

Meridian NW

Newsletter for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Geospatial Information & Technology Association
February 2008 Vol.9, No. 1

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PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2007 was a great year for the Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA. We had a successful speaker meeting in the spring, we were able to give out a scholarship, and we held our annual fall conference once again in beautiful Whistler, B.C.

Thanks go out to all who supported the chapter by attending our fall conference, as that provides the funding for the scholarships we are able to provide. A special thanks as well to the vendors who play a major role in this effort.

2007 was also a great year for me personally. In October, I got married, and in November I retired from the Bonneville Power Administration after 32 years of federal service; but that does not necessarily mean you've seen the last of me!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of my career has been the association I have had with all of my colleagues in the GIS community and especially those in the GITA family.

Please continue to support GITA and the good work it does for the geospatial community. This fall we will be conferencing in Boise and hope to see all of you there!

Steve Sherer, 2008 PNW GITA Chapter Past President

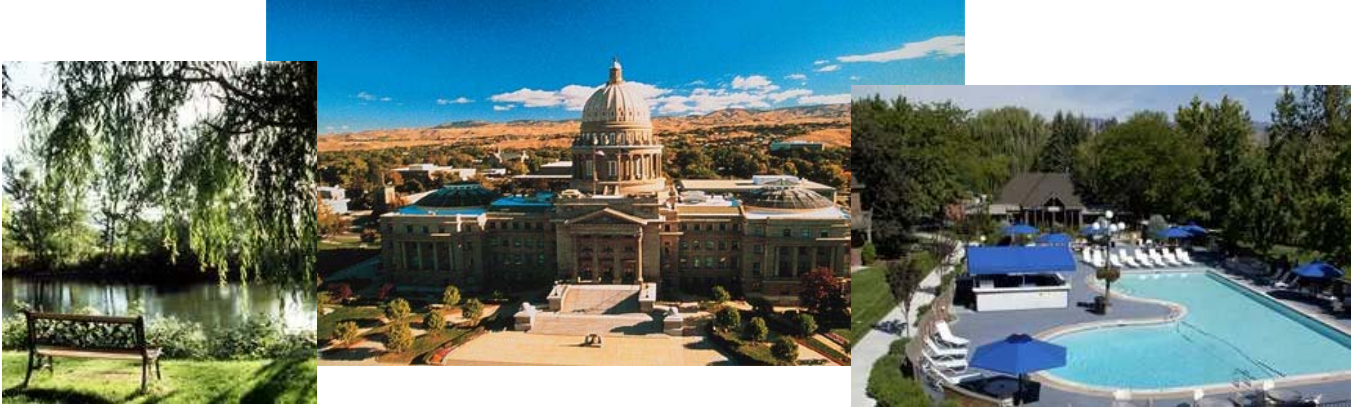
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to start the year off with a short reflection of 2007. We held a very successful fall conference in Whistler B.C. Our Past President retired. We added 3 new enthusiastic board members (see page 7). We are looking forward to 2008 to showcase the Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA, starting off with GITA Infrastructure Solutions in Seattle March 9 to 13. Finally, we cap off the year with our 9th Annual Conference and AGM in beautiful Boise, Idaho, October 5 to 7. We also hope to award a scholarship again this year to a worthy student.

I look forward to meeting you at one of these events.

Les Giles
Manager, Photogrammetry Services, BC Hydro
GITA member for 4 years.

PNW GITA 9th Annual Fall Conference October 6-7, 2008



This year we will be in beautiful Boise, Idaho for our annual conference. The conference will be held at the [Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside](#) October 6-7, 2008.

This year's conference theme is **"Infrastructure Management in the Pacific Northwest."** This is a great setting for the type of conference that we favor – a comfortable size of about 80 attendees and 12 vendors in an area conducive to relaxing, networking, and socializing with your fellow GIS professionals and friends. The combination of chapter business with interesting presentations from experts in our field is one way to keep you in touch with your counterparts in the region and extend the role of GITA as a local forum for tracking infrastructure solutions.

