

RSSG NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1986

FROM THE CHAIR: Portland and Phoenix

Vince Ambrosia (NASA/Ames Research Center) has, as you will note in this issue of the Newsletter, done a terrific job organizing RSSG activities for the 1987 Portland AAG meetings. I hope that you will join me in thanking both Vince and the others who contributed to program planning. We are certain to have a productive conference next year because of their efforts.

It is notable that, as in years past, the 1987 RSSG Program Committee was compelled to carry out all planning within a brief four-month period (i.e., between the 1986 AAG annual meeting and the September 26, 1986 deadline for 1987 program planning established by AAG). I believe that our group would profit from longer range planning for our annual meetings. I have spoken with many of you who agree with this view.

Although our efforts in any given year will, of course, be concentrated on the immediately forthcoming annual meeting, I suggest that we ought to have a program chair and committee designated for the following year's meeting as well. In other words we should be doing preliminary planning for our annual meeting at least 1-1/2 - 2 years in the future. I believe that such planning will serve to broaden participation in our meetings and will enable us to structure special sessions and workshops to better address needs and interests of RSSG members.

Now that plans for Portland are well in hand, I want to begin looking toward Phoenix, the site of our 1988 meetings. I have already spoken with a number of you about possible sessions for 1988. Kam Lulla (Indiana State University) has, for example, expressed interest in organizing a special session on videographic remote sensing. Jay Tullis (EOSAT) has proposed that we sponsor a second forum on commercialization. Duane Nellis (Kansas State University), David Lusch (Michigan State University), and I have discussed the organization of a workshop on teaching remote sensing.

I hope that you will provide me with your thoughts on RSSG long range planning. If you wish to organize a session, a field trip, a workshop, or simply offer ideas and suggestions for our Phoenix meetings, please call or write. We need volunteers to serve on the 1988 program planning committee and we need a person to chair the committee. We need your input. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

James W. Merchant, Department of Geography, University of Kansas 213 Lindley Hall,
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2121, (913) 864-5143

EOSAT SOLICITS PROPOSALS FOR TEACHING MODULES

EOSAT is cognizant of the academic community's interest in acquiring inexpensive satellite remote sensing data for use as teaching aids. In response, EOSAT intends to offer applications-specific training modules at moderate prices. These modules are intended to target undergraduate-level remote sensing and related courses within various disciplines. Potential topical areas include: geology, hydrologic processes, forestry and agriculture. Each module will describe in detail both the spectral and spatial attributes of Landsat data. The utility of Landsat to meet a specific resource management objective will be discussed and documented using appropriate hardcopy Thematic Mapper (TM) and MultiSpectral Scanner (MSS) data, images, maps, original text and any ancillary data.

EOSAT will be responsible for type setting, layout, and reproduction of final products. Those producing the modules will be responsible for camera ready graphics that include crisp black-and-white prints and/or 4" x 5" or 9" x 10" color positive transparencies. Each module will conform to a standard three hole punched 8 1/2" x 11" page size format. However, simple fold-outs may be incorporated where required.

EOSAT hopes to identify three or four individuals or groups interested in producing modules in their area of expertise. Where required, EOSAT will provide appropriate Landsat data to be used in production of the training module. These data are to be returned upon completion of the work. Those interested in producing an application-specific module are requested to prepare a brief letter proposal outlining the topical area, design concept, content, production schedule and total cost by Monday, December 11, 1986. For additional details contact Ernest J. Clemens, Earth Observation Satellite Company, 4300 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham, Maryland 20706, Telephone (301)552-0500.

RSSG PLANS TO RESPOND TO EOSAT SOLICITATION

EOSAT has recently issued a request for proposals for development of such teaching modules (see above story). In response, RSSG is planning to prepare a group proposal to be submitted through AAG. On November 21, 1986 Ernest Clemens and Jon Dykstra (EOSAT) will meet at The University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas) with James Merchant (University of Kansas), Donald Rundquist (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Duane Nellis (Kansas State University), and Michael Peterson (University of Nebraska-Omaha) to discuss details of a possible RSSG proposal. Any geographer may, of course, elect to submit an individual proposal to EOSAT. Those interested in participating in a RSSG group proposal are, however, requested to call or write James Merchant (before November 20 if at all possible). Please provide an indication of the topic or topics to be dealt with in the proposed modules and a preliminary budget. Please note EOSAT's December 11, 1986 deadline.

Contact: James W. Merchant, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 213 Lindley Hall, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2121, (913) 864-5143.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A four-day Short Course, "Remote Sensing: An Overview," will be offered 13-16 January 1986 at Cook College, Rutgers University. The course, a combination of lectures, demonstrations, practical exercises, and discussions, is designed for those professionals who need an overview of the latest developments in aerial photography, satellite imagery, and microcomputer mapping. Faculty include Dr. Peter Pizor, Dr. Teuvo Airola, Dr. Ernestine Cary, and Mr. Jeff Wasrud. Tuition is \$495. For further information, contact Mrs. Norma Wanson, Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, telephone (201) 932 9271.

