – the only challenge remaining was a viable long-term plan for paying for an imagery acquisition program.

2007 Imagery Funding

The King County GIS Center is an 'internal service fund' within King County and it develops its own annual budget. The KCGIS Center is funded by agencies within King County that use its services. In early 2006, Greg Babinski, KCGIS Center Finance and Marketing Manager proposed to the KCGIS Imagery Workgroup that imagery replacement be funded similar to hardware replacement. Within King County all computer hardware replacement is controlled by a replacement schedule developed by the King County Office of Information Resource Management (OIRM). OIRM assumes that hardware needs to be replaced on a reasonable schedule and that funding should be set aside on a regular basis to pay for the replacement.

Using OIRM's hardware replacement principle as the basis, the KCGIS Center 2007 budget proposal was prepared with additional funding from GIS user agencies, suitable to allow for imagery acquisition every two or three years. To ensure that the proposed new imagery finding would be approved, the KCGIS Center initiated a comprehensive program to educate key decision makers and win their agreement in advance. Greg Babinski and the Imagery Workgroup developed a cost sharing proposal to split five-eighths of the annual cost equally among five key imagery-dependent agencies, with the other three-eighths of the cost allocated to desktop and web-based GIS users. This cost sharing proposal was then presented for approval to the County's GIS Technical Committee and then to the GIS Oversight Committee. Greg Babinski then contacted the Finance Managers of each of the five key departments to ensure that they would support their agency's share of the funding through the entire budget approval process.

The process of building broad support within each agency for ongoing GIS imagery funding was a key success factor. The KCGIS Center was able to demonstrate that the proposal had technical, management, and financial support within each agency. This careful planning helped to ensure that the initiative gained support by the Budget Office for inclusion in the Executive's proposed 2007 budget and resulted in final approval by the County Council. The King County GIS Center financial plan now includes a permanent GIS Imagery Replacement Reserve Fund (see:

http://www.metrokc.gov/gis/kb/Documents/KCGIS_2007_Funding/2007FinPlan.pdf).

E911 Imagery Needs

When the KCGIS Imagery Replacement reserve was first conceived, it was assumed that we would not be able to acquire new imagery until 2008, after sufficient financial reserves were in place. However, in early 2007 it became apparent that KCGIS could partner with the King County E911 office to acquire imagery this year.

King County E911 supports 13 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) with technical, administrative, and GIS services on a 24 x 7 basis. A key responsibility of King County E911 is to provide the PSAPs with the most accurate and detailed data possible to support the capability of GIS-based XTrakker software.

See: KCGIS Regional Imagery Program, page 3

KCGIS REGIONAL IMAGERY PROGRAM

Continued from page 2

Early in 2007 the Imagery Workgroup began discussions with E911 regarding joint funding of imagery acquisition. The result was an agreement to procure and jointly fund imagery that would meet both KCGIS and E911 requirements.

Technical Specifications

King County contracted with Pictometry International Corporation of Rochester, NY to acquire new (2007) oblique and orthorectified digital imagery. Product specifications include:

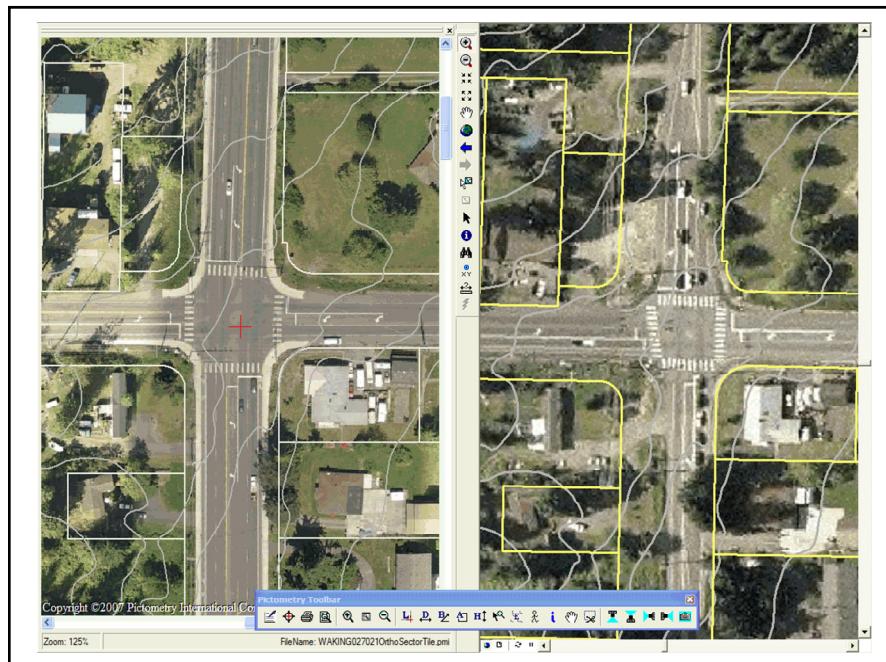
- Oblique (two-way) Pictometry community images with 12" orthorectified images
- Oblique (four-way) Pictometry neighborhood images with 4" orthorectified images
- Custom (KCGIS designated) 7,500' square orthorectified mosaic tiles (782 at 6" resolution and 611 at 12" resolution, depending on location)
- Unlimited licensing of Pictometry Electronic Field Study (EFS) oblique imagery viewing and analysis software

