

FieldNotes...

Affiliated with the
National Society of
Professional Surveyors

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Maine Society of Land Surveyors**

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Maine Society of Land Surveyors
Post Office Box 420
Readfield, Maine 04355



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MSLS Annual Conference a Success

Much more on the Annual Conference will be published in our October Edition



National expert David Doyle spoke on Thursday (Photo by Mike Cyr)



President Don Dostie presided throughout the Conference

Special Note: Conference
Feedback requests have
been emailed to participants.
Please complete by Oct. 4.

MSLS Contact Information

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|---|-------------------|
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| Kevin Farrar, Secretary | 215-6340 |
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| Keith Morse, Androscoggin | 754-5937 |
| Kilburn Swallow, Crown of Maine | 532-7313 |
| Karl Olson, MidCoast | 882-7008 |
| Wayne Wood, Narragansett | 657-3330 |
| <i>Pending update, Penobscot</i> | |
| Stephen Gould, Somerset | 474-6223 |
| William Shippen, NSPS Director | 737-9015 |
| John Lloyd, Scholarship Committee | 978-563-1793 |
| Thomas Blake, Historical Committee | 878-7870 |
| Cassandra Quintal, Membership Committee | 215-4831 |
| Donald Richards, Case Law Update | 594-4934 |
| Matt Ek, Immediate Past President | 831-9470 |
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FieldNotes welcomes contributions from members. Submit original manuscripts or articles to editor@msls.org. Hi-res photos in jpeg form are welcome too. Include your name and identify the picture and all persons in the photo. MSLS assumes no responsibility for statements made or expressed in this publication.

Advertising information can be found at our website.

Maine Society of Land Surveyors
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Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Grand Summit Hotel, Sunday River – Newry, ME
September 16, 2022



Members Present

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Officers - | President | Don Dostie |
| | Vice President | Cassandra Quintal |
| | Treasurer | Jimmy Courbron |
| | Secretary | Kevin Farrar |
| Directors - | Narragansett | Wayne Wood |
| | Somerset | Stephen Gould |
| | Androscoggin | Keith Morse |
| | Director at Large | Ellen Brewer |
| | Director at Large | Jon Stewart |
| Past President - | | Matthew Ek |
| NSPS Director - | | William Shippen |
| Executive Director - | | Bruce Bourgoine |
| Guest - | | Spencer Caron |

This is an abbreviated meeting to address items not covered at the MSLS Fall Business Meeting yesterday. The meeting was called to order by President Dostie at 12:39. He asked for agenda changes and additions, hearing none the meeting proceeded.

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on July 25th at Wayne Wood’s house in Gray were accepted as written. Motion to accept was made by Wayne Wood, seconded by Matt Ek and approved unanimously.

It was moved to table all other reports as they were covered at the MSLS business meeting yesterday, seconded and passed.

Treasurer’s Report (Jimmy Courbron) – Waived, see fall meeting minutes.

Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Waived, see fall meeting minutes.

Committee and Chapter reports were also waived. Reference is made to the fall meeting minutes.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business –

Next ExCom date and place – Tuesday October 11, 6pm at Joshua’s Tavern in Brunswick.

Other Correspondence – None

Continued next page...

**Consent Agenda -
From Whom
Bruce Bourgoine**

September 16, 2022
MSLS Committee
Executive Dir. Expenses

Amount

Bruce Bourgoine
Copy Shop
Crestline
Don Dostie
David Doyle
New Brunswick Land Surveyors – Registration fee paid in error
Phil Smith
Total

Executive Dir. Services ~ September
FieldNotes / Annual mtg.
Annual Meeting
Annual Meeting Hospitality
Honorarium (speaker)

\$156.31
\$50.00
\$290.11
\$211.00
\$23.70
\$75.29
\$2,687.50
\$582.79
\$2582.67
\$181.08
\$1000.00
\$375.00
\$625.00
\$8,840.45

There were a few problems with the venue (microphones). The consent agenda does not include Sunday River’s meeting site and banquet fees. It was moved by Wayne Wood to approve the consent agenda and pre-approve payment to Sunday River for Annual Meeting host site pending Bruce’s review of the final bill, seconded by Matt Ek and passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 12:45, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
DRAFT
Kevin Farrar – MSLS

Committees Serving Our Profession

You may have glanced dozens of times at the list of officers and committees on the opposite page (page 2) when reading your issue of *FieldNotes*.

MSLS’s work cannot be done or move forward without committee volunteers. Consider joining one. You’ll have the reward of contributing to Surveying’s future and getting to work and network with great fellow surveyors sharing the committee’s goals.

Often work is accomplished by meeting online or via e-mail correspondence. Contact anyone on page 2 to learn more.

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Thoughts on Professional Practice and Education

Article 5: Removing Examination Pre-requisites

by Knud E. Hermansen[†] P.L.S., P.E., Ph.D., Esq.



This is the fifth article I have prepared in the series offering thoughts on professional practice and education. In this article, I wish to discuss the timing of professional exams. In particular, I wish to advocate allowing an applicant to take their licensing exams before obtaining any required experience.

There are two common models of examination sequence found in the United States. The first model, that appears to be most common at the present time, requires the applicant take the professional surveyor exam and state specific exam after the experience requirements have been met.

The second model is to permit an applicant to take all three exams at or near graduation and before meeting minimum qualifications.