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Vince Ambrosia (NASA Ames), program chair for the Portland meeting, reports that six sessions are being sponsored by the Remote Sensing Specialty Group. Samuel N. Goward (University of Maryland) organized two paper sessions on biophysical remote sensing; Sam will chair one session, and Vince will chair the other. Jeff Wasrud (Cook College, Rutgers University) organized a paper session on classification algorithms, to be chaired by Ben F. Richason, Jr. (Carroll College). A poster session on environmental remote sensing has been organized by M. Duane Nellis (Kansas State University). Finally, two workshops are planned. T.H. Lee Williams (University of Oklahoma) has organized a workshop on Signal Analysis and Advanced Digital Image Processing, and Tina Cary (Cook College, Rutgers University) has organized a workshop on Digital Processing of Remotely Sensed Data. Portland promises to be interesting, busy, and enlightening.

The Portland meeting is on the new schedule, Thursday through Sunday instead of Sunday through Wednesday. Tina Cary's workshop on Digital Processing of Remotely Sensed Data will use ERDAS for the hands-on work again. Lectures will be given by Shamim Naim (University of Wisconsin-Waukesha), Tina Cary and Jeff Wasrud (Cook College-Rutgers University), and Jim Merchant (University of Kansas), from 8 to 12 on Tuesday morning; the class will divide into three teams; one team will get hands-on experience on the ERDAS Image Processing System from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, a second team from 4:30 to 8 p.m., and the third team from 8-11:30 a.m. on Wednesday; then from 11:30 to 1:30 all teams reconvene to compare and discuss results.

Lee Williams' one-day workshop is designed for existing users of digital remote sensing data who are interested in developing a more fundamental background in image analysis. Digital image processing is based on signal theory, which is taught in electrical engineering

courses that are often inappropriate for non-engineers. This workshop covers the basics of signal and image theory as they relate to spatial analysis of remote sensing image data. It will emphasize a conceptual understanding of the numerical techniques, although an introductory knowledge of calculus will be helpful. Course notes and a set of 35-mm slides will be provided.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

COLORADO, BOULDER 80309-0260. University of Colorado at Boulder. **ASSISTANT OR ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**, Tenure track position beginning September 1, 1987. Cartographer to teach with concentration on computer-assisted cartography, geographic information systems, and possibly remote sensing at undergraduate and graduate levels. The ability to contribute to the department's teaching program in another field of Geography is desirable. The appointee would be responsible for the department's spatial data lab and staff cartographer. A demonstrated commitment to research is required. Applications should be complete by December 31, 1986. Applicants should send c.v., evidence of past research and teaching evaluations, and arrange to have three letters of reference sent to Dr. Nel Caine, Chair, Department of Geography, University of Colorado, Campus Box 260, Boulder, Colorado, 80309-0260. The University of Colorado is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer and encourages applications from minorities.

REMOTE SENSING NEWSLETTERS LIST

James Merchant and Jerry Whistler (University of Kansas) have compiled a list of 41 newsletters dealing with remote sensing. The list includes newsletters published by federal and state agencies, universities and private vendors. Both U.S. and foreign newsletters are cited. A copy of the list may be obtained from James W. Merchant, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 213 Lindley Hall, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2121; telephone (913) 864-5143.

EARLY AAG RENEWAL HELPS RSSG

All RSSG members are requested to renew their memberships in AAG before January 1, 1987 if at all possible. Please be certain that, when you renew, you check off your membership in RSSG on the AAG membership form. Each member must indicate anew his or her specialty group affiliation every year. **ONLY IF THESE THINGS ARE DONE** will RSSG receive a rebate from your AAG dues, and be able to continue sending out newsletters!

GIS NEWS

A synopsis of recent news for those remote sensing specialists having interest in geographic information systems:

GIMS Newsletter

The Geographic Information Management Systems (GIMS) Newsletter is published quarterly by the GIMS Committee, a joint committee of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). A copy of the Fall 1986 issue and free subscription may be obtained by writing to the GIMS Newsletter c/o Ms. Kim Williams, American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, 210 Little Falls St., Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 534 6617. Contributions to the GIMS Newsletter may be mailed to Ms. Loyola M. Caron, Editor, University of Kansas, Space Technology Center, 2291 Irving Hill Road, Lawrence, Kansas 66045; (913) 864 4775.

