

**ENJOY THE
BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**

**CONVENTION
2020
UPDATE
PAGE 5**

REMINDER

*Renew my LSPS
Membership!*

*2020-2021
Fiscal Year
Available ONLINE!*

www.lspss.net



L'ARPELTEUR LOUISIANE

AUGUST 2020

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Special Thanks to our Contributing Writers.

Articles submitted will be considered for publication and should be emailed to: lsps@lsps.net. Please contact the office with any questions.

The officers and board of LSPS and editors of this publication do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed by individual writers included herein.



The *L'Arpeleur Louisiane* is published quarterly as a service to the members of the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors. As stated in the LSPS Articles of Incorporation, the LSPS is "organized for the following purposes and to carry out the same:

Enhancing the status of the Land Surveying Profession by:

- 1) Maintaining high technical and cultural standards for entrance to the Society.
- 2) Cooperating with educational institutions in the maintenance of high standards of education in Land Surveying.
- 3) Requiring a high standard of ethical practice by members of the Society.
- 4) Aiding in the adoption of high standard of attainment for the granting of the legal right to practice Professional Land Surveying.
- 5) Fostering among students of Land Surveying the study of philosophy and history, tradition and achievement, duties and social functions of the Land Surveying Profession.
- 6) Encouraging the personal and professional development of young Land Surveyors.
- 7) Supporting activities looking to the increased employment of Land Surveyors and seeking new opportunities for service in Land Surveying."

LSPS ADVERTISING RATES:

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*Prices apply to camera-ready copy.
A charge will be added for creation of an ad or art work.*



PRESIDENTIAL PRIVILEGE



Brad Holleman
LSPS President

Dear Membership,

My fellow members, I hope you are staying well under the current pandemic. We have faced many new challenges over the last few months and I am prayerful that we will be able to return to a resemblance of normalcy soon. I have spoken to many members since the start of COVID-19 and continue to be impressed by the resiliency and creativity of those within our profession. As we fight this battle, I would like to remind you that you are not alone. One of the many benefits of our society is the fellowship of our members. I encourage you to reach out to fellow members to discuss the challenges facing us today, whether the issue be PPP loans, quarantine of field and office personnel, technology for remotely working, or surveying related questions. If you have found yourself passive in this society, I encourage you to be more active and reap the benefits of this great society.

LSPS will be investing in video conferencing software for the next year. I encourage District Chairmen to use this technology to offer district meetings. Should you have any questions, or would like to set up a meeting through LSPS, please contact LSPS at lsps@lsps.net, or myself at Brad.Holleman@SJBGroup.com.

Lastly, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. The majority of the last few board meetings have been focused on providing our membership with quality PDHs in an online format. Now that we are approaching the end of planning for the 2020 convention, we have our sights set on 2021, and any other new challenges our membership will bring to our attention.

Thank you and be well,

Brad Holleman, PLS, EI

Brad.Holleman@SJBGroup.com

****MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWALS****

HAPPENING NOW!

2020-2021 FISCAL YEAR AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Membership Login ID: YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Password: If you've forgotton, click on "Forgot your Password"



Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors

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• Phone (225)925-5800 • Fax (225)925-5802
• Email: lsps@bellsouth.net • Website: www.lsps.net



EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Ten \$500 Scholarships will be awarded yearly to College Students residing in Louisiana and pursuing a career in Land Surveying. (This scholarship is not an automatic rollover) Applicants must be working towards the 30 hours required by the LAPELS board for licensure or toward a degree in a LAPELS acceptable Geomatics program. The scholarships will be awarded in one lump sum payment. Preference for scholarships will be given to applicants that have surveying experience.

Return this application along with:

- School transcript
- Three letters of recommendations. (Professional Land Surveyors or LSPS members preferred. No family).
- Brief summary of work history in the surveying field (a resume is sufficient).
- Proof of school enrollment for following semester/quarter.

