



# **Cleveland Surveying News**

**May 2009**



# Cleveland Chapter of PLSO

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Proof: John G. Hoy, P.S.  
Website: Rob Krause, P.S.

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Contact: Robert Hoy, [k666@cox.net](mailto:k666@cox.net)

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## 2009 Executive Committee

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Mr. Hoy:

I appreciate receiving the CSN. It certainly has helped with keeping in touch with events both in the Cleveland Chapter and PLSO in general. I certainly agree that PLSO as a whole needs to get back to the basics of establishing better and current communications. Being a Florida resident makes it a little difficult to make the scheduled meetings. However, I am still and foremost a registered surveyor in Ohio and have an interest and commitment to the profession there.

I have seen how other state societies, Alabama, Georgia and Florida, are organized and all of them have their pros and cons. I believe that PLSO needs to make a signification jump into the 21st century by 2010, or face the possibility of a reduction in membership. I have always believed that one of the primary focus points for PLSO should be education. Both providing continuing educational services to surveyors and educating the public. The best way to see what works and does not work is communication with other state societies. There certainly is no sense in reinventing the wheel when there are resources across the country that have experience to share.

Again, I certainly enjoy the CSN and will be adding the Cleveland Chapter dues to my next annual renewal in support.

Tim Schram, Sr. PLS, PSM

**CSN Ed:** Thank you for your words of support. I

*have a good feeling the PLSO is finally moving forward in this regard. Our new executive director has contacted me in regards to electronic communication. Good ideas are piling up in the PLSO office, I only hope we can in an efficient manner without getting bogged down in committees. And Tim I believe we had a notable drop in membership last year which was probably due to a combination of the Ohio economy and the dues increase at the same time. It is good to hear another PLSO Past President's call for change.*

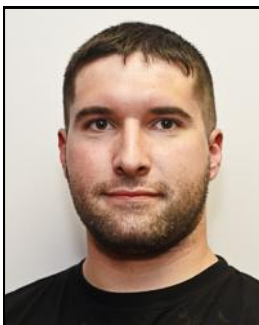
Do you have a comment about an article, report, or news item appearing in this newsletter? Send me an email and be sure to include your name and location or PLSO chapter. Just click on my name below.

[Robert Hoy](#)  
**CSN Editor**

Know of a web site that other surveyors could benefit from visiting? Send the [editor](#) an email to share your resources!

On the Cover:  
"Beauty in the Rain"

Rocky River Reservation,  
Cleveland Metroparks



**Sean Snezek**  
Membership  
Trustee

The executive committee has appointed Sean T. Snezek to the Membership Trustee office.



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**Thursday May 7th**

above: Mark Yeager

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**FREE PARKING**



**Eric Short**  
Program Trustee

**Schedule**

5:30 Registration & Socializing  
6:15 Dinner  
7:15 President's Announcements  
7:20-8:50 Speakers

**Menu**

Chicken Marsala

**Cost** (includes dinner & education session)  
\$35 PLSO Members, \$60 Non-Members

**Reservations**

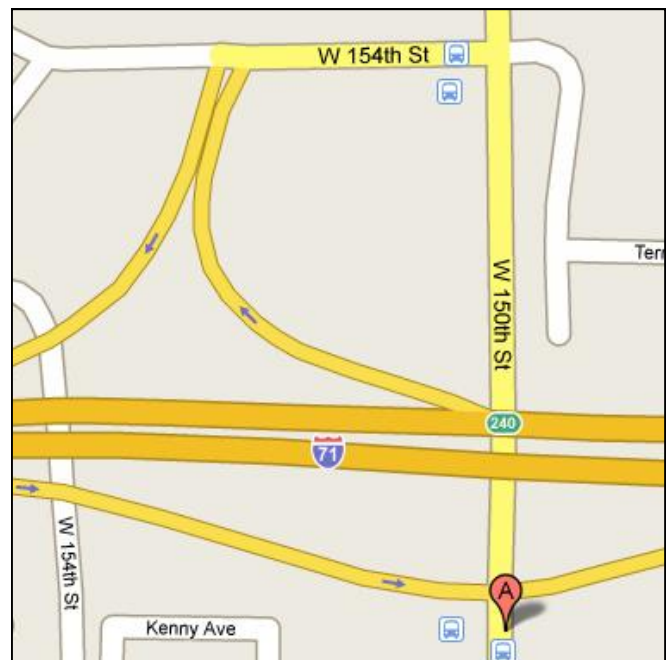
Please RSVP by **May 5th**

**Contact our Program Trustee:**

Eric Short 440-366-9618 (evenings)

[shorte@windstream.net](mailto:shorte@windstream.net)

[Click Here](#) for a full map page to the Marriott.

**Speakers:**

Mark Yeager, P.S. and Marty Rowe, GISP

Mark is the **2008 PLSO Member of the Year**, Cleveland Chapter's 2005 Surveyor of the Year and 2004 President. Mark is the Director of Surveying at KS Associates, Inc. in Elyria, Ohio being employed there since 1996. With more than 24 years of land surveying experience, he has been involved with many large and interesting surveying projects. Mark is also a member of ACSM, NSPS, GLIS and a corresponding member of the Maryland Society of Surveyors.

Marty is the GIS Manger for the Lorain County Auditor's office.

**Topic (1.5 Hours):** Lorain County's GIS & Geodetic Monumentation System. Over the past 10 years Lorain County has installed, observed, and adjusted nearly 600 geodetic monuments, most of which have been installed by Mark Yeager's survey group. Come hear about this Monumentation system and the Lorain County's GIS.



I have grown up and worked in the Survey industry for close to 35 years. During this time I have watched the requirements for obtaining and maintaining a license to practice increase from “no” degree to a 4-year degree. I have also adjusted to the addition of a continuing education requirement of 15 hours per year to maintain a license to practice. These requirements should help to protect the consumer from unqualified workmanship, and protect and maintain respect for our Profession. Several years ago, the laws governing ownership of Surveying (and Engineering) Companies changed to allow non-professionals to own Surveying Companies. The requirement to have a full-time licensed surveyor in charge seemed to keep the “professionalism” in the profession. Recently, however, a new trend has emerged that may spell the end of Surveying as a Profession. The Joint Venture, or Vendor Management Company arrangement.



**Timothy Feller**  
President

There are Mortgage Companies, Real Estate Companies, and Title Companies that are looking to profit from their ability to direct survey work. Kickbacks are illegal. Charging extra fees to “review” surveys may be deemed a Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA) violation so these Companies are establishing “joint venture” or “vendor management” companies, which operate in Ohio as Survey Procurement Companies. These companies are typically **not** performing surveys, but subcontract work to surveyors. As these Companies control large blocks of work, they are able to dictate to surveyors the price they are willing to pay them to actually perform the survey. The completed survey goes to the consumer under the vendor management company name, at the price they wish to charge the consumer. The difference, often up to \$50 per Mortgage Location Survey, is income to the joint venture or vendor management company. As these companies are not survey companies, they typically do not carry professional liability insurance, and instead pass that risk on to the surveyor they subcontract with.

