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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Inside This Issue

Life Membership Conferred on Dale Blackstone Page 2

UMaine SVT Program Receives \$1.7 Million Equipment Loan Page 3

> February ExCom Minutes Page 5

Calendar Notes
Page 10



Earl W. Raymond

Founding Charter & Life Member May 23, 1929 – February 2, 2024

Earl W. Raymond, 94, of Falmouth, ME, passed with the dawn on Friday, Feb. 2, 2024. Born in Lowell, MA on 5/23/29, he was proud of his family's lineage, tracing back to a Revolutionary War ancestor. After an early graduation from high school, Mr. Raymond enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving as a Corporal at the Marine Air Station at Cherry Point, N.C. He received a B.A. in Forestry from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1952, hitchhiking across the country to spend college summers working as a Smokejumper with the U.S. Forest Service in Montana. He received an M.S. in Forestry from Yale University in 1953.

Thereafter, Mr. Raymond spent his entire working life with the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town, Maine, retiring as C.O.O. He was integral to the formation and leadership of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors.

Mr. Raymond was a lifelong outdoorsman, a skier, kayaker and hiker. He was a Maine Guide, and a founding member of the Maine Chapter of the International Appalachian Trail, to which he devoted much time. He spent much of his retirement researching and writing about the history of surveying and mapping in the state of Maine, writing more than a dozen papers which he donated to the Maine Historical Society. He was an amateur astronomer who shared his knowledge and love of the stars while working for many years as a volunteer for the National Park Service. In his retirement, Mr. Raymond traveled the world, staying in elder hostels and adventuring in Europe, India, New Zealand, China, Mongolia, Peru, Argentina and Antarctica. While traveling in Africa, he climbed near the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Into his last few months, he enjoyed kayaking local lakes and ponds, and across Falmouth Harbor to Clapboard Island. He was never happier than when he was out of doors, or reading a good book.

Earl will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by family and his many friends, whose company he treasured. He was predeceased by his wife of 41 years, Joyce (Lessard) Raymond, and Maureen Ellerton, his longtime companion.

Services were held on Saturday, February 10 in Portland and a number of surveyors attended. Memorial donations may be made to:

Maine Chapter, International Appalachian Trail
https://www.maineiat.org/donate/
or to
Dark Sky Maine

https://darkskymaine.com/donate

Photo: Earl researching at the Maine State Archives, courtesy of Harry Nelson

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Legislative Committee (Levi Ladd - Chair & Daniel Bernier, Esq.)

Nominating & Membership Committee (Donald Dostie - Chair)

Budget & Finance Committee (Jimmy Courbron)

Board of Licensure (Levi Ladd - Liaison)

NSPS (William Shippen, NSPS Director)

SVT at UM (Stephen Gould - Liaison)

FEMA (Mark Carpenter - Liaison)

Publications, FieldNotes and Website (Bruce Bourgoine)

Education Committee - (Deborah Briggs - Chair)

Scholarship Committee

(John Lloyd & Stephen Gould - Co-Chairs)

Historical Committee - (Tom Blake - Chair)

Benevolent & Betterment Benevolent Fund Com't (Matt Ek - Chair)

Program Committee

(Steve Gould & John Lloyd Co-Chairs)

Award Reflection



Dale Blackstone Life Membership Conferred

By action of the Maine Society of Land Surveyors Executive Committee, **Dale Blackstone** of Caribou was made a Life Member of the Society.

For innumerable years, Dale has been a key booster of helping our scholarship fund grow in an involved way. Each year he donates a handsome Icelandic sweater that he personally knits featuring exquisite detailing. These sweaters have been top draw items in Annual Conference Scholarship auctions. Presenters, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs John Lloyd and Steve Gould, estimated that at sizeable five figure amount has been raised over the decades due to Dale's commitment. Additionally, no auction winner goes home without his offer to re-make the sweater to fit one's size!

Congratulations and thank you Dale! *Photo courtesy of Kevin Farrar*

Stay Tuned:

Over the next couple of months we will feature the individuals who received awards at the 2024 Annual Conference including **Donald Richards**, Surveyor of the Year and the President's Award given to **Jimmy Courbron**.



UMaine's surveying program receives equipment loan valued at \$1.7 million



ORONO, Maine — The University of Maine's Surveying Engineering Technology (SVT) program has received an equipment loan valued at \$1.7 million from Topcon Positioning Systems Inc., an industry-leading designer, manufacturer and distributor of precision measurement and workflow solutions headquartered in Livermore, California.