1. Personal Information

Name _____

Address _____ Parish _____

_____ Phone _____

Email _____

****Application Deadline is January 1, 2021.**

APPLICATIONS NOT SUBMITTED BY THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

All scholarships will be awarded by February 12, 2021.



CONVENTION 2020 UPDATE

By Patrick Staiano, Convention Chairman



I hope you and your family are staying healthy and have been able to enjoy your summer as best as possible. As the chair of the 2020 LSPS Convention, I would like to update the membership on the status of the convention and provide information on what to look forward to.

As everyone is aware, the in-person convention scheduled for August 5-7 in Marksville was canceled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The conference has been moved to a digital format, and the presentations will be made available online to everyone who registered to attend the convention.

At the time of print, all of the speakers except for one (Surveying and Railroads) will be presenting on the scheduled topics. Standards of Practice for Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as Ethics, will be available for viewing. There will be at least 13 hours of professional development presentations available online for registered members to view and receive credit for.

I'm sure everyone reading this has taken part in more than their share of Zoom and WebEx meetings and is very familiar with the issues that can arise during these

live online conferences.

To avoid this, all of the presentations will be prerecorded by a professional videographer and uploaded to view at your convenience. LSPS is working to ensure that both the content and format of the online presentations are watchable and of as high a quality as possible.

LSPS is in the process of finalizing the software to be used for the video delivery and scheduling the speakers to meet with the videographer to record their presentations. Once this is complete, the videos will be uploaded and an email with a link to the presentations will be sent out. The goal is to have the videos made available by mid-September and for the videos to remain available until the end of the year.

I realize that these are unprecedented times and that an all-online format is not what we expected for the 2020 convention, but I truly believe that we can make the best of this situation and still provide required and interesting professional development for our members. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

WHAT: LSPS 60th Annual Convention

WHEN: April 14 - 16, 2020

**WHERE: Margaritaville Resort Casino
777 Margaritaville Way
Bossier City, LA 71171**

Check the LSPS website www.lsp.net for updates.

Hope to see you there!



C4G PROGRESS DURING COVID-19 EVENT

By Rachel R. Barnett

INTRODUCTION

On March 23, 2020, at 5:00 PM, the stay-at-home order issued by Governor John Bel Edwards went into effect. In order to comply with the order, LSU's Office of Academic Affairs closed research labs, and as a result, fieldwork at LSU'S Center for Geoinformatics (C4G) was put on hold. C4G remains productive through instrument maintenance, data reduction, and fieldwork.

MAINTENANCE

Instruments are currently stored in two C4G field technicians' homes to ensure continuous maintenance. One technician is holding two CG-5 relative gravity meters. He is running drift calibrations on them regularly and ensuring that they remain level to help avoid hysteresis. Another technician is maintaining high-vacuum on the FG5-X absolute gravity meter dropper, maintaining the reference helium-neo LASER, and also housing the digital zenith camera. Both technicians keep R8 and R10 GPS units and 2-meter rod tripods with them as well. These were used in CORS co-located surveys that include:

- Installing reference marks and AA marks for gravity observations.
- Installing a buried magnetic ZM-mark for deflection of the vertical observations.
- Using the total station to determine positions of the marks.
- Determining differential heights between marks through leveling.
- Observing the gravitational gradient on the AA mark and relative gravity between the AA mark and reference marks.
- Making absolute gravity observations on the AA mark.
- Performing night-time deflection of the vertical measurements with the digital zenith camera on the ZM-mark.
- C4G is using this data to build a GIS database to display and share results, as well as inputting this data into C4G survey sheets.

DATA REDUCTION

While fieldwork was put on hold, C4G field staff initially focused efforts on compiling an accumulation of measurements from previous site visits. The third technician has taken the role of data reduction and data management. The type of data processed includes:

- GNSS positions for the reference and zenith marks.
- The height of RM1 relative to the CORS is recorded.
- Trigonometric 3-D positions for the RM, ZM, and AA marks are determined.
- Differential leveling refines the height between marks.
- Absolute gravity at AA marks.
- Absolute gravity transferred to reference marks by processing the relative gravity loops.
- Deflection of the vertical measured using the digital zenith camera.