Recognizing that many of you are not involved in the preparation of Mortgage Location Surveys you may not be that concerned or interested in this trend. However, if these Companies can earn a profit of \$50 on a \$150 mortgage location survey, or roughly 1/3 the cost of the survey, how long will it be before they try to extend this to Boundary surveys and full blown ALTA/ACSM surveys? As long as we continue to allow non-survey companies to practice the business of “survey procurement” in the State of Ohio, we are putting our Profession at risk. These companies devalue the professional preparation of an impartial survey without conflicts of interest. We are not serving or protecting the interests of the consumer, nor are we protecting the interests of the Profession. Combine that with allowing these entities to dictate our price, and I believe we are effectively writing our own death notice.

Timothy Feller, P.S.  
Chapter President



**Robert Hoy**  
Communication  
Trustee

Last month I reported that we surveyors need to bring ourselves to the forefront with surveying issues or fear being passed by. With the approval of the chapter executive committee I have created a new publication called the **Cleveland Land Surveyor**. This publication will start being sent to city and village building departments or engineering departments in Cuyahoga and select ones in Lorain county at the end of April. These departments will receive the **CLS** twice a year and it will be parts of the *Cleveland Surveying News* but without advertising. The CLS will also have articles to educate the recipients about surveying. *The goal of this publication is to educate about and publicize surveying.*

I took a look at one city's fence permit application. It required a sketch be submitted with distances given to the property lines; however it did not require a boundary survey. Are you scratching your head too?

Here's a look at another city's fence application/permit. I have been told they created a new process where adjoining land owners can decide on a line between their properties. The owners can then build a fence **5 feet** away from the agreed upon line. How is this serving your residents well and guiding them as to how to best use their land?

Individually it is difficult to make waves, but if we work together we can move surveying along. I would hope you look at fence and building permit/applications in the city you live and work in. We can encourage and guide municipalities how to best serve their residents which may mean a boundary survey being required. I'm sure you've heard the phrase *It's cheaper to get a boundary survey than to **move** a fence.*



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## Things I Wonder About...

### The Economy

By Mike Straub, PS

#### The Economy... Round One...

This week I received several calls from potential clients.

"Do you do residential boundary surveys?"

"Yes, we do. Have you talked to other surveyors? Do you understand the process?" I ask.

"Oh! You are the 6<sup>th</sup> ("S" is way down there in the Yellow Pages") surveyor I've called and you are the first one I've actually talked to..."

Sound familiar? I received that response three times in two days. In these poor economic times, this statement is hard for me to fathom. Why don't Professional Surveyors answer the phone? Are we too busy to accept work? Even when I am in the field, I have my office calls forwarded to my cell phone – and I answer when it rings.

Yes, sometimes it's a PITA, but at least I answer, if at all possible, and ask if I can call back at a more convenient time for me.

One of our largest jobs last year came from a cold call placed by an out-of-state architect. The display showed an unfamiliar area code (it turned out to be Minnesota) and my first thought was, "< sigh > Which internet company wants to update my listing THIS TIME?" But I answered. Looking back, I shudder to imagine what would have happened had I not taken that call on my mobile.

#### The Economy... Round Two...

Over the winter, I watched way too much television and read way too many internet articles and discussions regarding The Recession. All over the media: "This is the worst since The Great Depression." I became depressed. Way depressed. Headed toward my own personal Great Depression. (Not really, but it looks good in print, doesn't it?) Although I had plenty of work over the usually slow months, I was letting all the negativity about how bad things are, *and are going to be*, get me down.

Then I turned off the TV and quit reading so many articles. I got off my duff, ended the pity party, and started looking for more opportunities. I found them.

I FOUND THEM! "Seek and ye shall find", eh? I refuse to participate in this recession!

And I know I have to keep looking - because opportunity is out there. If I don't find it, I'm sure one of you will.

#### The Economy... Round Three

I really don't think we are in the worst economic times since The Great Depression.

These times remind me more of when I graduated from Ohio State – 1981. Jimmy Carter had just left office and Reagan was in. Interest rates were in the teens. Unemployment ballooned. Few surveying jobs were to be found around these parts. I believe there were seven or so of us who graduated from OSU with our BS in Surveying that spring. If memory serves, three went to work for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in parts west – LA, Colorado, and Oregon, I believe. Two went to work for the government and two of us, Dave-the-magna-cum-laude-grad and I, went to work for Professional Engineering Consultants in Wichita, Kansas. PEC also hired Gerry, a grad out of Purdue.

However, it did not take long for the poor economic wave to reach the Great Plains. About a year after the three of us were hired, the company hit some tough times and was forced to reduce staff. I was fortunate to survive while Dave and Gerry were let go. Why me? Not sure...but I wonder if it had something to do with that positive attitude.

Hmmm...

#### The Economy....Round Four...

Sometimes I think that the northern Ohio area has been so economically challenged for so long that when this tsunami hit the rest of the country they were just catching up to us. We were never the boomtown like Las Vegas, or Phoenix, or Charlotte. We were just, well... Cleveland. We learned to survive when it was already tough going!

The Economy... just one of the things I wonder about.

Mike Straub, PS  
Chapter President-Elect  
[MikeS@StraubSurveying.com](mailto:MikeS@StraubSurveying.com)



**Michael A. Straub**  
President-Elect



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## Stories from the Past... (Presidents)

Anyone who has been in the surveying business for any length of time will eventually end up testifying in court as to the location of a property line and to how it was determined. Most often it is in County Common Pleas Court or a Municipal Court, usually a civil matter.

I had the unusual distinction to testify in Federal Court in a criminal trial and to my surprise, my testimony was key to the outcome. The defendant's attorney, who had hired me, explained the details of the proceedings this way:

"A resident of Cleveland had been charged by agents of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) with making illegal spirits (moonshine in his basement."

Early in the trial, the "Feds" testified that in order to obtain evidence to secure a warrant, they stood on the edge of the neighbor's drive, peered through the defendant's basement window, sniffed the air, etc., to obtain necessary information to secure said warrant.

Subsequently, I took the stand to testify that the gravel drive of said neighbor, encroached over the defendant's property line about one half foot. The ruling from the bench that since the federal agents were on the defendant's property prior to securing their warrant, the defendant's rights had been violated.

Case Dismissed!

Jack Hoy  
Chapter Past President 1979

Note: Other Past Presidents reminisce over your careers and find a good story to share. The more we communicate with each other the closer we become. Email your stories to the [CSN Editor](#).



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## Call for Speakers

Have you had a challenging lesson learned project? A project with obstacles you overcame, mistakes made, and you are wiser from the experience?

One of the topics we are entertaining for the conference program is Surveyors sharing their project experience with the other Surveyors. Sharing your approach, obstacles encountered, mistakes made (yes we all make mistakes), how you prevailed through difficulties, and the lessons you learned.