In addition, Pictometry will provide King County with 2005 imagery similar to the specifications outlined above at no additional cost. To meet emergency situations, Pictometry will also provide new imagery at no cost covering up to 200 square miles after any Federally-declared disaster, or under defined circumstances for certain wind-storm, tornado, earthquake, or terrorist related damage.

The contract with Pictometry will also allow King County to renew the imagery under the same terms in 2009 and 2011.

Internal Funding Sources

Based on an analysis of the business need for each product component of the Pictometry contract, E911 and the KCGIS Center have agreed on a cost sharing formula for the new imagery. The cost to the KCGIS Center is within the funding available in the new Imagery Replacement Reserve. E911 and the KCGIS Center both benefit from this partnership by gaining access to more extensive data at a lower cost.



2005 Pictometry Imagery (left) Compared to KCGIS 2002 USGS Imagery

Regional Access to KCGIS Data

The license agreement signed by King County with Pictometry allows the County to provide the imagery to other 'subdivisions' of King County, defined as including cities and public utilities within King County. King County E911 will supply County PSAPs with copies of the Pictometry imagery.

The King County GIS Center will coordinate access to the King County Pictometry data by other public agencies. To facilitate access to the new imagery for cities, utilities, and other public agencies not covered by the E911 distribution program, a cost sharing formula was approved by the King County GIS Oversight Committee.

The King County 7,500' square mosaic tiles referred to above will be used to determine the 'area of interest' (AOI) of an agency wanting access to the data. The cost to an agency for each tile that covers any portion of their AOI is \$196 per tile.

The KCGIS Center will provide the following to the requesting agency:

- Uncompressed TIFF-format Orthoimagery for each 7,500' mosaic tile covering the agency's AOI
- Compressed SID-format Orthoimagery mosaics for those townships encompassed in whole or in part by the agency's AOI
- Complete Neighborhood and Community Oblique imagery and EFS software as provided by Pictometry
- Associated index shapefiles and metadata

Detailed specifications and imagery access terms and conditions are available from the King County GIS Center (see contact information below).

Future Plans

Any revenue received from agencies by the King County GIS Center from providing access to the digital imagery will be deposited in the KCGIS Imagery Replacement Reserve. The goal for this fund is to ensure that accurate high-resolution imagery is available across the region and updated on a frequent basis.

King County GIS plans to make the Fall Imagery Forum an annual event. The 2008 Forum will include a report on the success of sharing imagery across the region and an update on future plans.

To Learn More

For more information about the King County GIS Imagery Program, including specifications or data acquisition, contact Chris Jansen:

Chris Jansen, Production Coordinator

King County GIS Center

201 South Jackson Street, MS: KSC-NR-0706

Seattle, WA 98104

P: 206-263-4866

E: chris.jansen@kingcounty.gov

W: www.kingcounty.gov/gis



A GIS CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics is intended to provide guidelines for GIS (geographic information system) professionals. It should help professionals make appropriate and ethical choices. It should provide a basis for evaluating their work from an ethical point of view. By heeding this code, GIS professionals will help to preserve and enhance public trust in the discipline.

This code is based on the ethical principle of always treating others with respect and never merely as means to an end: i.e., *deontology*. It requires us to consider the impact of our actions on other persons and to modify our actions to reflect the respect and concern we have for them. It emphasizes our obligations to other persons, to our colleagues and the profession, to our employers, and to society as a whole. Those obligations provide the organizing structure for these guidelines.

The text of this code draws on the work of many professional societies. It is not surprising that many codes of ethics have a similar structure and provide similar guidelines to their professionals, because they are based upon a similar concept of morality. A few of the guidelines that are unique to the GIS profession include the encouragement to make data and findings widely available, to document data and products, to be actively involved in data retention and security, to show respect for copyright and other intellectual property rights, and to display concern for the sensitive data about individuals discovered through geospatial or database manipulations. Longer statements expand on or provide examples for the GIS profession.

A positive tone is taken throughout the text of this code. GIS professionals commit themselves to ethical behavior rather than merely seeking to avoid specific acts. The problems with listing acts to be avoided are: 1) there are usually reasonable exceptions to any avoidance rule and 2) there is implicit approval of any act not on the list. Instead, this code provides a list of many positive actions. These explicit actions illustrate respect for others and help strengthen both an understanding of this ethos and a commitment to it.

