

Meridian NW

Newsletter for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association
February 2007 Vol.8, No. 1

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PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I must say, 2006 has flown by so fast. It's February and the chapter is already enjoying a new President and well on our way to another successful year. Though challenging, I never thought my term as Chapter President would go so fast and that I would enjoy it as much as I did. Of course, the largest part was the support of the chapter committee and their willingness to have fun and work hard at the same time. For those that attended this year's Fall Conference in Gleneden Beach, Oregon, we all enjoyed the Salishan Lodge and an extensive list of speakers and presentations. This is the second time we've held the conference at this location and based on the responses, we will continue to pursue this venue in the future. Now we look forward to 2007 and find ourselves headed back to beautiful British Columbia and the future site of the Olympics at Whistler. This venue has always been a favorite and one of our largest in member turnout. I want to thank everyone for a successful year and I look forward to spending yet another year with GITA. Hmmmm, what's next?

Keith Krall, Past President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you, Keith, for a great year. I am very excited about this coming year as President of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA. I have been on this Chapter Board for a number of years as secretary, member-at-large, web site guy, newsletter person (including this one), speaker, musical entertainment (that's a matter of opinion!), and golf organizer. Now it's my turn to take the reins and make sure the Chapter stays on the course established by my many predecessors. My great thanks go to all the past and present Board members and officers for establishing the Chapter and putting it in position to do the good work for our industry in the Pacific Northwest.

We exist as a Chapter for the benefit of our membership and the geospatial community. I believe our primary mission is twofold: to provide scholarships to students pursuing geospatial careers, and to provide educational and networking opportunities for those in our industry. The meager profit from our Fall conference allows us to do those things throughout the year.

Let's have a great year, and all get together at Whistler in the Fall!

Steve Sherer, 2007 President

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Fall Conference report

Volker Elste, Conference Program Chair
Les Giles, Member at large

Our 7th Annual Fall Conference took place in Lincoln City, Oregon at the Salishan Resort from October 22 to 24, 2006.

Thanks to all who attended this spectacular event. The event content, location, and professionalism rated very high in your evaluations. Our theme "Out there...People, Process and Technology" attracted over 50 attendees from six States and one Province. For those of you who missed the conference, know that we have another one in 2007 and you should place it on your to-do list now. Next year we will be in Canada in Whistler, B.C., one of the best conference venues in the world, and host of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

We were pleased to have as keynote speaker Peter Batty, CIO, Intergraph Corporation, a geospatial industry icon who shared a wide range of future technologies that will impact the spatial industry over the next few years. We also had an eye opening presentation on Critical Infrastructure Protection by Jeff Parsons, CIP Program Manager, Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, and Mary Robinson, Manager, Operations Continuity, Puget Sound Energy.



Mary Robinson, Manager, Operations Continuity,
Puget Sound Energy

If you are in an electric, gas, water, or telco utility, or a state or local government enterprise you should consider participating in state-wide initiatives on CIP. The collaboration of process, data, and technology is essential in order to make quick decisions in case of an emergency event.

These presentations led the way to a productive two day event and were followed by presentations from numerous Northwest users from industry and from the educational arena. Two scholarships were awarded and fun was had by all. The fun run is slowly becoming more and more unpopular with only three participants who braved the early morning fog on the Oregon beach. Perhaps this has to do with the late night music jam session by Steve Rush and Steve Sherer, joined this year by Mark Liebe on the bass. This annual musical event is always a good time!



Left to right: Steve Sherer, Steve Rush and Mark Liebe

Our program next year will take place in Canada so we will expect a strong showing by the BC GITA contingency.

Conference attendees voted for the top technologies and applications that interested them. Each year we see a different mix. The initial topics are based on the analysis summarized in the GITA Executive Report with slight modifications by the chapter. A total of 147 votes were cast this year. The following results are in percentages:

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Top Applications:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Conversion/data capture/sharing | 19% |
| Asset management | 16% |
| Field and workforce automation | 15% |
| Right of way management | 13% |
| Data maintenance | 9% |
| Distribution automation/SCADA | 7% |
| Engineering work order design | 5% |
| Work management | 5% |
| Engineering analysis | 5% |
| CIS integration | 4% |
| Exec info/support system access | 1% |

Top Technologies:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Web services/SOA | 24% |
| Mobile computing | 18% |
| Enterprise data management | 17% |
| LiDAR | 11% |
| GPS | 10% |
| Digital ortho/remote sensing | 8% |
| Internet/Intranet | 4% |
| GIS Software choices | 4% |
| Data warehousing/storage | 3% |
| RFID | 1% |

Please review the lists above and plan on selecting a topic for your 2007 presentation. We would very much like to hear from you as we put together the program.

Here are some of the **quotes** from the 2006 fall conference:

"You guys are the best! I miss participating; thanks for letting me do music!" S. Rush

"This was a Great conference!" Anonymous

"Thank you again for another opportunity to learn more real-world examples and a venue for exploiting this knowledge by offering an avenue for sharing. More users in the GIS community should take advantage of this opportunity and get involved. Looking forward to next year!" K. Krall

Finally, we want to thank you for your attendance and support in 2006 and look forward to your participation in the 2007 event in Whistler, BC.