These topics could be field work, office calculations, document research, or project/client management and relations. Don't feel you need to speak for 90 minutes or more since we could have 2 or 3 different speakers in a session. The goal is for Surveyors to communicate and share with each other which is the idea of a conference.

If you're a good public speaker and think you have project experience to share, drop me an email with a brief overview of your project and its pitfalls and triumphs.

Robert Hoy, [k666@cox.net](mailto:k666@cox.net)  
2011 Annual Conference  
Program Chairman

## RANDOM LINES

by John E. Dailey, P.S.

We continue with the paper presented in 1911 by Joshua Varney Surveyor:

When the angles of a survey are determined by courses derived from the magnetic needle, it is appropriate that the compass card shall be graduated only to one-half degrees, from which one - quarter degrees can be estimated. Finer graduations would not have been useful. The Traverse Table is appropriate for calculations based on such field work. The transit which Aaron Merchant was using was bought and used by his father. Ahaz Merchant, and the public record of his work indicates that he, Ahaz, used the trigonometrical tables and possibly logarithms. It is, however, true that in his private notes the only calculations I recall having seen were in the form of traverse table calculations which Aaron Merchant used for all his work, including that based on the finer angles derived from transit readings. His method was to use the one-quarter degree above and below the given angle and then interpolate.

The most important part of our work is marking lines and corners. A discussion of this subject necessarily takes us back of 1872. The method of marking lines by surveyors of the Moses Cleveland

times, had become nearly obsolete before 1872. though many of the lines marked then remained, and possibly some of them still remain.

My experience on the Holland Purchase of Western New York helped me to understand what I found here, and what I have learned here has given me a better

understanding of what I met with there. The original surveys there and here were mainly made through forests, with needle courses, checked occasionally by observations of the North Star. The corners were usually marked by stakes, from which measurements were made to nearby trees called "Witness trees".

The lines between the corners were shown by marks on trees. When the compass line struck a tree, it was marked with what was called "three hacks and a blaze", *i. e.*, the axe man would strike the tree in three places, one over the other, each time cutting through the bark. Above this he would blaze the tree, that is he would shave off the darker outside bark, exposing the lighter colored bark or wood so it could be easily seen. These "blaze" marks" were to assist purchasers, or prospective purchasers, to find the lines. Trees marked with



John E. Dailey

[\(Continued on Page 13\)](#)

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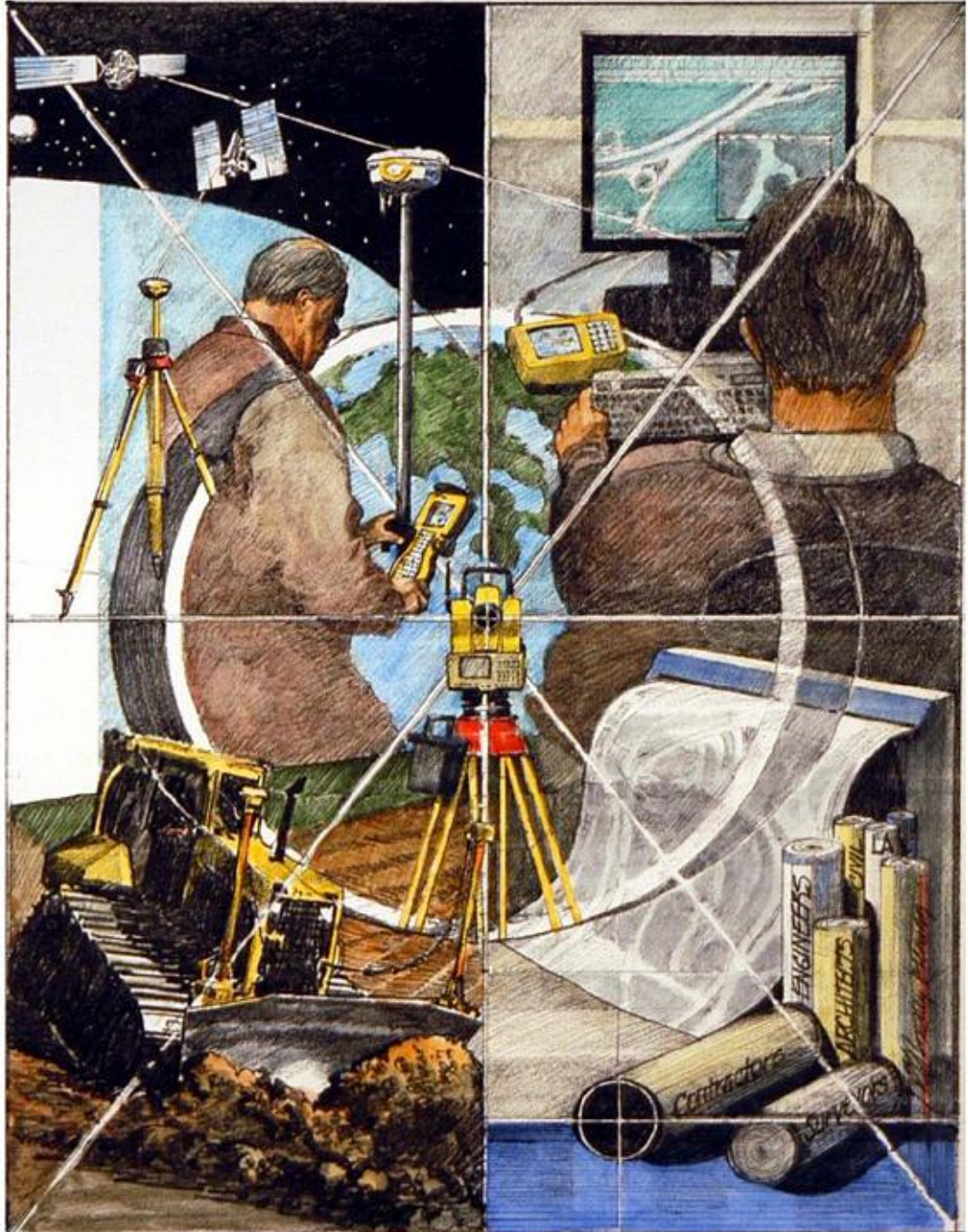
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## RANDOM LINES

*(Continued from Page 11)*

three hacks and a blaze became legally "line trees", even when later surveys showed they were not in the line. Adjacent land owners were joint owners of valuable line trees. Besides the line trees, other trees near the line were "blazed" to assist in finding the line trees, corner stakes or other monuments, but they had no legal effect in locating the line. When stones were found near lot corners, they were piled around the corner stake, forming what the records call a "Stake and Stones."

Where stones are not easily found, it is often hard to decide what to use. I remember a case on the Holland Purchase where, while searching for a suitable monument, my assistant found a large bone, but my employer objected, saying he "wanted something permanent, and that the bone would be called for at the resurrection." I think we compromised on a hemlock knot.