This code is not expected to provide guidelines for all situations. Ambiguities will occur and personal judgment will be required. Sometimes a GIS professional becomes stuck in a dilemma where two right actions are in conflict with each other or any course of action violates some aspect of this code. Help might come from talking with colleagues or reading relevant works such as those listed in the bibliography. Ultimately, a professional must reflect carefully on such situations before making the tough decision. Contemplating the values and goals of alternative ethical paradigms may be useful in reaching a decision: [\[iii\]](#)

- View persons who exemplify morality as your own guide (Virtue Ethics)
- Attempt to maximize the happiness of everyone affected (Utilitarianism)
- Only follow maxims of conduct that everyone else could adopt (Kantianism)
- Always treat other persons as ends, never merely as means (Deontology)

I. Obligations to Society

The GIS professional recognizes the impact of his or her work on society as a whole, on subgroups of society including geographic or demographic minorities, on future generations, and inclusive of social, economic, environmental, or technical fields of endeavor. Obligations to society shall be paramount when there is conflict with other obligations. Therefore, the GIS professional will:

1. Do the Best Work Possible
 - Be objective, use due care, and make full use of education and skills.
 - Practice integrity and not be unduly swayed by the demands of others.
 - Provide full, clear, and accurate information.
 - Be aware of consequences, good and bad.
 - Strive to do what is right, not just what is legal.
2. Contribute to the Community to the Extent Possible, Feasible, and Advisable
 - Make data and findings widely available.
 - Strive for broad citizen involvement in problem definition, data identification, analysis, and decision-making.
 - Donate services to the community.
3. Speak Out About Issues
 - Call attention to emerging public issues and identify appropriate responses based on personal expertise.
 - Call attention to the unprofessional work of others. First take concerns to those persons; if satisfaction is not gained and the problems warrant, then additional people and organizations should be notified.
 - Admit when a mistake has been made and make corrections where possible.

II. Obligations to Employers and Funders

The GIS professional recognizes that he or she has been hired to deliver needed products and services. The employer (or funder) expects quality work and professional conduct. Therefore the GIS professional will:

1. Deliver Quality Work
 - Be qualified for the tasks accepted.
 - Keep current in the field through readings and professional development.
 - Identify risks and the potential means to reduce them.
 - Define alternative strategies to reach employer/funder goals, if possible, and the implications of each.
 - Document work so that others can use it. This includes metadata and program documentation.
2. Have a Professional Relationship
 - Hold information confidential unless authorized to release it.
 - Avoid all conflicts of interest with clients and employers if possible, but when they are unavoidable, disclose that conflict.
 - Avoid soliciting, accepting, or offering any gratuity or inappropriate benefit connected to a potential or existing business or working relationship. Accept work reviews as a means to improve performance.
 - Honor contracts and assigned responsibilities.
 - Accept decisions of employers and clients, unless they are illegal or unethical.
 - Help develop security, backup, retention, recovery, and disposal rules.
 - Acknowledge and accept rules about the personal use of employer resources. This includes computers, data, telecommunication equipment, and other resources.
 - Strive to resolve differences.

See GIS Code of Ethics, page 5

GIS CODE OF ETHICS

Continued from page 4

3. Be Honest in Representations

- State professional qualifications truthfully.
- Make honest proposals that allow the work to be completed for the resources requested.
- Deliver an hour's work for an hour's pay.
- Describe products and services fully.
- Be forthcoming about any limitations of data, software, assumptions, models, methods, and analysis.

III. Obligations to Colleagues and the Profession

The GIS professional recognizes the value of being part of a community of other professionals. Together, we support each other and add to the stature of the field. Therefore, the GIS professional will:

1. Respect the Work of Others.

- Cite the work of others whenever possible and appropriate.
- Honor the intellectual property rights of others. This includes their rights in software and data.
- Accept and provide fair critical comments on professional work.
- Recognize the limitations of one's own knowledge and skills and recognize and use the skills of other professionals as needed. This includes both those in other disciplines and GIS professionals with deeper skills in critical sub-areas of the field.
- Work respectfully and capably with others in GIS and other disciplines.
- Respect existing working relationships between others, including employer/employee and contractor/client relationships.
- Deal honestly and fairly with prospective employees, contractors, and vendors.

2. Contribute to the Discipline to the Extent Possible

- Publish results so others can learn about them.
- Volunteer time to professional educational and organizational efforts: local, national, or global.
- Support individual colleagues in their professional development. Special attention should be given to underrepresented groups whose diverse backgrounds will add to the strength of the profession.

IV. Obligations to Individuals in Society

The GIS professional recognizes the impact of his or her work on individual people and will strive to avoid harm to them.