The university's SVT program, which has the largest number of undergraduate students per faculty in the Maine College of Engineering and Computing (MCEC), will receive 12 robotic total stations (electronic/optical instruments for surveying and building construction), 12 digital levels,12 multi-constellation GPS receivers, tablets, software and accessories at no cost. As part of the agreement, Topcon will maintain, update and replace the equipment (if necessary) every three years. This agreement was made to ensure the program's students receive instruction with the latest surveying technology as part of the Topcon Learn/Apply/Build (LAB) initiative.

"We are excited to initiate the relationship with the University of Maine. It is our latest Learn/Apply/Build investment, partnering with leading survey educational programs around the world to provide state-of-the-art technology to advance learning," said Ron Oberlander, vice president of Topcon global professional services. "The University of Maine program has the potential to support the education of surveying engineers across the globe. The world needs more surveyors from a diverse range of backgrounds, and we are delighted that our support will help this become a reality. Surveying students learning on campus and online will benefit from having access to the latest technology and software to support their studies."

Because surveyors make precise measurements to determine property boundaries, understanding how to use the equipment to make those measurements is a primary function of the career.

"Surveyors are in charge of searching for spatial truth. A surveyor is kind of a detective," said Ray Hintz, professor of surveying engineering technology.

In addition to helping those students complete the program in person, this equipment supports SVT online education, enrollment for which has increased by over 130% since 2019. Providing access to the latest surveying technology is part of the program's strategic effort to recruit students.

"The volume of equipment helps us be more efficient in teaching labs," said Rich Vannozzi, assistant professor in surveying engineering technology. "For 150 years, if you took a survey class, you worked in a little group of three or four people with one piece of equipment. So say you had a two-hour lab and four people, everybody got a half hour with their hands on the equipment. What we found out is that if we ran the labs more frequently, and every student had a piece of equipment of their own for the whole two hours — they had their hands on it — they got four times as much time and they were 100% engaged."

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of surveyors is projected to grow 5% from 2022–32, faster than the average for all occupations. With fewer than 48,000 licensed surveyors nationwide and many expected to retire in coming years, the demand for surveyors is only expected to grow.

"There are two phenomena that are driving a critical need for surveyors nationally," Vannozzi said. "One is aging out of the profession. The other thing driving the demand is that we need educated surveyors. There was a time 40 years ago when you could enter this profession and have a successful career with a minimal amount of formal education. That is not realistic any more. If you want to have a successful 40-year career as a land surveyor, you will need a bachelor-degree-level education."

Joe McNichols, assistant professor in surveying engineering technology, will organize and manage the equipment. A ribbon cutting will be held in the fall to celebrate the donation and the updated equipment storage room.





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in /sgcsurveying

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

White Duck Brew Pub – Winthrop, ME February 15, 2024



Members Present

Officers - President Cassandra Quintal

Secretary Kevin Farrar Treasurer Jimmy Courbron

Directors - Androscoggin Jimmy Courbron (proxy)

Somerset Stephen Gould
Crown of Maine Spencer Caron (zoom)
Narragansett Wayne Wood
MidCoast Karl Olson (zoom)
Executive Director Bruce Bourgoine (zoom)

The meeting was called to order by President Quintal at 6:03.

Legislative Committee (Levi Ladd) – Dan is not in attendance or on Zoom.

Dan's list of pending legislation that he is monitoring is emailed to members regularly. If you are not receiving them, contact Bruce Bourgoine to make sure he has your email address. The following bills which can be researched at the following web address are on the emailed list. http://www.mainelegislature.org/LawMakerWeb/search.asp Once at that web address, add the LD# and hit search.

LD 226 – "An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis" was assigned to the Labor and Housing Committee. No hearings or workshops have been scheduled.

LD 240 – "An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities" has been assigned to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. A public hearing was held on Jan. 9th and a workshop was held on January 30th. A divided report is anticipated.

LD 371 – "An Act to Address Certain Local Zoning Ordinances" was assigned to the Housing Committee. A workshop was held on Jan. 30th. It received an "ought not to pass" recommendation and has been tabled.

LD 772 – "An Act to Establish a Process to Vest Rights for Land Use Applicants" was assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. Three workshops were held and it has been tabled.