While I was with the Merchants, we were using the last of a carload of stones which had been shipped to them from Berea, and I believe that such monuments are the best that it is practicable to use. Iron rods, gas pipes, drain tiles and other devices are used. Drain tile with a nail or spike in the ground under them do very well, but all such devices are inferior to good sand stone monuments, having a base of not less than 100 square inches and a height of at least 18 inches, set about 3 inches below the surface. I often set stones of less size, and believe they are better than any of the substitutes mentioned above. Corners of lots in subdivisions are usually marked with oak stakes. The Merchants set large numbers of good stone monuments, and their monuments are valued highly by all later surveyors.

The surveyors know that every land mark which is accepted as authority is of immense value and is appreciated not only by surveyors, but by those who have indulged in expensive lawsuits. There was one practice of Aaron Merchant, however, which was not commendable; he placed monuments at corners and offsets from lines, making no public record of the fact, thinking that his personal interests demanded such practice, and this leads to another phase of the subject. In 1872, there was less friendly feeling between surveyors than there is now. The advantages of friendly

intercourse which lead to the formation of the Civil Engineers' Club of Cleveland, did not then prevail. It is different now. With but a few regrettable exceptions, if one of us wishes for information which another has, we ask for it and it is cheerfully given. A wise selfishness prompts this, but selfishness is not always accompanied by wisdom. This friendly practice is well, but we must not censure Merchant. We must remember that he had notes of 50 years' practice, and there was no one who could offer an exchange on equal terms. While I do not have much knowledge as to the practice in other places, I do know enough to make me feel proud of this part of the Cleveland practice, and to make me sure that Merchant's methods are the rules in some other cities.

This paper was commenced in response to a request by your former Secretary, who believed that an account of the changes, which have occurred in the tools as well as practice of surveying during the last 39 years, would be of interest. Possibly about the year 1950 some member may be asked to speak of the changes which will have occurred between this and that time. Possibly they may then have better instruments for alignment and measuring angles than those we now have, but I doubt their having any with a higher degree of accuracy than those now made by our J. C. Ulmer Co. and other manufacturers in the United States. They may have a better tool for measuring than a steel tape, but I doubt it. If better tools come into use, it is probable that specimens of those we now use will have been preserved, but for our methods of using tools, they will be dependent on what is written and what can be told by those among them then who are active now, and for those who may feel an interest in the subject. I will now speak of our methods.

In measuring angles, we repeat and divide to determine the smaller fractions. While our transits have needles. we use them but little, and that little is mainly to show lawyers and courts how unreliable they are.

All use steel ribbons for measuring, and I believe all use those which have been compared with a government standard. Nearly all. and probably all, take account of strain and temperature. Some of us have tapes which have been officially tested and use them only to test other tapes. We differ some in our methods of testing tapes, and also in our

*(Continued on Page 14)*

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## RANDOM LINES

[\(Continued from Page 13\)](#)

methods of measuring. I know more about my own methods than of the methods of others, so will be egotist enough to speak of them.

It must be stated here that my methods have often changed and they may change again. I know this statement would be true of some of my associates and believe it is true of all, for I believe all wish to use the best methods, nevertheless, strange as it may appear, some fail to see that Varney's latest method is always the best method.

The government certificate, accompanying the tape I use for testing, shows it to be correct at 28-1/3 degrees Fahr., with 10 pounds strain supported, that being the strain usually used by the Government when testing. From this I learn that the tape I use in the field is correct at 41-1/3 degrees Fahr., with 20 pounds supported and 25 pounds suspended. When measuring. I depend on my muscle for 25 pounds strain, and only occasionally use the scales. Mr. H. W. Bill tests at 10 pounds

suspended, and always uses the scales in measuring. The only objection I see to this is the uncertainty when he measures less than 100 feet. He measures the even one-hundreds with a band chain and uses a tape for the fractions of one hundred. I have made some experiments and failed to detect any difference between measuring 100 feet at once. or in two parts of about 50 feet each, using in each case what my muscle called 25 pounds. Mr. E. B. Wight tests at 10 pounds supported and finds that with 17 pounds suspended he gets the same, and he always uses the scales and 17 pounds. This leaves but a small chance for error, and is a better method than mine. The higher the strain used, the less error there will be with varying strain, and with using part of the tape. Fearing some may criticize me for depending on my muscle, I wish to argue the case."

We will finish the Varney paper next month along with some very interesting comments made by his peers.

[John E. Dailey](#), Past



**MEETING AGENDA Friday, April 17, 2009**

**4.0 Unfinished Business**

- 4.1 Surveyor of the Past Plaques - Barb Jones
- 4.2 Website Proposal - Paul Dinan
- 4.3 Soil Scientists Issues - Dean Frederick
- 4.4 Proposed Removal of PS Requirement for County Engineer - Dean Frederick
- 4.5 Statute of Limitations - Rose Coors

**5.0 New Business**

- 5.1 New Members (See Attached List) - Bob Akins
- 5.2 NSPS Boy Scout Jamboree Request - Mike Besch / Melinda Gilpin

**6.0 Inter-Association Delegates**

- 6.1 CEO - Dean Ringle
- 6.2 ODOT - Jim Kenyon/Brett Shearer
- 6.3 State Board of Registration - Paul Dinan
- 6.4 OGRIP - Stu Davis

**7.0 Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Special Committees
  - 7.11 Political Action - Brad Kramer
  - 7.12 Standards - Brad Kramer
    - 7.121 Change in Law Regarding Metes and Bounds
    - 7.122 Monumentation of Railroads
    - 7.123 Preservation of Monumentation
  - 7.13 State Line - Dean Ringle
  - 7.14 Historic Review - Mike Besch
- 7.2 Newsletter Editor - Don Friemoth
- 7.3 NSPS Governor - Mike Besch
  - 7.31 Trig Star - Paul Dinan
  - 7.32 CST Coordinator - Pat Leonhardt
  - 7.33 Geocaching Coordinator - Bob Akins
- 7.4 Standing Committees
  - 7.41 Program - Bud Payne
    - 7.411 Annual Conference Updates
      - 2009 - Central Ohio Chapter - Brad Patridge
      - 2010 - Miami Valley Chapter - Brad Kramer
      - 2011 - Cleveland Chapter - John Hoy
    - 7.412 Fall Seminar Updates
      - 2008 - Scioto Valley Chapter - Loren Purdom
      - 2009 - Thomas Hutchins Chapter - Dan Susany
      - 2010 - Firelands Chapter
      - 2011 - Tuscarawas Valley Chapter - Bob Akins

- 2012 - Toledo Chapter - Pat Leonhardt
- 7.42 Membership - Bob Akins
- 7.43 Interprofessional Affairs - A. J. Myers
- 7.44 Education - George Armstrong
- 7.45 Legislation -
- 7.46 Finance - Bob Ernsberger
- 7.47 Past Presidents Council - Brad Kramer, et al.
- 7.48 Scholarship - Rion Myers
- 7.49 Scholarship Fund Board
- 7.50 Management Review - Dean Frederick