GPS ON BENCHMARKS CAMPAIGN

Phase 1 of reopening began on May 18 with some restrictions. University travel was now allowed but was limited to in-state travel. As a result of restrictions in place, fieldwork relative to the CORS sites was put on hold.

In place of gravity observations, C4G focused efforts on the GPS on Benchmark (GPSonBM) campaign. This part of the project accommodates the restrictions in place. GPSonBM requires minimal contact with the general public. The marks used are located in rural areas, off public highways, or near railroads, and do not require public interaction to access them. Some guidelines C4G follows to remain safe include:

- Wearing a face mask when people are nearby.
- Bringing lunch to avoid drive-throughs.
- Using separate vehicles to maintain social distancing.
- Wiping door handles, steering wheel, and vehicle interior.
- Washing hands.
- Returning home at the end of an occupation to avoid hotels and inns.
- Operators use the same equipment each day.

Fieldwork for GPSonBM consists of running GPS static observations on NGS benchmarks for a period of 4 plus hours. Field technicians can perform 4-hour static occupations on 1-2 points per day. The number of static measurements collected per day depends on how long it takes to drive out and locate the point and if weather conditions will allow a 4-hour observation to be made without interruption.

Technicians are occupying points surrounding Baton Rouge in Livingston, St. Helena, and East Feliciana Parishes to avoid overnight trips and radiating out from there. C4G is working to increase efficiency by locating points in advance of observations to determine if they are suitable for GNSS static observations or not. This ensures a quick and easy set up for the following static occupations.

After completing a static session, the data is downloaded, converted to RINEX, and processed through an on-line application called OPUS Share. Additional office work for GPSONBM projects includes virtual recon using Google Earth and NGS datasheets. C4G is also locating alternate marks to potentially replace missing or destroyed marks requested by NGS.

DEFLECTION OF THE VERTICAL OBSERVATIONS

One of our technicians at C4G has begun making deflection of the vertical (DoV) observations at CORS sites and near NGS benchmarks. He can collect 2-3 observations per site, and often from multiple sites, while the 4-hour static GPSONBM observation is run simultaneously. These observations are made on nights with clear skies and they require no interaction with the public.

CONCLUSION

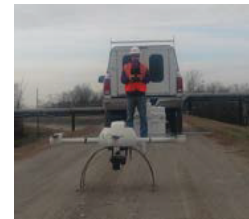
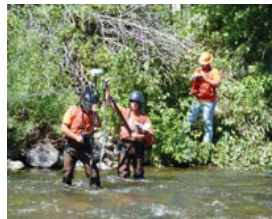
When the weather doesn't allow for outside work, field staff at C4G are processing data, attending NGS or Trimble webinars, or holding virtual meetings. C4G field staff meets at least twice a week to update each other on progress and discuss plans for the week. Through phase 2 reopening, which began May 8, C4G continues to use the same procedures established in phase 1 to keep ourselves and those around us safe. Using these procedures, C4G safely maintains productivity. We don't know what Phase 3 will involve or how the COVID-19 situation may change, but we are confident we can continue to safely produce results that support NGS and the State of Louisiana.

The LSU Center for Geoinformatics is the home of the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center; creator and host of Louisiana's NGS CORS network. LSU created C4G to focus on research and services in Geodesy and Geoinformatics; as a result, C4G has established Louisiana's only Statewide GPS/GNSS Real-Time Network, C4GNet which is entirely funded by subscribers to the RTN. (<http://c4g.lsu.edu/>)

Rachel Barnett is a research survey technician for the Center for Geoinformatics at LSU. She joined C4G in 2019. She received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from LSU in 2018.