There was a third model that may still be present in some states. The third model was to require the experience first then allow the applicant for licensing to take all the exams within a short window of time. When I was first licensed almost fifty years ago, I took the first exam one day and the second exam the very next day.

In this article, I would like to advocate that states allow an applicant to take the exams on sequential days at or near graduation. I offer two reasons for my position.

For my first reason, I would suggest that taking the professional exams near graduation is the best time in life's journey to schedule and have time to take the exams. By the time the graduate achieves the pre-requisite experience for licensure, they are often married – perhaps with young children, involved in community activities, and have a full employment commitment. It is difficult to find time to study or even take time off from work for testing. College breaks are usually far less stressful and a less busy time than the hectic and stressful work schedule a graduate will encounter after graduation. To emphasize this, let me remind surveyors that as a

full-time student in college, the student could count on two to three weeks off at Christmas, one week off during Thanksgiving, and a one or two-week spring break. College breaks were known well in advance, allowing for professional test scheduling.

Once the graduate is employed, vacation time or personal days must often be used for testing. Time off from work must often be scheduled in advance and authorized only when work allows. While college can be stressful, the stress of college often pales in comparison to balancing family responsibility, home, and work commitments.

The second reason for allowing all tests while in college or shortly after graduation is the extent of retained surveying knowledge. Broad knowledge of surveying is usually at a maximum retention just before or soon after graduation. Therefore, the best chance to pass all three exams with minimum study is at or near graduation.

Some would argue that testing the graduate on knowledge retention after the graduate has some experience is a reasonable procedure to protect the public's safety. Perhaps this statement is true. Yet, on that basis, all licensed surveyors should be periodically tested from time to time to insure knowledge retention after the passage of time. I suspect there are very few licensed surveyors that would advocate that they be subject to periodic retesting to ensure knowledge retention.

Having given my opinion, I now offer advice by suggesting professional societies encourage statute or rule changes allowing all exams be taken soon or at graduation. Of course, the soon-to-be graduate has another option. The student can apply to test in a state that does allow all testing at or near graduation. The applicant does not need to journey to a particular state since NCEES offers the same exams at testing centers throughout the United States. Perhaps the applicant would have to delay taking the state specific exam until they are eligible for licensing within that state. Of course, the one hurdle that may arise from this recommendation is a state that will not accept the NCEES test score for an exam taken before experience was achieved. I know of at least one state that will not accept the PE exam score if the PE exam was taken before experience was met. I know this does not make much sense but bureaucracies and their rules often do not make sense.

[†] Other books and articles by Knud can be found at <https://umaine.edu/svt/faculty/hermansen-articles/>

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Sources of Overlooked Control

By Harry Nelson



The Maine Geodetic Survey was a Civil Works Administration program to help keep engineers working during the Depression. It was administered by L. D. Stephenson at the University of Maine, Orono. Recently, Chris Knight, PLS, our Region 1 Survey Supervisor in Scarborough found one of these marks and asked me for info on it, which I have. Attached is an image of Chris' No. 112 mark, and a couple of articles from 1935 in the Lewiston Sun Journal.

Hollis Sinclair, Control Survey Supervisor at the then Location and Survey Section of MaineDOT had several books of descriptions of these marks, which are not currently in our Control Survey database. The descriptions are only in print format. Some of these marks are in the NGS database, but only because "Coast", or NGS used them in NGS surveys.

Desiree Butterfield-Nagy of the Special Collections at Fogler Library, UMO sent me a link to Zhanna Galas website. Zhanna has made available on line access to our Maine Geodetic Survey descriptions, diagrams and data. It is here: <https://thesurveystation.com/2017/01/20/maine-geodetic-survey-stations-1933-1935/>.

Beyond that, Zhanna has something else I have been wanting to post for quite some time. On her website, Zhanna has a link to USGS Quad Control Data, Horizontal and Vertical, which I believe I sent her, having received it from Jeff Olsen, ret., from NGS some time ago. Jeff is a Control Survey junkie like me.

This older data, both the Maine Geodetic Survey and U. S. Geological Survey, is in NAD27 Horizontal Datum, U. S. Survey Feet, and North American Vertical Datum of 1929, but can be converted by NGS Tools to modern datum. Always check the NGS Data Explorer to see if one of these marks have modern data attached to them: <https://geodesy.noaa.gov/NGSDDataExplorer/>.

Thanks Zhanna and Jeff!



*Harold E. Nelson is the Senior Geodesist and CORS Project Manager
at the MaineDOT Property Office*

Survey, Control and Right of Way webpage: www.maine.gov/mdot/surveyinfo/

Calendar Notes...

- **MSLS October ExCom** 6:00 PM on October 11 at Terradyn Consultants in Auburn, also available via Zoom.
- **NEURISA** Tuesday, October 25 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m
“GIS Return On Investment (ROI) Workshop”
FMI - <https://neurisa-day-2022-urisa.hub.arcgis.com/pages/workshop>

Thank you!

Send your Calendar Notes to: editor@msls.org

The Parting Shot...



“The Parting Shot” appears in place of where mailing information is located on postal mailed copies and is a little extra something for email recipients. Email your interesting surveying or Maine “Parting Shot” to editor@msls.org!

Items await bidding in the MSLS Annual Conference Scholarship Auction. We conducted both live and silent auction as well as a 50/50 drawing and raised \$5,772 for our Scholarship fund.

Photo by Mike Cyr