**8.0 Chapter Delegate Reports**

- 8.1 Askega Chapter - Jim Donathan
- 8.2 Central Ohio Chapter - Brad Patridge
- 8.3 Cincinnati Chapter - Bob Heidkamp
- 8.4 Cleveland Chapter - George Hofmann
- 8.5 Congress Lands Chapter - Isaac King
- 8.6 Firelands Chapter - Tim Riley
- 8.7 Miami Valley Chapter - Ray Payne
- 8.8 Mohican-Killbuck Valley Chapter - Jim Kenyon
- 8.9 Muskingum Valley Chapter - Rob Lowe
- 8.10 Northwest Ohio Chapter -
- 8.11 Ohio State University Student Chapter - Jon Link
- 8.12 Ohio Valley Chapter - Larry Gardner
- 8.13 Scioto Valley Chapter - George Seymour
- 8.14 Southwestern Chapter - Rose Coors
- 8.15 The Thomas Hutchins Chapter - John Francis
- 8.16 The Univ. of Akron Student Chapter - Andrew Kis
- 8.17 Toledo Chapter - Tom Silva - Pat Leonhardt
- 8.18 Treaty Lands Chapter - John Jauert
- 8.19 Tuscarawas Valley Chapter - Dave Bodo
- 8.20 Western Reserve Chapter - Jeff Mallison

**9.0 President-Elect's Report - Rion Myers**

**10.0 Executive Director's Report - Melinda Gilpin**

- 10.1 Assistant Executive Director's Report - Barb Jones

**11.0 President's Report - Dean Frederick**



**Executive Committee Meeting Friday April 17, 2009**

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2.0 Minutes for the Sept. 2008, January 2009, and March 2009 were not ready for submittal.

3.0 Jan., Feb., & March Treasurers reports were submitted and accepted subject to audit.

4.2 Increase of activity noticed on web site. Melinda Gilpin has been putting together a wish list for the web site and talking to other society's. She intends to submit a web site proposal in May.

4.3 Soil scientist (Senate Bill 110) referred to committee

4.5 Letter of support from PLSO submitted.

5.1 New members, 1 professional, 5 students and 2 life members. Motion passed to accept.

5.2 Mike Besch gave presentation on Boy Scout Jamboree to be held in Virginia in July 2010. Looking for Volunteers, financial support.

6.2 ODOT: Continued discussion on preservation of monuments.

7.11 Melinda Gilpin is now registered as our lobbyist. Has received 6 invitations for PAC functions will determine which we may want to support.

7.122 Railroad Monumentation Watching led of National Society

7.124 Min. standard revisions for Plats and descriptions

*(Continued on Page 17)*



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7.125 GPS position Standards (should standards be established)

7.126 Fema flood Elevation Cert. Revised cert. now available.

7.14 Historic review To establish a base to keep track of where our equipment is being displayed. Info on Historic museums, Rendezvous, Other related fields

7.3 Governors Report

7.31 Pat Leonhardt still looking for donations for Trigstar.

7.32 CST tests for level 1-2-3 will be given at the fall seminar.

7.33 Not much action, should we continue or drop this.

7.411 2009 convention appears to have made profit \$22,000.

7.412 State executive meeting will be held at Fall seminar.

7.43 AJ Myer reported on Mortgage location surveys . State committee voted to Object to the language but not oppose the rule.

7.44 Seeing what is being offered at the colleges in Ohio, see if their courses could be standardized so they could easily transfer between colleges. Mike Besch reported that Akron will be offering a course on forensic surveying. It will be a research class.

7.50 Management review . There will be a 90 day review for the executive director.

8.0 Chapter Delegates Reports all received except three.

10.0 Melinda reported that she has been registered as a lobbyist.

That she along with Barb Jones have been going over the day to day tasks at the office. Checking the stimulus programs to see if there is anything to pass along to the membership which might lead to work for us.

10.1 Barb Jones reported that she was going to send our standard \$75 Dollars to the historical society. She also brought in one of two boxes that the historical society had made to carry our two antique instruments. They did this on there own accord an have not asked anything for them. The board voted to donate an additional \$ 500 to help cover the cost of the boxes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

**Lorain County Deed Watermark Update****Email to Peter D. Zwick**

04/09/09

Good afternoon Mr. Zwick,

I have great news. After researching the watermark issue further, I have decided to purchase a version upgrade for the software used in the Lorain County Recorder's Office. This new version includes the capabilities to use a transparent watermark on the documents found on the website. We expect this upgrade to take place around early June. I appreciate your input, and I look forward to your feedback once the upgrade is in place. If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Judy Nedwick  
Lorain County Recorder

The education session about the Cuyahoga County GIS held on the grounds of the Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office did not take place. The scheduled speaker, Mr. J. Kevin Kelley, cancelled the presentation a couple of days before the event. The Chapter did not have enough time to schedule an alternate location to provide an alternate topic.

A make-up session will be arranged for the Spring Subscribers sometime before the end of the year. These individuals will be notified with the details.



### Executive Meeting Highlights

#### Executive Committee Meeting highlights

April 20, 2009 **Parma City Hall.**

In attendance: Jack Hoy, John Hoy, Tom Snezek and all officers except Tim Feller.. Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm.

Chapter Delegate: George Hofmann gave an oral report of the April State Executive Committee Meeting. Highlights included talk of standardizing surveying programs from college to college, Melinda Gilpin's duties as executive director and discussion of setting survey standards for GPS.

Treasury: John Bischof submitted written report for March 2009.

Communication: Bob Hoy reviewed advertising and upcoming articles.

Education: Robert Papotto updated the status of creating a Cleveland PLSO Scholarship.

Membership: Sean Snezek was appointed to membership trustee by Michael Straub.

Program: Eric Short reminded all of the next meeting offering CPD credit on May 7 2009. Makeup for the April 2 seminar was discussed, date and topic to be determined.

#### Old Business:

John Hoy updated the status of the 2011 Conference.

#### New Business:

Tom Snezek reviewed a fema flood certificate workshop.

Lorain County Recorder informed Tom about the process of removing the watermark on online documents.



**Michael Ackerman**  
Secretary



Parma City Hall  
Mayor's Conference  
Room



**Executive Committee Meeting - March 16, 2009 Office of John R. Hoy & Assoc.**

In attendance: John Dailey, John Hoy, and all officers except Chuck Flanigan and Bob Papotto. Meeting called to order at 6:02 P.M.

Secretary's minutes: Executive Committee meeting minutes from January accepted as submitted.

Chapter Delegate: George Hofmann gave an oral report of the March 13, 2009 State Executive Committee Meeting. Highlights included recognizing National Surveyors Week; talk of how to raise attendance at the conference banquet, and perpetuation of centerline monumentation.



**Michael Ackerman**  
Secretary

Treasury: John Bischof submitted written reports for January and February 2009. A new scholarship fund has been created as a division of the Treasurer's Report.

Communication: A motion was made by Robert Hoy to prepare and distribute a modified copy of the CSN for use by city/village building departments and others promoting the surveying profession with an approximate cost of \$400. Money will be used from the education fund. Peter Zwick second. Motion passed unanimously. The deadline for Cleveland Surveying News is March 18, 2009.