Therefore, the GIS professional will:

1. Respect Privacy

- Protect individual privacy, especially about sensitive information.
- Be especially careful with new information discovered about an individual through GIS-based manipulations (such as geocoding) or the combination of two or more databases.

2. Respect Individuals

- Encourage individual autonomy. For example, allow individuals to withhold consent from being added to a database, correct information about themselves in a database, and remove themselves from a database.
- Avoid undue intrusions into the lives of individuals.
- Be truthful when disclosing information about an individual.
- Treat all individuals equally, without regard to race, gender, or other personal characteristic not related to the task at hand.

Bibliography

- American Institute of Certified Planners. 1991. *AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*, <http://www.planning.org/ethics/conduct.html>.
- ASPRS. 2001. Code of Ethics of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, http://www.asprs.org/asprs/membership/certification/appendix_a.html.
- Association for Computing Machinery. 1992. ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, <http://www.acm.org/constitution/code.html>.
- Craig, William J. 1993. A GIS Code of Ethics: What Can We Learn from Other Organizations? *Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association*, 5(2): 13-16. See <http://www.urisa.org/certification/craigeth.pdf>.
- Edson, Curtis, Brian Garcia, Jordan Hantman, Nicole Hartz, Hannah Jensen, Jill Leale, Kelley Lewelling, John Marks, Jeff Maxted, Bruce Moore, Brendan Vierk Rivera, Anna Weitzel. 2001. "Code of Ethics for GIS Professionals," paper for IES 400, GIS and Society, Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. See http://www.ersc.wisc.edu/academics/courses/IES400GISandSociety/Code%20of%20Ethics/ethics_code1.pdf
- Kidder, Rushworth M. 1995. *How Good People Make Tough Choices*, New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc.
- Olson, Andrew. 1998. Authoring a Code: Observations on Process and Organization, http://www.iit.edu/departments/csep/PublicWWW/codes/coe/Writing_A_Code.html, Center for Study of Ethics in the Professions, Illinois Institute of Technology.
- Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, 1998. Manual of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. <http://www.psls.org/info/manualpractice.htm>
- Rachels, James. 1999. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, Boston: McGraw-Hill College.
- [ii] URISA's Ethics Task Force consisted of William J. Craig, chair, Al Butler, Tim Case, and Rebecca Somers. Craig authored the first draft with significant input from James H. Fetzer and Harlan Onsrud. Somers and Judy M. Olson provided comments in numerous significant areas on subsequent revisions.
- This document is the result of extensive public review. Dozens of people provided useful feedback and suggestions during two periods of open public comment in 2002. All comments were reviewed and considered carefully. Changes were made to the code where appropriate within the basic deontological framework.
- [iii] This approach is recommended by Kidder (1995). For a thorough discussion of moral theories, see Rachels (1999).

For more information about the GIS Code of Ethics, see:
http://www.gisci.org/code_of_ethics.aspx



SPOTLIGHT ON WAURISA VOLUNTEER: CORT DANIEL, GISP

After reading some of the Spotlight articles that have been in *The Summit*, I see that the road that led me to GIS is not quite the norm. I have been in the field for 11 years and looking back, it does seem the obvious place for me to have ended up. A recently discovered Myers-Briggs test confirmed this too. Among the list of suitable professions were computer programmer and geographer.

My interest in maps started as a teenager. I was reading Tolkien's, "The Lord of the Rings". The books have maps in them, so you can see where all action is taking place. Later I discovered real world maps were fun for planning my own adventures. Maps like USGS maps for hiking and road maps for getting to the places to use the USGS maps.

I entered the job market and had a number of different jobs. One of those jobs was title searching and I worked out of the Ocean County Court House in New Jersey. The title records were kept in many rooms - Deed Room, Mortgage Room, and others, but my favorite room was the Map Room. I tended to linger in the Map Room and probably would have made more money if I had not, since I was paid by the job.

I eventually returned to college and settled down at the University of Puget Sound. I graduated with a degree in math and re-entered the job market. I interned with Pierce County Housing Programs, delineating wetlands, and then took a position with a market research firm. Market research in the TV industry was interesting and it was cool having an office in Seattle near Pike Place Market, but as Austin Powers would say, "It wasn't my bag."

One day a friend from Pierce County called to tell me about an opening for a "GIS Conversion Technician." She knew I was looking for something else and thought it was a good match for my background. She was right! I applied and in August 1996 I was hired and work there to this day.

I have worked on more things than I can remember. I read legal descriptions for months on end, taught CountyView (ArcView), dabbled with ArcInfo, wrote metadata for more GIS data sets than I care to admit, filled data requests, created maps, did analysis, managed and update GIS data, programmed GIS web applications, designed databases, wrote scripts, have given presentations at conferences, and the list goes on. I gained enough experience to earn my GISP in 2005 and that was pretty exciting.