LD 1134 – "An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of 'Subdivision' Under the Site Location of Development Laws" was assigned to the Housing Committee. A workshop was held on January 12th. It received an "ought not to pass" recommendation and has been tabled.

LD 1294 – "An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals" was assigned to the Housing Committee.

LD 1672 – "An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process" was assigned to the Housing Committee. After a workshop and public hearing, it has been tabled.

LD 1685 – "An Act to Increase Acreage Eligibility and Change Requirements for Filing Plans Under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law" was assigned to the Taxation Committee. A workshop was held on January 23rd and the bill received an "ought not to pass" recommendation.

LD 1787 – "Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul of the State Subdivision Statute" was assigned to the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee. Workshops were held on Jan. 23rd and 26th. After receiving an "ought to pass as amended" recommendation, the bill has been tabled.

LD 1864 – "An Act to Increase Maine's Housing Supply by Prohibiting Certain Zoning Requirements in Areas Where Public Sewer and Water Infrastructure Are Available and in Designated Growth Areas" was assigned to the Housing Committee. A workshop was held on Jan 26th.

LD 1976 – "An Act to Update the Growth Management Program Laws" was assigned to the Housing Committee. A workshop was held on Jan. 12th.

LD 2003 – "An Act to Protect Access to Maine's Intertidal Zone" was assigned to the Marine Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on Jan. 11th. The bill received an "ought not to pass" recommendation and is dead.

LD 2030 – "An Act to Exempt Certain Emergency Activities and Structure Elevation Increases in Flood Zone from Permit Requirements Under the National Resources Protection Act" was assigned to the Environment and Natural Resources committee. After a public hearing and a workshop the bill received an "ought to pass as amended" recommendation and has been tabled.

LD 2034 – "An Act to Address Identified Gaps in Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural Resources Protection Act" was assigned to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. A public hearing was held on Jan.10th. It has received an "ought to pass" recommendation.

LD 2035 – "An Act Regarding Disclosure of Flood Risk by Sellers of Real Estate" was assigned to the Judiciary Committee. A public hearing was held on January 3rd. A Divided report is anticipated.

LD 2087 – "An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program" was assigned to the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. A public hearing was held on Jan. 23rd.

LD $2\bar{1}01$ – "An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement" was assigned to the State and Local Government Committee. A public hearing was held on Feb. 6^{th} .

LD 2169 – "An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine" was assigned to the Housing Committee. A public hearing was held on Feb. 6th.

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the January 9th meeting held at the White Duck in Winthrop were accepted as printed. Motion to accept was made by Wayne Wood, seconded by Stephen Gould and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Courbron) – Jimmy emailed the following information.

There is \$45,000.33 in the Checking Account. The scholarship fund, as of 2/14/24, stands at \$213,015.56. At our Annual Meeting a few weeks ago, the question was asked if the scholarship fund is at a self-sustaining level. I believe that it is, and here is why:

- a. The Account has averaged an Annual Rate of Return of 8.2% over the last ten years.
- b. A very conservative Rate of Return for any given year for similar investment funds, on the national average, is about 6%.
- c. In addition to these market returns, from what I've seen, we are contributing a minimum of \$5,000 per year to the fund.
- d. From what I've seen, we are handing out an average of \$5,000/yr in scholarships.

Average annual inflation in the U.S. over the long term has been around 3%

Based on these numbers, and regardless of other considerations specific to the scholarship, I believe that we can comfortably withdraw \$9,000 to \$12,000 a year + 3% compounding and maintain a fund that grows with or exceeds average annual inflation. This would still require that we make the average annual donations that we have been doing, mostly through the auctions. This is not a suggestion to the Ex. Comm or Scholarship Committee, rather it's simply my attempt at answering a recent but common question from general membership.

Wayne Wood moved to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Steve Gould and passed unanimously.

Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce's report is below. He said that he thought our MSLS Annual Conference was very well received. He thanked everyone who pitched in helped. Looking ahead he plans on sending out a survey about the meeting to the membership.

To: MSLS Executive Committee

From: Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director

Regarding: January 2024 Report Date: February 15, 2024

Here are the items focused upon during January:

Scholarship Committee support, notification of awardees and invitations to the Annual Conference.

Ballots collected, secured, and turned over to the Tellers Committee.