Sunset at Lincoln City, Oregon



Yaquina Lighthouse, Newport, Oregon

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2006 Pacific Northwest GITA Conference at Salishan Resort, Gleneden Beach, OR



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2007 Goals

The Board discussed and identified goals for the coming year. They are:

- Publish newsletter outlining our chapter business and upcoming events (2 or 3) as well as continue to send out informational e-mails to advertise our upcoming events
- Host a local one day PNW GITA event in region (our last one was in Washington State)
- Host our annual two day PNW GITA conference in British Columbia (our last one was in Oregon)
- Award at least \$2000 in scholarships to students in our region. Goal of 3 - \$1000 scholarships.
- Send out at least one conference flyer to advertise our annual conference
- Provide Student Scholarship winners the opportunity to present to business leaders

Scholarship Opportunity

The Pacific Northwest chapter of GITA is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for scholarships for undergraduate or graduate students with a focus on geographic information systems (GIS). The program is designed to encourage interest in GIS-related fields of study and to assist in the education of future professionals. Providing these scholarships emphasizes our commitment to maintain focus on the present, while embracing our vision of the future. Recipients from 2006 were **Sabrina Sasaki** from BCIT and **Amy Louten** from UW. Additional information, along with the application form, can be found on our web site: <http://gita.org/chapters/pacific/pacific.asp>. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2007 for the spring scholarship.

Membership Report

The Pacific Northwest Chapter remains the only chapter with an International mix. Along with the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, our chapter includes British Columbia. Our chapter is one of only six chapters that maintain a membership of over 100; this is a select list as there are 22 total chapters across North America. We as a chapter have committed to reaching out to areas like northern BC, Eastern Washington, Idaho, and Eastern Oregon to increase our visibility. We have the potential for more membership involvement; this will not only increase the network of geospatial contacts but grow our industry knowledge as we learn about other utility implementations and projects. More importantly, as we grow, so does the chapter ability to support up and coming geospatial professionals and scholarship awards. Please stay involved in GITA and support your local chapter.

Speaker Meeting

Plans are in the works for a one day speaker meeting to be held in Vancouver, B.C. Tentative date is April 20. Check the web site for updates: <http://gita.org/chapters/pacific/pacific.asp>.

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Meet our new PNW GITA Board members!

Kimberly A. Metcalf, PMP



Kim is a supervisor in IT Customer Delivery Systems at Portland General Electric, Oregon's largest utility.

Prior to joining PGE in 1999 as a project manager, Metcalf worked at Nationwide Insurance for 14 years, serving in various capacities, including sales and service agent, quality assurance lead, business and systems analyst, and project manager. Kim earned a Project Management Professional (PMP) designation in 2004, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Idaho in 1985. She is currently working on completing her Master's degree at Marylhurst University.

David Ward

Dave is the Regional Manager for Terrapoint. Terrapoint is a full service lidar company operating in Canada and the US as well as internationally. David has 20 years of experience in the geospatial industry, most of it relating to various remote sensing technologies including: satellite imagery, lidar, multispectral airborne, and aerial photography. He lives in the Seattle area.

He has been active in NW GITA for about 2 years and feels it is the most worthwhile regional organization he has encountered!

Welcome Kim and Dave!

A Reminder

Passports are now required for air travel between the US and Canada. Ground travel will not require passports until next year. For those traveling to Vancouver for the speaker meeting in April and our Fall conference at Whistler, please keep that in mind.

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

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Join us at our 8th Annual Fall Conference at Whistler, B.C.

Get ready to mark your calendars! The 8th Annual PNW GITA Fall Conference will be returning to beautiful Whistler, British Columbia. Dates and venue are not yet finalized. We've held several very successful conferences there and anticipate another. It will be in September or October. We always see a few bears, and the Tuesday morning "fun" run and afternoon golf outing always result in stories for the evening!

Stay tuned!



<http://www.tourismwhistler.com/>
<http://www.whistlerbcbritishcolumbia.com/>

As always, we want to hear from you. Please let any of the board members know if you have suggestions on how we can continue to improve our conference offerings or if you are interested in presenting a paper or exhibiting at Whistler in the Fall. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Upcoming Events

**March 4-7, GITA 2007
San Antonio, TX**

**March 17-20, 2007 TechAdvantage
Las Vegas, NV**

**April 23-24, 2007 Washington GIS Conference
Lynnwood, WA**

**May 14-17 GeoTec Event
Calgary, Alberta**

**May 21-24, 2007 Intergraph 2007
Nashville, TN**

**June 18-22, 2007 ESRI International User Conference
San Diego, California**

**July 23-27 GeoWeb 2007
Vancouver, B.C.**

**August 20 - 23, 2007 URISA's 45th Annual Conference
Washington Hilton - Washington DC**

**Sept. 10-14, 2007 - ESRI NW Users Conference
Tacoma, WA**

**Sept. 17-19, 2007 - GITA Oil and Gas Conference
Houston, TX**

**Sept. 23-27, 2007 - NSGIC Annual Conference
Madison, WI**

**Oct. 3-5, 2007 - APA OR, WA Regional Conference
Tacoma, WA**

**March 9-12, GITA 2008
Seattle, WA**

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Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA - Board of Directors - 2007

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