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NICHOLLS GEOMATICS PROGRAM UPDATE

By: Dr. Brigett Scott

Greetings from the Geomatics Program at Nicholls State University,

We are getting ready for the start of our Fall 2020 semester. There are lots of things going on for the preparation of classes. The most exciting news is that Dr. Esra Tekdal-Yilmaz has agreed to step into the Department Head position. We are also welcoming Dr. John Dennis as a new Assistant Professor and Ms. Cassi Fradella as our new Administrative Assistant. Over the summer Dr. Balaji and his student research assistants have been hard at work on collecting research data and grant work.

He recently received the following grants: the American Sugarcane League and the title was

“Hyperspectral & LiDAR Data Fusion Technology for Accurate Estimation of Sugarcane yield for \$15,000. Geomatics Program Funding and Data Maintenance” (PI) Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (\$30,000) , and the Enhancement of Coastal Louisiana Research and Workforce Infrastructure by Building on the Expertise of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Technology Established at Nicholls and Tulane Universities (PI) LA Board of Regents (\$730,587) 2019-2024.

Nicholls placed second in the NSPS competition. Our students did an amazing job in the competition. We are looking forward to a productive Fall semester.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By: Harper Duncan & Associates, LLC

The Louisiana 2020 Regular Session and First Special Session have come to an end. After the legislature returned from their extended break due to COVID-19 the focus of all the bills shifted towards the state budget, healthcare, the economy, and emergency orders. Since this year was not a fiscal session (only on odd numbered years), the legislature convened for a special to address the budget and economic recovery. They are expected to go back in Fall 2020 for a second special session.

The only bill on our monitor list that made it through the regular session was HB 613 by Representative Owen regarding occupational licenses of military families. The final version of this bill puts Louisiana in line with 21 other states. It allows military family members to receive a temporary license while they apply and wait for a permanent license. If the permanent license is not granted, the temporary license will be revoked. The bill was signed by Governor Edwards on June 11, 2020, and goes into effect on January 1, 2021.



SLCC UPDATE

By: Michael O’Pry

South Louisiana Community College Civil Surveying & Mapping program will be running in hybrid/remote learning with all lectures conducted through video lessons and Microsoft Teams live meetings with the instructor. Labs will be conducted as a 4 hour double

lab every other week in person, rather than a weekly two hour lab. Social distancing will take place; however survey parties are usually spaced out on campus regardless. Some sort of mask is required as per school policy. www.solacc.edu



LSPS DISTRICT INFORMATION

DISTRICT	CONTACT INFO
District 1	John Teegarden jteegarden@ascellc.com
District 2	Andrew Szush andrew.szush@tbsmith.com
District 3	Shawn MacMenamin smacmenamin22@gmail.com
District 4	Jonathan Westerman redchuteland@gmail.com.com
District 5	Jon Braswell jbraswell@sehuey.com
District 6	Patrick Staiano pstaiano@ntbainc.com
District 8	W. Aaron Wood aaron.wood@woodsurveying.com
District 9	Jules Toups jules.toups@tbsmith.com

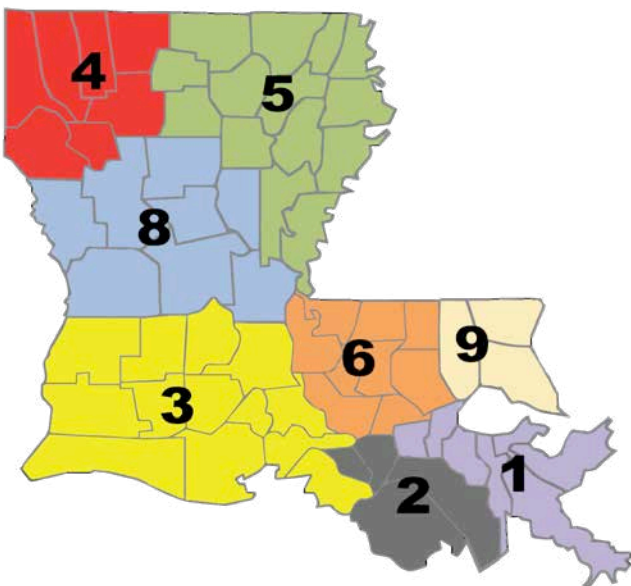
WHY ATTEND A DISTRICT MEETING?