Located along the river where the desert meets the Rocky Mountains, Boise is one of America's most livable and likable cities. Quality of life is high and residents and visitors alike enjoy the unique blend of natural beauty and urban comforts. Boise is located on a high desert plain and has a surprisingly mild climate. The city sees very little rain or snow - an average of 12 inches each per year - and the moderate temperatures and low humidity make it the perfect place to play year-round.

The [Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside](#) is a full-service resort style hotel offering the convenience of location putting you close to downtown Boise, the state capitol building, the I-84 and 184 freeways, Boise Center on the Grove, Expo Idaho, shopping and dining, and providing a unique property encompassing 14 scenic acres along the banks of the Boise River. The Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside riverfront location offers direct access to the Boise Greenbelt's 26-mile paved trail alongside the winding Boise River. Nature and recreation enthusiasts will enjoy Southwest Idaho's magnificent Rocky Mountain surroundings with abundant hiking, rafting, skiing, parks, and golf courses. The hotel also offers courtesy airport shuttle service to and from the Boise Airport/Gowen Field located just five miles away.

Early Bird Prize Drawing

Register for the PNW GITA Fall Conference before August 15th and be entered in the drawing to win a \$200 gift certificate to be used towards any of the amenities that the Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside has to offer (additional room nights, restaurants, gift shop, etc.)

Visit: <http://www.gita.org/chapters/pacific/pacific.asp> for more information. Online registration for the conference will be available.

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Here are few things to do and see in Boise, along with some links to help you find out more -

Boise Greenbelt



The Boise Greenbelt runs along the Boise River from Lucky Peak State Park to the city of Eagle, northwest of Boise. Most of the trail is paved and follows the river on both sides. It's a popular area for bikers, joggers and fisherman.

Birds of Prey



This is a great place to see raptors and other birds.

MK Nature Center

Fun for all kids, especially for ages 3 and up. You can walk through the outdoor exhibits quickly (as fast as 15 mins) or take your time and spend over an hour. Bring your camera; the small lake is a good place to see wood ducks, cranes, and other Idaho birds.

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g35394-Activities-Boise_Idaho.html

http://www.igougo.com/attractions-11130-things_to_do_in_Boise.html

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

U.S. Bridges Are Deficient **27%**

Dams Have Been Declared Unsafe **3,500**

Major U.S. Roads Are in Poor Condition **16,000**

Industry Conference will Begin to Geospatially Solve a **Only 1**

Trillion Dollar Problem **\$1.6**



Introducing the Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference, slated for March 9-12, 2008, in Seattle, Washington. If you own, operate, maintain, or protect infrastructure locally or globally, this is your event. You won't want to miss 111 technical sessions, 13 half-day knowledge immersion seminars, and a 100,000 square-foot exhibit floor.

The Movement Has Begun. Are You Ready?



GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION &
TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION®

Join us Monday at the Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference in Seattle for a Special Speaker!

Our chapter is hosting a meeting featuring a presentation of interest to all of us. Join us at 11:30 in Convention Center Room 601 on Monday, March 10th from 11:30 to 12:30. Our guest speaker will be Kevin Wilhelm, the CEO and founder of Sustainable Business Consulting, a Seattle-based consulting firm focused on profit improvement through the use of climate reduction practices (www.sustainablebizconsulting.com). Kevin has over 13 years experience working with businesses from Fortune 500 companies to renewable energy start-ups. He will be presenting the business case for how climate change will impact your customers, why you should care, and how, by helping them address climate, you can make a bigger profit.