GIS Newsletters List

James Merchant and Loyola Caron (University of Kansas) and Edward Crane (Wyandotte County, Kansas Surveyor's Office) have compiled a listing of 22 GIS "and related" newsletters published by state and federal agencies, professional societies and private vendors. The list is available, upon request, from James W. Merchant, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, 213 Lindley Hall, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2121; (913) 864 5143.

New GIS Book Available

Persons interested in GIS will want to take note of a new book entitled Principles of Geographical Information Systems for Land Resources Assessment (Oxford Monographs on Soil and Resources Survey No. 12) authored by P.A. Burrough (1986). The 193-page book, available in both hardback and paperback editions, is divided into nine chapters. Topics covered include data structures; digital elevation models; data input, verification, storage and output; methods of data analysis and spatial modelling; data quality, errors and natural variation; classification methods; methods of spatial interpolation; and considerations for choosing a GIS. Two appendices provide, respectively, a glossary and list of GIS information sources. The book is well illustrated and includes 14 color plates. Additional details are available from Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016; (212) 679-7300.

GIS Videotape

The U.S. National Park Service has produced a 25 minute videotape which provides an excellent introduction to geographic information systems and the ways in which such systems can be employed in natural resources management. Attention is given to the linkage between remote sensing and GIS. The tape, available in both VHS and Beta formats, may be borrowed (and copied) without charge from Nancy Merenkov, National Park Service, Geographic

Information Systems, Denver Service Center, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, Colorado 80225-0287,(303) 236-7939.

New GIS Journal

A new International Journal of Geographical Information Systems is being initiated. It will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, techniques, approaches and experiences in the rapidly growing field of geographical information systems (GIS). It is intended to interest those who design and implement such systems and those who use them for planning and making and monitoring policies.

The journal is interdisciplinary and international. It will be edited from Europe and North America with an editorial board drawn from centers of GIS activity worldwide. The first issue will appear in January 1987.

For additional information about the journal, contact Taylor & Francis Ltd, Rankine Road, Basingstoke RG20 OPR, United Kingdom.

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE

The journal Geocarto International, for which individual subscriptions are normally US\$30, is offering a reduced rate for members of the RSSG: one year (4 issues) at US\$20.00 per year. (Add US\$10.00 for air mail subscription.) Institution subscriptions are US\$60.00. Address: Geocarto International Centre, G.P.O. Box 4122, Hong Kong. Telephone: 5-8919266.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN RSSG MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As pointed out in the July, 1986 RSSG newsletter by Jim Merchant, I am in the process of organizing the RSSG membership committee. I need your support, ideas, and, most importantly, participation. The objectives of this committee are:

- To identify ways in which the RSSG can better address interests and needs of both the membership at large and particular constituencies.
- To explore means by which RSSG might attract and retain new members and generate more involvement by the membership in RSSG activities.

We need representative members from all the constituencies of our group. I hope you'll respond soon so that we can get organized and begin our important task. If you are willing to serve please forward your name, address, and telephone number to Dr. Kamlesh Lulla, Dept. of Geography/Geology, Remote Sensing Laboratory, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809, (812) 237-2252/2444.

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Thanks go to the following people for contributing items for this newsletter: Jim Merchant, Duane Nellis, Kam Lulla, Aulis Lind, Dennis White, Vince Ambrosia, Don Rundquist, Hazel Morrow-Jones, Lee Williams, Ray Lougeay.

Materials for the next newsletter should reach Tina Cary or Jeff Wasrud by 27 February 1987. Address: Department of Environmental Resources, Cook College, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903 U.S.A. Telephone: (201) 932 9632 BITNET: 2059007@RUTVM1

REMOTE SENSING CENTERS

New Interdisciplinary Center at Nebraska

The Conservation and Survey Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has created a new Center for Advanced Land Management Information Technologies (CALMIT). The center, which achieved official status by action of the Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, during October, 1986, serves to focus and enhance the unique existing expertise, both at Nebraska and in the region, in four related technical areas: remote sensing, digital image processing, geographic information systems, and automated cartography. CALMIT hold formal memoranda of agreement to facilitate faculty interaction and cooperative projects with the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha; thus the center is very much a regional concept. Faculty affiliates and graduate students represent numerous disciplines including Geography, Geology, Planning, Ecology, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Computer Science, Agronomy, Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology, and Agricultural Engineering.

In addition to providing both a focus and formal linkages for enhanced interaction between Nebraska and other regional universities, public agencies, and private industry, the objectives of CALMIT include striving for excellence in land management information technologies by enhancing interdisciplinary faculty research, education, and training, and technical assistance. The Center offers the opportunity for high-technology approaches to dealing with vital agricultural and natural-resource issues such as sod-busting, soil erosion, preservation of prime agricultural land, wetland protection, and assessing ground water pollution potential.

For additional information, contact Don Rundquist, 113 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, 68588-0517.

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