Networking – Who knows more about opportunities in surveying, than those active in it?

Educational Benefits - Want to stay of top of our profession? Most meetings offer opportunity for upgrading your experience through top speakers in our field.

Leadership Opportunities – It is not enough to just join a district. Take advantage of opportunities to get involved in committee work, serve some time as an officer, and help coordinate events. The more active you are, the more visible you become to other members. Leadership roles reflect well on you, and on the company that employs you. It proves they hired a winner!

If you are not an LSPS member, we would like to invite you to attend a District meeting in your area. Contact the LSPS office at lsps@lsps.net , or the chairman in your area for details about upcoming meetings.



LSPS Districts

We would like to invite you to attend a District meeting in your area. Contact the LSPS office at lsps@lsps.net or the chairman in your area for details about upcoming meetings.



BENEFITS OF JOINING LSPS

The Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors is organized to enhance the Surveying Profession. Our goal is to carry out our mission by maintaining high technical and cultural standards in our field, working with educational institutions for the maintenance of high standards of education in Land Surveying, requiring a high standard of ethical practice by our members, and encouraging the personal and professional development of young Land Surveyors.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN OUR SOCIETY INCLUDE:

- **NETWORKING** – Who knows more about opportunities within a field than those actually involved in it? No one. The roster of our society is a gold mine to get your network rolling.
- **EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS** – Want to stay on top of your profession, learn new techniques and strategies? There are endless opportunities for upgrading your experience through seminars, listening to top speakers in your field, workshops, and just plain old-fashioned sharing of information among your peers.
- **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** – It isn't enough to just join a District of the society. Take advantage of the many opportunities to get involved in committee work, serve some time as an officer, or help coordinate events. The more active you are, the more visible you become to the other members. This can only be a plus in your career future.
- **RESUME UPGRADING** – As our profession becomes more complex and difficult to master, the need for continued certification becomes more prevalent.
- **SOCIAL BENEFITS** – Don't overlook the fun factor. Groups of people with common interests are always sources of new friends. You speak the same language, laugh at the same jokes and dream similar dreams. Becoming active opens up many possibilities!

The new age of advanced technology has created the need for land surveyors to guard their profession. Our society works with the Louisiana Professional Engineering & Land Surveying Board (LAPELS) in the process of establishing the current continuing professional development requirements.

We have been involved with many surveying issues...

- ◆ our society began in 1961 and currently has over **525 members**
- ◆ we are approved by the LAPELS Board as a **seminar sponsor**
- ◆ LSPS is an affiliate of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, and the **National Society of Professional Surveyors**
- ◆ we have a standing Legislative Committee to **review legislation** that may affect the surveying profession
- ◆ the LSPS Liaison Committee communicates with the **LAPELS Board** on issues that affect land surveyors
- ◆ we host an Annual Convention - with exhibitors displaying the latest in surveying equipment, and LSPS offering Personal Development Hours to meet licensing requirements
- ◆ the LSPS Executive Board continually working to upgrade member benefits.



Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors

Affiliate of the National Society of Professional Surveyors

9643 Brookline Avenue, Suite 108, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 • Phone (225)925-5800 • Fax (225)925-5802

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SPACES:

Registration Number: _____

Name: _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

P.L.S. P.E. Other _____

Home Address: _____
STREET CITY & STATE ZIP CODE

Home Phone: _____

Business Affiliation: _____

Position or Title: _____

Business Address: _____
STREET CITY & STATE ZIP CODE

Business Phone: _____

Fax Phone: _____

E-MAIL: _____ UPON MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE, NAME, EMAIL, WORK AND/OR HOME PHONE NUMBER CAN BE ADDED TO THE WEBSITE DISTRICT CONTACT PAGE. _____ YES(CIRCLE CHOICE) _____ NO

Education: _____
SCHOOL DATE GRADUATED DEGREE

Surveying Experience _____
YEARS

LSPS Member SPONSOR:

Name: _____ Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Signature _____

I hereby apply for admission into the Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors as a _____ Member, and agree to comply with the Charter, By-Laws and the Code of Ethics of the Association. Please assign me to the following district:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| District 1 – New Orleans | District 2 – Houma | District 3 – Lafayette |
| District 4 – Shreveport | District 5 – Monroe | District 6 – Baton Rouge |
| District 7 – Lake Charles | District 8 – Alexandria | District 9 – Covington |
| | | Out of State |

Date: _____

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

RESIDENT REGISTERED MEMBER

Any person whose legal residence is the State of Louisiana and holding a license from the State of Louisiana authorizing such person to engage in the practice of Land Surveying. Resident Registered Members shall be entitled to vote on all matters and hold any Office in the Corporation.

INITIATION FEE \$10.00 ANNUAL DUES \$180.00
INCLUDES NSPS MEMBERSHIP

NON-RESIDENT REGISTERED MEMBER

Surveyors registered in the State of Louisiana but not a resident of Louisiana. Non-Resident Members shall be entitled to vote but shall not be eligible to hold any Office in the Corporation.

INITIATION FEE \$10.00 ANNUAL DUES \$140.00

STUDENT MEMBER

Any full-time undergraduate student of a college or vocational school recognized by the Board. Student Members shall not be eligible to vote or hold any Office in the Corporation.

ANNUAL DUES \$20.00

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Any person working toward licensure, land survey intern, or surveyor not registered in Louisiana, recognized and so admitted by the Board of Directors. Associate members shall not be eligible to vote or hold any Office in the Corporation.

INITIATION FEE \$10.00 ANNUAL DUES \$55.00

AFFILIATE MEMBER

Any person not included within the definitions above provided in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 interested in advancing the cause and aims of the Corporation. Affiliate Members shall not be eligible to vote or hold any Office in the Corporation.

INITIATION FEE \$10.00 ANNUAL DUES \$35.00

SUSTAINING MEMBER

Any firm or individual desiring to support the aims and objectives of the Association, who may or may not be entitled to one of the foregoing classes of Membership, may become a Sustaining Member upon application and approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Sustaining Members shall not be eligible to vote or hold any Office in the Corporation, however, if a Sustaining Member also holds another class or other classes of membership that Sustaining Member class shall not infringe upon such rights and privileges.

ANNUAL DUES \$300.00

Credit card# _____

Expiration Date: _____

Please return completed form with Initiation Fee and Annual Dues to LSPS at the address above.

Rev.04/20



Issue 20, June 2020

NSRS Modernization News

For all issues of **NSRS Modernization News**, visit:
geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml

Delayed Release of the Modernized NSRS

NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) is announcing a delay in the release of the modernized National Spatial Reference System (NSRS).

In 2007, NGS began planning for the modernized NSRS, acquiring its first airborne gravimeter, creating and initiating the Gravity for the Redefinition of the American Vertical Datum (GRAV-D) project and by 2008 had codified its modernization plans into a Ten Year Plan. At that time, the target completion date was 2018. By 2013, that date seemed unlikely, due to both the broadening of the GRAV-D project coverage area and the experience of five years of operational planning and execution.

In 2013, NGS revised its 2007 Strategic Plan, and targeted 2022 as the date of the release of the modernized NSRS. This date was reinforced with a 2018 Strategic Plan revision. By 2017, confidence in hitting the 2022 target was high enough to reach final agreement with Canada and Mexico on a naming convention for certain components, to include "2022" in their names.