Recently I have been volunteering with WAURISA. I have assisted with the most recent conference in Lynnwood. I have found that they are a very well organized professional group and I think they accomplish a lot with very little. But I suppose this is to be expected, I find people in the GIS field are smart and resourceful.

Outside of the profession, I enjoy a breadth of activities - hiking, camping, cross-country skiing, motorcycling, traveling, home improvement/repair, gardening, wine making, archery, traveling, dabbling with open source software (yes some of it is GIS), and the list just seems to get larger over the years. I've never been married and have no kids. I think the correct terminology is "fancy free bachelor."

-Cort Daniel, GISP



Cort Daniel Rests at the Summit of Mt. Elinor in the Olympics

A SHORT LESSON ON PROJECTIONS, COORDINATE SYSTEMS, AND DATUMS IN GIS

Phil Hurvitz

In my considerable experience working with students, educators, and professionals in GIS, I continue to encounter folks in all three categories who have basic problems with projections, coordinate systems, and datums. The results of these problems can be bogus analyses, incorrect data summaries, corrupted data, and escalating levels of confusion.

I agree the topic is a difficult one to conceptualize, let alone master. It was difficult in ArcInfo, strange in ArcView, and ArcGIS has made the topic even more bizarre with on-the-fly projections, automatically self-defining data frames, GeoTIFF headers, etc. Yet, being comfortable at least, mastering at best, the topic is absolutely essential for anyone other than the rare person working completely within an enterprise system where the enterprise data are standardized, and who never needs to use outside data that might be stored in a different system than the enterprise data.

I have created a short exercise - a challenge that will test and/or build your knowledge and skill in this important area. Are you up for the challenge?

Give it a try:

http://gis.washington.edu/phurvitz/gis_data/projection_exercise/

Phil Hurvitz, MFR / PhD Candidate, Urban Planning / Gould 317
College of Architecture and Urban Planning / Box 355726
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-5726, USA
phurvitz@u.washington.edu
<http://gis.washington.edu/phurvitz>



2008 WASHINGTON GIS CONFERENCE COMES TO SEATTLE

INTEGRATING GIS INTO THE ENTERPRISE

WAURISA, the Washington Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association has selected Seattle as the location for the **2008 Washington GIS Conference**.

Neil Berry, Chair of the 2008 Washington GIS Conference announced that the event would be held May 5-7, 2008, in the Northwest Rooms at Seattle Center. The format for the conference will include a day of workshops on Monday, followed by two days of educational sessions.



Northwest Rooms



For all the latest news about the 2008 Washington GIS Conference, see: <http://www.waurisa.org/conferences/>

SUSAN JOHNSON, URISA PRESIDENT 2008 CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

Susan Johnson, President of the URISA Board of Directors, will deliver the Keynote Address for the 2008 Washington GIS Conference in Seattle on Tuesday, May 6.

She will also be present the URISA-Certified 'GIS Program Management' workshop on Monday, May 5.



Susan Johnson

Ms. Johnson was appointed the Chief Information Officer for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Charlotte, NC in October 2007. Services provided by this unit include enterprise information technology and communications. Prior to CMS, Johnson served as the Key Business Executive for Business Support Services at the City of Charlotte, NC. Initiatives there focused on strengthening the city enterprise level technology capabilities, regionalization of mission critical infrastructure, and introduction of service level agreements for all lines of business which has supported the transformation of Business Support Services into a customer-centric organization. She began her public service career with the City of Raleigh, NC as the first Information Services Director. Accomplishments include installation of the first email system, voice mail, networks, integration of financial, procurement and billing systems, along with technology budgeting and governance processes.

Susan Johnson began her term as President of the URISA Board of Directors in August 2007.

2008 WASHINGTON GIS CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

SEE FOLLOWING PAGE



2008 Washington GIS Conference

May 5 - 7, 2008 • Seattle, Washington

Call for Papers



The Washington State Chapter of Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (WAURISA) has begun accepting presentation proposals for the 2008 Washington GIS Conference. The conference theme for 2008 is **Integrating GIS into the Enterprise** and will be held May 5 - 7, 2008, at the Seattle Center.

WAURISA is seeking potential speakers to provide fresh, dynamic solutions to today's challenges. Presentations are invited that address the broad subjects of interest to GIS practitioners such as

- Integrating GIS into the Enterprise
- Data Conversion, Acquisition and Standards
- Application Development
- Internet/WWW
- Local and Regional Government
- Natural Resources and Environment
- 3D Visualizations and Viewshed Analysis
- Mobile GIS Solutions
- GIS Enabled Business Applications
- Utilities and Transportation
- Training

This is an opportunity to share experience, expertise, and knowledge with colleagues and offer solutions for success. Individuals chosen to present will gain recognition by their peers, raise awareness of critical issues and identify current trends in the industry. The Presentations committee will select session presentations to represent a wide range of interests and levels of expertise. Selection will be based on the value of the proposed topic to the audience and the clarity of the abstract.