His firm is one of the leading consultancies helping businesses nationally understand their climate impact and is a key developer of one of the best carbon footprint tools in the country for the Seattle Climate Partnership. He is also locally identified as one of the top 2 or 3 experts on business and climate change in Seattle and has spoken regionally and nationally over 20 times in the past 6 months about this topic. His experience includes:

- Leading 10 businesses through the carbon inventory process. Allowed each company to understand and appropriately address their climate impacts and implement immediate and long-term strategies for success.
- Working with over a dozen private companies to identify opportunities to reduce their environmental and carbon footprint, and ways to save money at the same time.
- Writing the business plan and developing the budget for the Seattle Climate Partnership – a collaboration of businesses working to reduce their climate risk through sustainability.
- Co-creating a carbon inventory tool for the City of Seattle and Seattle Climate Partnership based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol of the World Resource Institute (WRI). This has been recognized as one of the most helpful tools for businesses on this issue.

Climate Leadership

- Chair of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Committee
- Advisor to the Corporate Climate Protection Agreement
- Advisor to the Sustainable Business Institute being developed at the University of Denver
- Participant and leader in the 2008 WA Legislative Process, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Faculty at Antioch University Seattle teaching Sustainable Business Finance

The chapter board will also give a short presentation on our Fall 2008 conference in Boise.

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. For 2007, a \$1000 scholarship was awarded to **Nicole Lucas**, also from BCIT.

Additional information, and the application form, can be found on our web site:

<http://gita.org/chapters/pacific/pacific.asp>.

Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2008 for the spring scholarships.

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. Current membership in the Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA stands at 125 individuals. Please stay involved in GITA and support your local chapter.

Chapter Board News

Our very own **Volker Elste** has been appointed to GITA's Board of Directors. Volker has been involved with GITA since 1999, helping to create our chapter, has served as Chapter president and long-time fall conference program chair. He joins **Eric Hoogenraad** as our second chapter board member serving on the national GITA board. Congratulations to both of them!

Your chapter board plays an important role in the operation of GITA as a whole. Current or past board members will attest that it is an interesting and rewarding endeavor. Please contact any of the board members to indicate your interest in becoming a chapter board member. Elections will be held at the fall conference in Boise.

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 and membership offerings. We look forward to hearing from you!

New PNW Chapter Board Members

Please welcome our three new Board members for 2008: Lane Powell, Good Horse Nation, and Nicole Lucas.



Lane Powell



Good Horse Nation



Nicole Lucas

A native Oregonian, **Lane Powell**, Manager, Domestic Sales for Telvent Miner & Miner has been helping Domestic and International Energy companies deploy Enterprise Geospatial technology for nearly a decade. Foundational to his career, while earning a Business degree at the University of Oregon, Lane worked for various Electric Utilities in roles ranging from CAD Drafting & GIS, Staking Engineering, Operations, and ultimately went on to become the IS Manager for an electric Cooperative, managing the utilities IT infrastructure through Y2K. Following a four year tenure with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), as a Senior Project Manager for the Professional Services group in Redlands, CA Lane and his wife Tana returned to Central Oregon where they now live and raise their three boys, Lane IV, Cameron, and Alex.

Good Horse Nation works at Portland General Electric as GIS Supervisor. He is currently involved in two major initiatives: upgrading GIS applications and processes to an Enterprise GIS System, and adjusting facility and land database. To relax, he enjoys road trips, photography, kayaking, power kiting, and riding a motorcycle.

Nicole Lucas is employed in BC Hydro's Photogrammetry department as a Mapping Services Specialist. She obtained a BA in Geography from the University of Ottawa in 2006 and graduated BCIT's Advanced GIS program in 2007. In her spare time she curls and plays rugby. She is also the recipient of a PNW GITA scholarship!

Upcoming Events

March 9–12 GITA's Geospatial Infrastructure Solutions Conference 31
Seattle, WA

March 9–12 GITA's Geospatial Dimensions of Emergency Response Symposium
Seattle, WA

April 5–8 Spatial Analysis for Business 2008 Conference
Redlands, CA

April 16 GIAC Geospatial Information Outreach Workshop
Victoria BC

July 21–25 GeoWeb 2008
Vancouver, BC

September 21–24 GITA's GIS for Oil & Gas Conference
Houston, TX

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Pacific Northwest Chapter of GITA - Board of Directors - 2008

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