Since 2017, operational, workforce, and other issues have arisen and compounded, causing NGS to recently re-evaluate whether a successful roll-out by 2022 is possible. The most significant impacts have been in workforce hiring and retention, and in meeting GRAV-D data collection milestones, which underpin the NSRS modernization efforts.

NGS is currently conducting a comprehensive analysis of ongoing projects, programs, and resources required to complete NSRS modernization and will continue to provide regular updates on our progress. To get the latest news on NSRS modernization and track our progress, subscribe to [NGS News](#) or visit our "[New Datums](#)" [web pages](#).

Here are brief answers to some expected questions:

Q) How long will the delay be?

A) We don't know. At best, it now looks like the 2024–2025 timeframe.

Q) Will the names stay the same?

A) Yes, terms containing "2022" such as "GEOID2022" and "NATRF2022" will remain the same.

Q) How will this affect deadlines, such as for SPCS and GPS on BM data submittals?

A) Those deadlines will not be changed.

Further details, and more answers are available on this [FAQ](#).



NSRS Modernization News

Issue 21 July 2020

For all issues of **NSRS Modernization News**, visit:
geodesy.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/TrackOurProgress.shtml

Delay

As mentioned in last month's special issue of the NSRS Modernization News, the roll-out of the modernized NSRS is being delayed beyond 2022. More details are available on our [New Datums](#) page.

Geospatial Data Act Update

The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) codified many aspects of the management of U.S. National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). For Geodetic Control, this includes the NOAA CORS Network (NCN), GRAV-D aerogravity, geoid height models, and the extensive passive control database. This was managed previously by Executive Orders and the OMB Circular A-16. The GDA codified this into public law and requires that NGDA Geodetic Control datasets be subject to biennial audits by the Department of Commerce Inspector General and reports to Congress. Annual reports are still required. In particular, the NCN will provide access to and maintenance of the modernized NSRS. Hence, implementation of the GDA is shaping how the NSRS Modernization will be realized now and in the future. It is evolving, so look for updates at later dates.

Progress in ongoing Projects

There are currently **24 ongoing projects** directly related to NSRS modernization around NGS.

Here is a highlight from one:

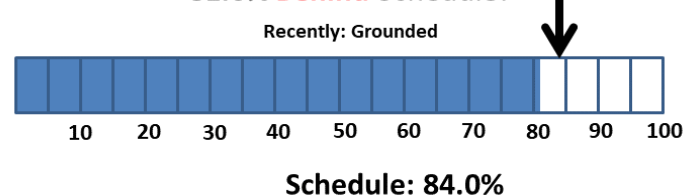
Annual xGEOID production (Project Manager: Dr. Yan Wang)

NGS is working closely with the Canadian Geodetic Survey (CGS) to compute, and jointly release xGEOID20, the first jointly computed geoid model between the two agencies. The scheduled release of this model is planned for September 15, 2020. The joint xGEOID20 model will be created by blending two preliminary geoid models, one computed by NGS and one computed by CGS.

While initial tests indicate that the CGS and NGS approaches to geoid modeling agree at the 2 cm (overall) for the entire North American region, there are areas of significant disagreement remaining.

Therefore, **NGS will not be releasing an xGEOID21 model next year**. Rather, the entire year will be spent in a collaborative research effort with our CGS colleagues in an attempt to drive all remaining disagreements between methods down to 1 cm (RMS) and 10 cm (max) between models, before blending into an xGEOID22 model in 2022.

GRAV-D Progress Last Quarter: **Steady at 0.0% to 81.6% Behind** Schedule!



ENHANCE YOUR CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

BECOME A CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIAN (CST)

This four-level certification program indicates official recognition by NSPS that a person can perform surveying tasks at a specific technical level.

Certification provides employers with a method of determining job assignments and advancement since certification is an indication of one's ability to perform specific job tasks. Increase Your Skills. Enhance Your Career Opportunities. Set a Straight Course to Your Future. Become a Certified Survey Technician (CST)!



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