Four types of presentations are available:

- Student presentation, allotted 15 minutes
- Individual presentation, allotted 25 minutes
- Panel discussion, allotted 90 minutes
- Maps and Posters

Abstracts must be limited to no more than 300 words, and must include: presentation title, type of presentation requested, and author information including complete contact information. Incomplete abstracts will not be considered. Remember, a clear concise abstract is your best ticket to a logical track placement and a well-attended session. Presenters at the 2008 Washington GIS Conference will earn 1 GISCI Contribution Point for Conference Presentation or Conference Poster Display in addition to points earned for attending the conference and being a member of WAURISA. Electronic submissions are preferred - please email to abstract@waurisa.org by March 10, 2008.

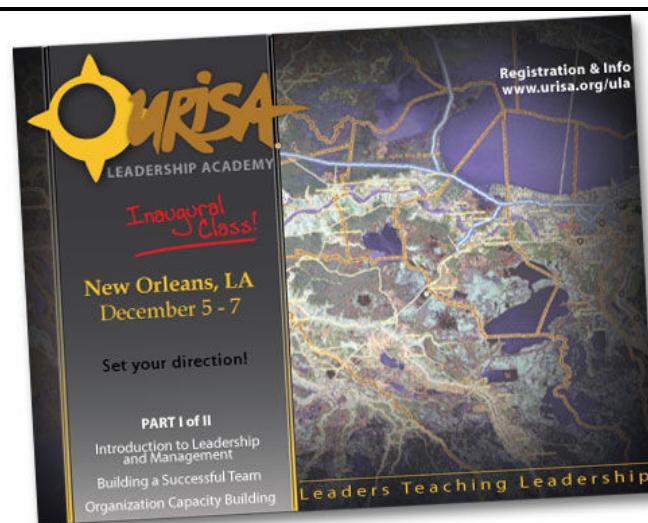
May 5 - 7, 2008 • Seattle,
Washington

Call for Papers
abstract@waurisa.org
www.waurisa.com

2008 Washington GIS
Conference
Presented by Washington URISA



UPCOMING URISA EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



Examples of what you will learn from the Leadership Academy include:

- Introduction to leadership and various leadership styles
- Ethics in leadership
- The manager as communicator
- How to build a successful team of GIS professionals
- Outreach and expansion of GIS in the organization

URISA's First Annual Leadership Academy

Leaders Teaching Leadership

December 5-7, 2007

New Orleans, LA

<http://www.urisa.org/ula>

New from URISA—a Leadership Academy for the Geographic Information System (GIS) Practitioner:

- Do you see GIS as much more than "just a map"?
- Do you see GIS potential in every industry/application?
- Do you recognize GIS as a major enabling technology to help achieve most goals?
- Do you want to make a positive difference in the world around you using GIS?
- Do you understand the power of visualizing and spatially analyzing information?
- Are you frustrated by others in your organization who just don't "get" GIS?
- Are you overwhelmed by your management responsibilities?

- How to build a GIS budget and enumerate costs and benefits
- The politics of GIS leadership
- How to plan for change
- Trend spotting, GIS as an integrative tool

URISA/NENA Addressing Conference

(formerly known as the Geospatial Integration for Public Safety Conference)

April 7-10, 2008

Doubletree Hotel, Portland, Oregon

<http://www.urisa.org/conferences/Addressing/Info>

Integrating GIS & CAMA Conference

Annual Conference for Professionals in Property Assessment, Tax Administration, Mapping and Information Technology

February 25-28, 2008

New Orleans, LA

http://www.urisa.org/qis_cama

URISA's 46th Annual Conference

October 7-10, 2008

Sheraton New Orleans

<http://www.urisa.org/conferences/aboutannual>

And just dreaming.....

URISA Caribbean GIS Conference

August 25-29, 2008

Grand Cayman

<http://www.urisa.org/conferences/caribbean>

OTHER UPCOMING GIS EVENTS:

GITA Annual Conference 2008



March 9-12, 2008

Seattle, WA

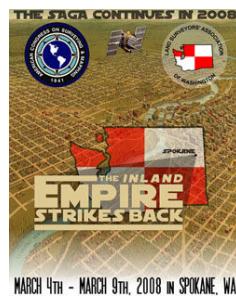
<http://gita.org/events/annual/31/index.asp>

2008 ACSM/LSAW Conference

March 4-8, 2008

Spokane, WA

<http://www.acsm.net/conference.html>



WAURISA SPONSORS

WAURISA thanks the following sponsors for their generous support:



Government Software

Accela Government Software

<http://www.accela.com/>



Aerials Express

<http://aerialsexpress.com/>



ESRI

www.esri.com



GITA 2008 Conference: Seattle

www.gita.org

GIS Boot Camp in Seattle

GIS Boot Camp is a week of focused custom training, designed and taught by experienced King County GIS professionals. Get the most out of ArcGIS as you learn the essentials of editing & analysis, develop your SQL and geoprocessing skills, and master best practices for metadata management.



