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2003-2004

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Field Notes

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March, 2004

For What It's Worth

by Jim Fink, C.S.T. III,
STC President

One of the primary tasks of the Survey Technician Council (STC) in the past few years has been the promotion of the "Certified Survey Technician" (CST) program. The MSPS board came back from the bi-annual retreat a few years ago with this being one of the goals that they had set for us. We agreed that this program was important to the profession and thought that it would be an excellent topic for us to focus on.

Each year the CST exam is offered at the MSPS annual meeting. The year before the STC began promotion of the CST, there were four (4) people that tested at the annual meeting. The following year that number jumped into the mid twenties. I was one of those people that year. It didn't take much to make those numbers jump - a few articles in "Field Notes", and a couple of informative sessions at the annual meeting the next year. When people are shown the value of a program that directly affects their career and profession it's not a difficult choice to make if one has a little motivation. One of the unforeseen results of our promoting the CST program is that many

*"You don't have to be a CST
to be active in the STC..."*

people confuse the STC (Survey Technician Council) with the CST (Certified Survey Technician) program. I can assure you that you do not have to be a CST to be active in the STC. That doesn't mean that we won't try to convince you to test. Hopefully those in the profession will eventually learn the difference, but even if the confusion continues, I don't have a problem explaining the difference when I encounter one of those lost souls.

Once again, this was the year for the MSPS board's retreat, and they have asked us to focus on the CST again this year. Since November we have been working to put together a workshop that I'm sure everyone

will be hearing about soon. The workshop will focus on those interested in taking the Level I exam. This is currently planned for sometime in April. We have never stopped focusing on the CST, but we tried some different things for a year, and were not quite as

vocal as we had been in the past few years. That will change this year. As you can see, "Field Notes" is back, and we will continue to keep the membership informed about the activities of the Survey Technician Council through "Field Notes".

For the past seven years I've been a voting member of the STC board. Three of those seven have been as President. I've en-

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Revolving Meetings

By Patrick Hannon, C.S.T. II
STC Vice President

The Survey Technician Council will hold its March and May meetings in new locations. For the past two years, the meetings of the STC Board of Directors have been held at the offices of Rowe, Inc. in Flint. While we appreciate the hospitality that Rowe has shown the Board, we are making every effort to attract more members to our meetings. The Board of Directors has

approved moving the meetings to facilities that will accommodate more members as well as starting the meetings at a later time.

Unlike most Professional members of the Society, the Associate and Affiliate membership is not necessarily able to make decisions about, nor adjust their time schedules at work in order to accommodate the activities of the Council. While a number of members of the current Board have enjoyed the support of their employers in attending

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For What It's Worth

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joyed the experiences that the position and the responsibilities have afforded me. I chose not to run for another three-year term as a director because it is time for me to try some different things. After a nineteen year hiatus from school, I've enrolled in a "Business Law" class hopefully in pursuit of my degree in operations management. (Sorry, but I feel that I'm just to far away from a surveying degree to make it a realistic goal at this point in my life.)

I will continue to work with the Survey Technician Council, but to a lesser degree. There is already talk by our President-Elect, Patrick Hannon, about forming a Past-President's committee. I look forward to the challenges that are ahead of me, both within the profession, and otherwise.

Revolving Meetings

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meetings, this is not the case with most of the Associate and Affiliate membership. This is not to say that their employers are not supportive. Field Crews are dependant on each member of the crew and we understand that the cost in lost productivity in this "just-in-time" delivery of services can be a burden on some. Office Technicians also face their own obstacles with meeting tight delivery deadlines, as well as being available as a resource to field crews, other office professionals, and even clients.

The meeting to be held in March will be in Brighton and the May meeting will be in Saginaw. The exact locations have yet to be determined. Please visit the MSPS website at www.misocprofsurveyors.org for the dates and locations.

We hope that the success of the next two meetings will not only validate our decision to move, but will benefit the Council in our abilities to serve the membership.

STC Yahoo! Group is Here

The STC community is getting closer than ever! For the latest information about the Survey Technician Council, join our *Yahoo! Group*. As long as you have internet access, you can keep abreast of the latest discussions, get updates on meetings and other events, and voice your opinion with on-line polls. Visit the new STC *Yahoo! Group* at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STC_MSPS.

This group will assist the STC Council to keep in touch with *YOU!* You will be able to control how you want your e-mail from the group – whether by daily digests, or individual e-mails, e-mail forwarding, and the like. With one address, you will be able to e-mail any member of the STC Board with any questions and suggestions you have. You will have access to our calendar of events, and back issues of "Field Notes." We also hope to host on-line discussions on issues that affect you. Membership meetings may be as close as your computer and internet connection.

You can also easily unsubscribe at any time. It's easy to sign-up, just visit the website for all the information you need. Best of all – it's free!

Have your voice. Sign up today!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STC_MSPS

March Meeting

March 16th, 2004 at 6:00p.m.

Holiday Inn Express

8079 Challis Drive
Brighton, MI
(810) 225-4300

May Meeting

May 18th, 2004 at 6:00p.m.

Comfort Suites

5180 Fashion Square Blvd.
Saginaw, MI
(989) 797-8000

Your Help Is Needed

The STC is planning a CST Level I workshop to be held this spring. This one-day workshop will be a comprehensive course designed to teach the fundamental skills for this level as defined by the National Society of Professional Surveyors and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. The reference material for this course will use the publications from which the exam is prepared. This workshop will also teach study and test-taking skills. The amount of time spent on a particular subject will be based on the amount of questions a Level I exam contains for that subject.

We need your input. Where should this workshop be held? How long should it last? What information would be helpful to you?

We also need help from our Professionals in preparing and presenting this workshop.

Please contact Patrick Hannon
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