Annual Conference continued and final planning including venue coordination, exhibitor, speaker, and guest communications, promotion, conference book design and print submission, materials, documents, and supplies preparation, registration, invoicing, conferee communications, and Program Committee support.

Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required.

Looking ahead, the following items will be of intermediate focus:

Finalize AMS (Association Management Software/website) evaluation work to make a vendor recommendation to ExCom in March.

Spring meeting assistance to and coordination with MidCoast Chapter.

As always, I do appreciate feedback to accomplish MSLS serve its members.

Nominating & Membership Committee (Don Dostie) – Written report is below.

		January 2024 Report		
		Jan	Dec	+/-
AS	Associate	22	21	+1
CH	Charter	0	0	0
CO	Complimentary	2	2	0
HO	Honorary	7	7	0
LC	Life Charter	4	4	0
LF	Life	9	9	0
MB	Regular	181	178	+3
OC	Out of State Charter	1	1	0
OR	Out of State Retired	0	0	0
OS	Out of State	16	16	0
RC	Retired Charter	1	1	0
RT	Retired	38	39	-1
ST	Student	13	13	0
SU	Sustaining	7	7	0
		301	298	+3



There are three new applicants for membership. Joshua Maker, Brian Cook and Brian Williams have all applied to be regular members. It was moved to accept them as members by Wayne Wood, seconded by Secretary Farrar and approved unanimously.

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Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – Steve said that we gave out three scholarships and only had three applicants, one of which ExCom waived a requirement for (first year student). We are aware that members want to give greater scholarships but the current issue is getting more applicants to apply. There was some discussion about the current requirements and maybe making adjustments to the requirements. No action taken.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – We talked about trying to schedule a workshop at the Spring meeting to establish some guidelines and goals for this fund.

Historical Committee (Tom Blake) – No report.

Public Relations Committee (no chair) - No report.

Program Committee (Steve Gould & John Lloyd) – Annual meeting appears to have been very successful. We are open to having the meeting at the Portland Regency again but we'll need to work on how to make better use of the facility. Ellen asked about the vendor space and a height issue they had (not being able to set up their full displays). Bruce said that the vendors were generally supportive of the meeting. If the membership is happy and there plenty of attendees, the vendors will be generally happy as well.

LIAISONS -

Board of Licensure (Levi Ladd) – The last meeting was held on January 30th. There were two complaint hearings. Both were dismissed based on a lack of evidence of violation. On a separate matter, the board decided not to initiate a new complaint based on correspondence regarding a matter dismissed in a previous complaint. The Board also discussed the possibility of reviewing rules regarding Professional Land Surveyor license requirements at a later meeting. No formal action taken. The next meeting scheduled for February 27th was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The next regular meeting is now scheduled for April 23rd.

There are a couple people being considered for board vacancies.

NSPS (Matt Ek, Director) – No report.

SVT at UMaine (Stephen Gould) – Things continue to be going well with booming student numbers. Steve Gould said that he would be hosting the Student Chapter for a day of ice fishing at his camp.

Central Maine Community College (Cassandra Quintal) – The school just received a donation of surveying equipment from UMaine, which the workforce development will be able to take advantage of. UMaine donation was made possible because they just got a large equipment donation from Topcon.

GIS – Cassandra got a call from Greg Copeland who currently sits in a municipal position on the Maine GIS board but as Greg moves toward retirement, he'll have to change capacity and sit on the Board as a public member. President Quintal asked Greg if he'd be the GIS liaison for MSLS and he agreed.

FEMA (Mark Carpenter) – No report. New maps for Cumberland County in June.

MDOT – Guy Ladd has been appointed to be the MSLS liaison.

Registries (vacant) – No report.

Chapter Reports -

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) - No report.

Narraganset Chapter (Wayne Wood) – No meeting, no report.

Crown of Maine Chapter (Spencer Caron) – They plan to meet in the next few weeks. They are monitoring weather and trying to decide if they will do a carrousel, tentatively scheduled for March 2.

MidCoast Chapter (Karl Olson) – The chapter met on last Friday and discussed planning the MSLS Spring meeting, Don and Knud will talk about paper streets. There may be other seminars on sound RTK procedures.

Penobscot/Hancock Chapter (vacant) – No report.

Somerset Chapter (Steve Gould) – No report.