GIS Boot Camp – Improve productivity while you enhance your career!

Information: www.kingcounty.gov/gisbootcamp/ | 206-263-5220

King County GIS Center

www.kingcounty.gov/gis

The Summit reaches more than 2600 readers across Washington State. For more information about the benefits of WAURISA Sponsorship, contact Angela Johnson (president@waurisa.org), or any WAURISA Board member.....



Kuker-Ranken Incorporated

<http://www.krinc.net/>



Latitude Geographics™

Latitude Geographic

<http://www.latitudegeo.com/>



LizardTech

<http://www.lizardtech.com/>



The PPI Group

<http://www.theppigroup.com/>

In addition to the paid sponsors listed on this page, WAURISA acknowledges support from the following agencies that provide chapter board members:

- Autodesk
- City of Bellingham
- City of Burien
- City of Des Moines
- Fort Lewis GIS
- Lakehaven Utility District
- Mason County
- Douglas County
- Washington DOT
- Wendt GIS

THE SUMMIT - EDITORIAL

SPUTNIK – PLUS 50 YEARS

On October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik-1*, the first artificial satellite to circle the earth. For weeks after, people looked up on clear nights to search for light reflected from *Sputnik*, a 23 inch polished metal sphere, as it circled Earth in its 96 minute orbit. *Sputnik-1* carried only a radio transmitter, but its presence in the skies above the United States created unease and anger. Americans realized that if the Soviets could launch *Sputnik* they would soon be able to launch deadly weapons that could drop anywhere onto the U.S.

In the months and years that followed that first launch in 1957, the world became increasingly focused on looking up, awaiting *Sputnik's* successors. In the dozen years that followed, we looked up as space programs and explorers filled the news with names such as *Laika*, *Vanguard*, *Gagarin*, *Mercury*, *Glenn*, *Apollo*, and *Armstrong*.

What was the significance of *Sputnik* and the space exploration that followed? A few exciting chapters have been added to our collective human history and many scientific and technological advances have occurred.

But, perhaps the most profound change over the past 50 years has come, not from what we have discovered up in the vastness of space, but from what we have learned by looking down at earth from space. A common impression from space, reported by astronaut and cosmonaut alike, is the beauty of our Earth, contrasted by its small size and isolation in the universe.

The pioneering explorers of the 15th and 16th Centuries brought back riches in the form of gold, silver, and spices. Five decades of space exploration has also yielded treasures...but the greatest treasure is what we can learn about the Earth from the vantage point that space provides.

Within the world of GIS, we now take for granted the wealth of satellite photos that are radioed back to Earth by the terabyte every day. Multispectral imagery, LiDAR, SAR, and satellite data derived from other technologies, daily add to the riches that contribute to the power of GIS. Satellites make possible GPS, which improves data and enables many GIS applications. Can we image GIS without satellite technology?

In December 1968, Frank Borman on *Apollo 8* described space as '*...a vast, lonely, forbidding expanse of nothing...*' in contrast to '*...the good Earth.*' As we 'look-up' and reflect on the 50 years of space exploration that began with *Sputnik*, perhaps the real significance is at our feet.

The Summit would like to hear from you. To encourage the discussion of issues and ideas of importance to the Washington GIS community we welcome letters to the editor and opinion essays. Letters to the editor should be a maximum of 100 words and essays should be limited to 500 words.

The Summit is published by WAURISA, The Washington State Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association

Chief Editor: Greg Babinski

Interview Editor: Effie Moody

Olympia Area Editor: Whitney K. Buschmann

For subscriptions, content, comments, or suggestions, email:

SummitGISNews@URISA.org

PUBLIC MAPS IN WASHINGTON

The process of travel focuses the mind of even the most geographically illiterate person on maps. It might mean glancing at a Yahoo.com map showing a hotel location, or coming across the route map tucked in near the back of the 'In-Flight' magazine of the airline of choice.

At King County International Airport (Boeing Field) in Seattle, the traveler enters the lobby across the terrazzo floor depicted below. Designed by Ann Trout and Paul Maroni and entitled 'Our Place in Space' the piece beckons the airport patron onward, while reflecting on where they have been and where they may be going.



'Our Place in Space' – King County International Airport

Do you know of a public map display in Washington? Send it to *The Summit* and we'll include it in a future issue.

-Editor

The Editor had the good fortune this past summer to travel across Russia by train from Vladivostok to Moscow. While not a public map of or in Washington, the following photo depicts how the route of the Trans-Siberian Railroad is 'mapped' on the side of each car of the train.