Education: No report.

Membership: No report.

Program: Eric Short reminded all of the next meeting offering CPD credit on April 2, 2009. Registration for the meeting has been filled.

Old Business:

- John Hoy updated the status of the 2011 Conference. The search for a feasible location continues. The number of credits to offer and length of the conference was discussed.
  - The replacement for Membership Trustee is being researched.
- John Dailey gave an update on working with a group on the history of surveying in the county.

New Business:

- National Surveyors Week recognition
  - CSN editorial policy discussion. Talk of creating a letters to the editor section or some other form of public feedback.
  - Mike Straub proposed sending a press release to Crain's Business News about the 2009 chapter officers.
  - Moved the location of the April 20, 2009 Executive Meeting to Parma City Hall.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

**Data Bank Survey Discs**

As promised last month, here's an overview of the two Survey Disc scans.

1st Disc of Scanned Surveys

Approximately 7,000 larger surveys (stored in flat files) were scanned in 1999 in part for preservation because the document storage location at the time was not very well protected against weather extremes.

2nd Disc of Scanned Surveys

At the end of 2004, about 2,700 folded surveys were scanned using proceeds from the 2004 Annual Conference the Cleveland Chapter hosted. These surveys vary in size and include some unrecorded subdivision and county road records.

Proceeds from donations accepted for these Survey Discs go to the chapter's scholarship endeavors. Questions or want to obtain the discs? Call or email [Robert Hoy](#) 216-389-7677 for details.



**Robert Hoy, P.S.**  
CSN Editor

If you haven't read my county GIS reviews that spans the previous 4 newsletters, I hope you make it a point to read them. You may not have a need to use features of all 6 GIS's now, but when you have a task to do in the future you'll know what in that county's GIS can help you get your job done.

Here's a couple items to remember. Use the free FireFox web browser when using the Cuyahoga GIS, and Lorain County's GIS has all their recorded subdivision plats available free in high resolution files. On the right panel of their GIS, click the search binoculars, then choose subdivision/condo and type in the name of your subdivision.

Another item of note is my GIS review of the Lake County GIS is on the left side of their GIS front page as "PLSO Review". This is good visibility for PLSO for the concept of GIS. Now for recent updates.

### Cuyahoga GIS

2008 aerial photographs are now available and they renamed the "basemap" pull-down menu to "street map". Graphic selection tools, which were sorely missing, have been added to selecting a parcel to get information on. The lightning bolt shown at right selects one parcel the square selects several parcels at once.



One thing I've noticed is some features or GIS website may not work well with certain web browsers. Some sites work well with FireFox and others better with Internet Explorer. If you are having trouble with site features that should work, try using the other web browser and see if that solves the problem.

# Jake's Stakes

## AMISH MADE

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## SURVEYING and CONSTRUCTION STAKES

**High quality, light colored, HARDWOOD and smooth**

### MARKER STAKES

18" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	Bundle of 50
24" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	\$0.18 ea
30" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	\$0.20 ea
36" x 1 5/8" x 1/2"	\$0.25 ea
48" x 1 1/2" x 7/16"	\$0.28 ea
48" x 1 1/2" x 7/16"	\$0.36 ea
48" x 7/8" x 1/2"	\$0.24 ea

### SQUARE HUBS

12" x 2" x 2"	Bundle of 25
18" x 2" x 2"	\$0.24 ea
22" x 2" x 2"	\$0.32 ea
	\$0.36 ea

### WEDGES HUBS

22" HUB MARKER	Bundle of 50
9"	\$0.13 ea
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30" x 5/8" 20 per bundle Call for \$

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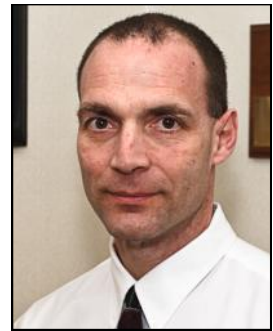
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The Cleveland Chapter will not have any high school math classes participate in the Trig-Star competition this year. The schools could not commit to the competition.

The chapter's scholarship program is progressing. We should approve it before the fall. If you have any comments or concerns about the program, please contact me or attend the May executive committee meeting.

There will be no Survey School technician classes or workshops this Spring. We will be discussing options for fall opportunities. Some items discussed already have been to offer these workshops free of charge.



**Robert A. Papotto**  
Education Trustee

## SECRET SOCIETY OF SENIOR SURVEYORS (S<sup>4</sup>)

### Definitions:

Why Secret:	No Reason, Just adds another "S"
Society:	Group, Club, Whatever.
Senior:	Sixtyish. Being retired is not a requirement.
Surveyors:	If you do not know by now, it is way too late anyway. Those who have practiced, worked or played in the profession of Land Surveying or related endeavors.
Professional Affiliation:	PLSO, ACSM, OSPE or <b>NONE</b> .
Meetings:	Lunch at Sokolowski's University Inn 1201 University Road, Cleveland, Ohio
Cost:	Your Meal
When:	The Third Tuesday of the Month, 12:30 P.M.
Agenda:	Exchange War Stories, Tell Tall Tales, Bemoan Current State of Surveying, Share Insight and Knowledge, General B.S.
Rules:	No Dues, No Membership But Shirt and Shoes Are Required.
Who:	Whoever Can Make It. No Reservations.

**Come out and enjoy.**

For more information, call John Dailey 440-888-1930 or Jack Hoy 440-877-1434

# 2009 Cleveland Chapter Calendar

May 7

May 15

May 18

May 19

May 20

## Seminar Meeting

State Executive Committee Meeting

## Executive Committee Meeting

S<sup>4</sup> Lunch

Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

June 4

June 16

June 26

## General Membership Meeting

S<sup>4</sup> Lunch

## William J. Haas Memorial Annual Golf Tournament

July 10

State Executive Committee Meeting

August 10

August 12

## Executive Committee Meeting

Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

September 3

September 11

September 14

September 16

## Seminar Meeting

State Executive Committee Meeting

## Executive Committee Meeting

Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

October 1

October 8-9

October 16

October 19

October 21

## Seminar Meeting

PLSO Fall Seminar, Youngstown Holiday Inn

State Executive Committee Meeting

## Executive Committee Meeting

Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

November 5

November 13

November 16

## Seminar Meeting

State Executive Committee Meeting

## Executive Committee Meeting

December 11

December 14

State Executive Committee Meeting (if needed)

Executive Committee Meeting (if needed)

January 8

January 11

January 12

January 21

State Executive Committee Meeting

## Executive Committee Meeting

Cleveland Surveying News Deadline

## Annual Meeting

### Executive Committee Meetings

are held at:

**Parma City Hall**

at 6pm and are open to all Chapter members who want to attend.



# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual WILLIAM J. HAAS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

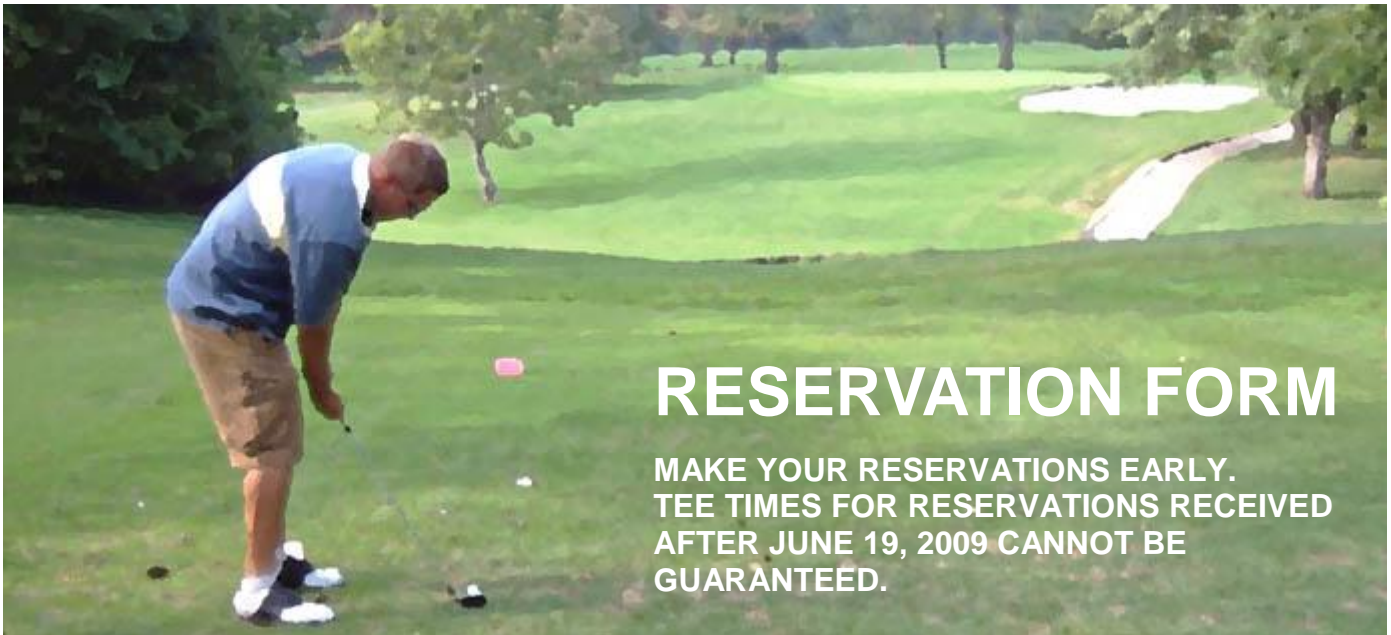
Hosted by:



## Cleveland Chapter of PLSO

**Friday June 26, 2009**  
**PLEASANT HILL GOLF COURSE**  
**13461 AQUILLA ROAD**  
**CHARDON, OHIO**

**27 HOLES OF GOLF & CART**  
**LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS, STEAK DINNER,**  
**FREE BAR**  
**HOLE PRIZES – DOOR PRIZES**  
**TROPHIES**



## RESERVATION FORM

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY.**  
**TEE TIMES FOR RESERVATIONS RECEIVED**  
**AFTER JUNE 19, 2009 CANNOT BE**  
**GUARANTEED.**

(tickets will be mailed to you)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_**Phone No.:** \_\_\_\_\_**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_**FOURSOME NAMES**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attach a separate list of additional foursomes.

**Preferred Tee Time****(Between 8:00 a.m. & Noon)** \_\_\_\_\_ :

Golf &amp; Dinner No. \_\_\_\_ x \$70.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Only No. \_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: **Cleveland Chapter of PLSO**Mail to: **Tom Snezek****3496 Colletta Lane**  
**Cleveland, OH 44111**

Home: (216) 671-4902

Work: (216) 348-3846

Fax: (216) 941-2431

[dadsurv@hotmail.com](mailto:dadsurv@hotmail.com)

Work: (216) 228-6077

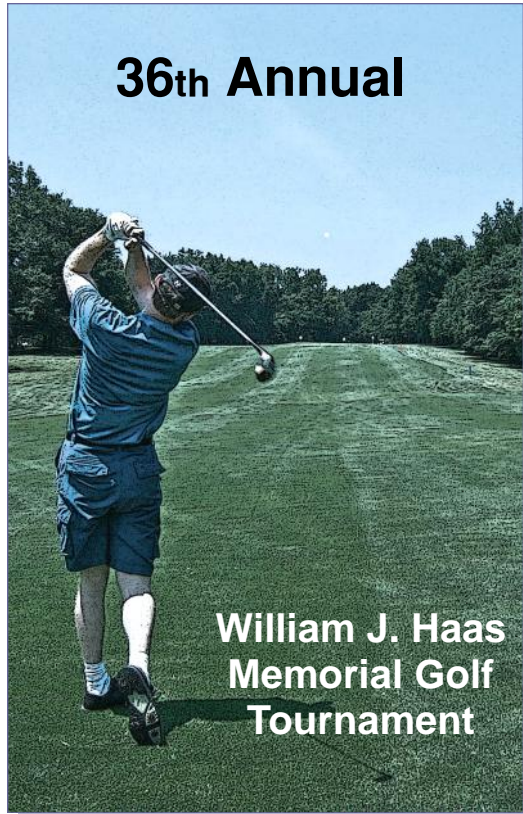
Fax: (216) 228-6078

Home: (440) 734-3624

Rick Ziegman, Golf Co-Chairman

[www.PLSO.com](http://www.PLSO.com)





## HOLE SPONSORSHIP FORM

PLEASANT HILL GOLF COURSE  
13461 AQUILLA ROAD CHARDON, OHIO

**JUNE 26, 2009**

27 HOLES OF GOLF

CART, LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS, STEAK DINNER,  
OPEN BAR AFTER TOURNAMENT PLAY, HOLE  
PRIZES, DOOR PRIZES AND TROPHIES

- Sponsor hole skill prizes such as longest drive
- Have your representative stationed at your hole to meet and socialize with golfers
- Sponsorship signage at your hole
- Anyone can help sponsor the event by monetary or door prize donations
- All sponsor recognized on the Sponsor Board displayed in the clubhouse.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name as it will appear in written materials:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole Sponsor ..... \$ 125.00

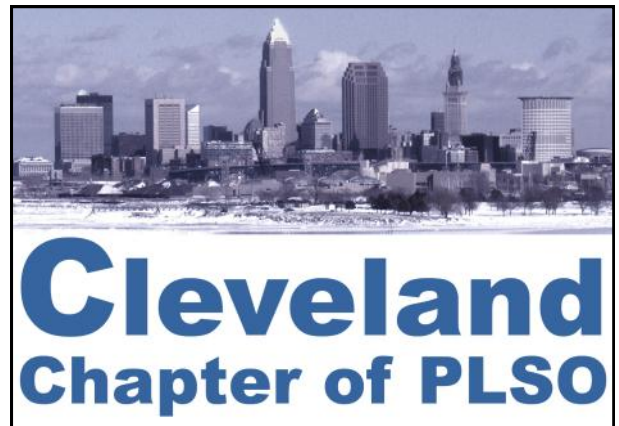
*(does not include greens fees or meals)*

Representative at the sponsored hole?