THE SUMMIT – LITERARY CORNER Joseph Conrad – From *The Heart of Darkness*

Marlow, the narrator of the book, describes a map of Africa and the river where he is bound:

"I gave my name, and looked about. Deal table in the middle, plain chairs all round the walls, on one end a large shining map, marked with all the colours of a rainbow. There was a vast amount of red -- good to see at any time, because one knows that some real work is done in there, a deuce of a lot of blue, a little green, smears of orange, and, on the East Coast, a purple patch, to show where the jolly pioneers of progress drink the jolly lager-beer. However, I wasn't going into any of these. I was going into the yellow. Dead in the centre. And the river was there -- fascinating -- deadly -- like a snake. Ough!"



GIS USER GROUPS IN WASHINGTON

ACSM – Washington State Section

<http://www.wss-acsm.org/>

ASPRS Puget Sound Region

<http://www.photogrammetry.com/ASPRS-PSR/>

Central Puget Sound GIS User Group

<http://waurisa.org/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=24>

Meetings the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Mercer Island City Hall. Contact Nora Gierloff at: ngierloff@ci.tukwila.wa.us

Central Washington GIS User Group

<http://www.cwgis.org/>

Meets the 1st Friday of each month at the Super China Buffet in East Wenatchee, WA at 12:00 noon.

King County GIS User Group

http://www.metrokc.gov/gis/KC_Users_Group.htm

Meets 1st Wednesday every other month at 11:00am at the KCGIS Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Seattle WA, Conf Room 7044/7045.

Northwest Washington GIS User Group

http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/gis/nwgis_mtgs.htm

Spokane Regional GIS User Group

<http://waurisa.org/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=19>

Contact: Dave Rideout, Spokane County 509-477-7251
drideout@spokanecounty.org .

Washington Geographic Information Council (WAGIC)

<http://wagic.wa.gov/>

Join Listserve at: <http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/wagic.html>

To have your GIS related group or event listed in future issues of *The Summit*, notify the editor at: SummitGISNews@URISA.org.

To be added to *The Summit* mailing list, contact:

SummitGISNews@URISA.org

Back issues of *The Summit* are available at:

<http://waurisa.org/thesummit/>

JOIN THE WASHINGTON GIS COMMUNITY FORUM!

The Summit is not the only communications resource available to members of the Washington GIS Community. Sign up as a member of the Washington GIS Community Forum (<http://waurisa.org/phpBB2/index.php>) and access the latest news about GIS jobs, training, projects, and professional activity in Washington State.

WAURISA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Angela Johnson: angela.a.johnson@us.army.mil

Vice President: Dean Tatham: deant@burienwa.gov

Secretary: Greg Babinski: ggreg.babinski@kingcounty.gov

Treasurer: Steve Schunzel: sschunzel@desmoineswa.gov

Past President: Rick Lortz: r.lortz@lakehaven.org

Board Members At-Large:

Don Burdick: dburdick@cob.org

Russ Michel: russ.michel@autodesk.com

Lurleen Smith: LurleeS@co.mason.wa.us

Heather Spates: spatesh@wsdot.wa.gov

Amanda Taub: ataub@co.douglas.wa.us

Donna Wendt: d_l_r_wendt@hotmail.com

WAURISA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Marty Balikov: mbalikov@esri.com

Neil Berry: Neil.berry@seattle.gov

Glenn Brooks: brooks.glen@comcast.net

Daryn Brown: Daryn.Brown@ci.bothell.wa.us

Whitney Buschmann: buschmw@wsdot.wa.gov

Chuck Buzzard: cbuzzar@co.pierce.wa.us

Jaime Crawford: Jaime.crawford@ch2m.com

Cort Daniel: cort.daniel@co.pierce.wa.us

Kristina Evanoff: evanoffk@soundtransit.org

Melissa Faga: mfaga@redmond.gov

Tami Griffin: griffit@wsdot.wa.gov

John Joseph: joseph@esri.com

Jitka Kotelenska: Jitka.Kotelenska@CH2M.com

Michelle Lortz: michelle@lortzco.com

Reily Love: webmaster@waurisa.org

Effie Moody: effie.moody@seattle.gov

Dave Rideout: drideout@spokanecounty.org

John Rose: johnrose45@msn.com

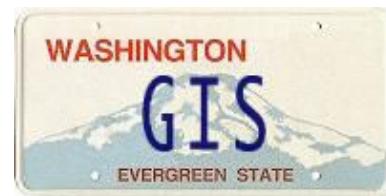
Mike Strong: Mike.strong@cityoffederalway.com

Matt Stull: matts@co.mason.wa.us

Bob Wendt: rwendt@cityoftacoma.org

Interested in volunteering your time to help WAURISA?

Contact Angela Johnson or any Board member listed above.



WAURISA

1402 AUBURN WAY NORTH

PBN 158

AUBURN WA 98002