General Sponsor ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Get your name on the Sponsor Board)*

Total Enclosed: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_



36th Annual William J. Haas Memorial Golf  
Tournament sponsored by the Cleveland  
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Please return this form with your check  
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Mail to: Tom Snezek  
3496 Colletta Lane  
Cleveland, OH. 44111  
Home: (216) 671-4902  
Work: (216) 348-3846

## NSPS Youth Outreach Update

Booth Coordinators;  
Wayne Hebert [wabear@charter.net](mailto:wabear@charter.net)  
or Thomas Brooks, Jr. [twb2surveyor@gmail.com](mailto:twb2surveyor@gmail.com)

### NSPS Web Page:

[http://www.nspsmo.org/news\\_events/Jambo\\_merit\\_badge.shtml](http://www.nspsmo.org/news_events/Jambo_merit_badge.shtml)

March 28, 2009

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## DEAR STATE EXECUTIVE

Please accept this update on our efforts to provide the best Surveying Merit Badge experience at the One Hundred Anniversary of one of the few remaining original Merit Badges in Boy Scouting, but also the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boy Scouting in America.

At the Spring Conference I spoke in a hurried fashion to provide enough detail for your NSPS Governor to return with some actions items concerning our effort. I am sure life has made it difficult to act immediately on this account, as it has for us all when we return after a hiatus from work. It is imperative with the short time frame that URGENT action be undertaken to communicate these efforts and galvanize surveyors across our country and particularly within our State affiliates to support and make this effort a success.

The NSPS Youth Outreach Committee has started a page on the NSPS web site to keep potential staff and all our NSPS members informed of the efforts to make this event not only a "mountaintop" experience for the scouts, but to motivate and "mark" them to the point that they WILL remember our profession as a career choice. You can find this page at the following location:

[http://www.nspsmo.org/news\\_events/Jambo\\_merit\\_badge.shtml](http://www.nspsmo.org/news_events/Jambo_merit_badge.shtml)

## ACTION REQUEST ITEM # 1

We would like each state to help in supporting Students to serve as staff members to the Jamboree. The costs for full time staff are \$695. We are asking all state affiliates to support the efforts for the Merit Badge outreach by providing the costs of one Student Staff member to attend, which is only \$695 or whatever your state can provide. If all states respond positively to this request as best as they can, we should not only afford the student participation, but provide for their transportation to the Jamboree. Checks are to be made to the **NSPS Foundation** using the memo portion of the check to state it will be used for the **Youth Outreach Efforts**. There will be a banner/poster at the Surveying Merit Badge Booth in the National Scout Jamboree recognizing the State Affiliates and other donors (Universities, Vendors, personal donors) that participate in this effort.



## ACTION REQUEST ITEM # 2

We also need to make a recruitment of the best staff possible. This can be extremely difficult an item as the amount of time and personal expense together are formidable. Costs such as Transportation, Registration, and a ;commitment of 12 days of time, mean these volunteers put forth considerable expenses. As you can see on our web page we are well on our way for filling the remaining slots that are open. We still are in heavy need of volunteers for Day Staff. Our Full time staff has openings, particularly for the Students seeking a Surveying Degree. As I stated at the Spring Conference, these student staff members can put our efforts over the top as an experience that the scouts can remember and better relate to us.

To help us recruit these volunteers, both students and Registered Land Surveyors we ask that your affiliate either email all your states members with the attached article or publish the attached article *"NSPS Enters Its Second Decade of Involvement With the Boy Scouts Surveying Merit Badge"* in your affiliate's newsletter ASAP. Email is preferable as the time frame is short for getting all our staffed registered on time.

Your NSPS Governor will hopefully soon be contacting you, if they have not already, I hope that your organization can be a big part of the impact that this will have on youth and the future of our profession.

Kindest personal regards,

Youth Outreach Committee

### GIS Users Group

The **GIS USERS OF NORTHERN OHIO** (GUONO) is an informal group that promotes geographic data sharing, encourages data standardization, and provides a network for the exchange of technical information between all GIS users. Our goals include developing a forum for open discussion of GIS issues and encouraging personal communication between GIS users of all skill levels in the public, private, and educational sectors.

**Mark your calendar and join us for a double-header:**

**Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks' Canalway Center**

#### 1.) Cuyahoga County Planning Commission's "Community Planning GIS"

The Cuyahoga County Planning Commission has developed a successor application to its "Brownfields GIS" that was launched in 2002. The new application leverages the County's investment in Oracle technologies and some of the recently developed data sets from its "Cuyahoga Enterprise GIS" program. A companion to the County Engineer's "MyCuyahoga" GIS Portal, the Planning Commission's site offers additional analytical tools and a variety of additional layers of interest to community planners of all types. The new site also seeks to serve as an interactive alternative to its static "GreenPrint" map, supporting open space and trail planning efforts.

#### 2.) Real Estate Portal USA's Web Mapping Application Demo

Real Estate Portal USA has built a national web-based mapping site that serves specific markets such as real estate, GIS, and government. What began as a local site built to cross Ohio's jurisdictions has grown to cover tens of millions of parcels in hundreds of U.S. counties. Our data architecture solves the problems associated with non-standardized parcel data between counties, regions and states. We import and derive many important attributes from different counties into a unified database to allow analysis at the regional level. Our service presents any user the ability to search on a neighborhood to a national scale. Through our powerful query tool, we customize and present enriched, cleaned data suitable for multi-county analysis. Any search result links to a variety of fully integrated web-based mapping systems so, Google StreetView or MS Live Maps oblique view, are just a click away. Also, a click on a result will jump to a pre-queried county auditor's page for full parcel detail. Additional features such as environmental (Flood zones, Wetlands, & Soils) and demographic (Census blocks and groups) are just a few of the resources included in the mapping system.



JOIN US AT THE UNVEILING  
of the  
OHIO VIETNAM VETERANS  
MEMORIAL WALL  
and the  
GOLD STAR MOTHER STATUE

SUNDAY MAY 17, at 2:00 PM  
8005 CLEVELAND-MASSILLON ROAD  
CLINTON, OHIO 44216

FIRST ANNUAL RUN TO THE WALL  
at the  
ALL OHIO VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

ADDITIONAL PARKING AND SHUTTLE  
AT NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL  
8594 ERIE AVENUE,  
CANAL FULTON OHIO 44614

INFO:

[www.ohiovietnammemorialpark.org](http://www.ohiovietnammemorialpark.org)

email [ohiovietnam@hotmail.com](mailto:ohiovietnam@hotmail.com)



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