Unfinished Business –

Annual Meeting Success and Improvement Reflections – It seemed to be that the general consensus was that the site was successful. There was comment that the vendor space was small and confining. The tech track may need some work. The room was tough to get to. Ellen suggested a 2 day price without the banquet included. Wayne suggested a registration fee for retired members who are there more for the socializing.

Annual Conference financial overview – Bruce put together a profit/loss statement for the annual meeting finances. Expenses – Venue (\$29,239) + speakers, gifts, awards, etc. (\$8142) = \$37,382 Income – Registrations (\$34,058) + vendors, sponsors, misc. (\$8858) = \$42,916

Profit to MSLS = \$5535. Our budgeted target was \$5000.

National Surveyors week event(s) – A proclamation request has been sent to the Governor's office. Bruce said that he's not expecting a positive reply. The Governor doesn't generally do group proclamations.

New Business



Noting the passing of Life Charter member Earl Raymond – Cassandra said that there were about 6 surveyors in attendance at Earl's funeral. She suggested that MSLS offer to provide a "final point" marker in Earl's remembrance.

Any needed action regarding the transfer of investments funds to cover scholarship awards - Jimmy said that he still needs to withdraw from the Vanguard Account the money that was paid in scholarships into our checking account. Bruce said that MSLS was able to raise about \$5100 for the scholarship fund at our annual meeting.

MEREDA Membership – Membership costs about \$350. Don Dostie is working within MEREDA. Jimmy moved to have MSLS become a member of MEREDA, Wayne seconded. Passed unanimously.

Executive Director contract – Bruce has sent to ExCom a proposed three year contract for 2024 through 2026. MSLS currently budgets \$20,000 for Bruce's many services to our society. Bruce is currently paid a minimum retainer of \$1000 per month for 20 hours, plus \$50 per hour beyond that. He is proposing a monthly fee of \$1500 for 30 hours and an hourly fee of \$50 per hour over that. There were only 3 or 4 months where his fee was less that \$1500 in 2024. This seems like more of an accounting change than dramatic rise in his fee. Bruce's proposed contract also included a clause that MSLS will begin work on a "succession plan" within the first two years of the new contract in the event that Bruce decides to retire from service after the contract is up.

Bruce thinks that the AMS software is very likely to save time. President Quintal asked Bruce to speak about the succession plan he put in his contract. He said that he's not planning to retire but as he approaches 70, he thinks that MSLS would be smart to be ready with an "insurance policy". It was moved and seconded to approve the new contract with the 30 hours revision. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence – President Quintal and Bruce Bourgoine on behalf of MSLS received an email from Don Richards thanking MSLS for the Surveyor of the Year Award.

The UMaine Student Chapter sent MSLS a hand written note thanking us for hosting them at a recent ExCom dinner meeting.

Insurance – President Quintal read through some of the things our current liability policy covers. It doesn't seem like a good fit anymore. She and Jimmy will be looking into it.

The next meeting is scheduled to be in the Brunswick area (possibly at Sitelines?).

Consent Agenda -

8	February 15, 2024	
From Whom	MSLS Committee	Amount
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Dir. Expenses ~ January	\$1,081.43
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Dir. Services ~ January	\$4,487.50
Crestline	Annual Conference	\$1,712.92
Cassandra Quintal	New Brunswick travel + hospitality suite	\$1,056.03
Lincoln County Publishing	FieldNotes & Ballots	\$794.95
Sebago Technics	Annual meeting refund	\$395.00
Total	Ŭ .	\$9,527.83
Additions at meeting –		
NSPS	77 at 50 per member	\$3850.00
White Duck meeting room	•	\$172.00
MERADA		\$350.00
Grand Total		\$13627.83



It was moved and seconded to accept the Consent Agenda, passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 7:23, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted *DRAFT*Kevin Farrar – MSLS

Calendar Notes...

MSLS March ExCom

March 13 at 6:00 PM Meeting

Sitelines P.A., 119 Purinton Rd, Brunswick - Zoom access will also be available

Good and Bad Descriptions (MSBA)

March 19 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM via Zoom with Knud Hermansen MSLS members need to register by mail, phone or fax and total registration limited to 100. Registration will close two days prior to the Zoom seminar or when registration is full. Seminar Brochure:

https://www.msls.org/PDFs/Good and Bad Descriptions - .pdf

MSLS Spring Meeting

Save the date!

Preliminary Planning is underway for the MSLS Spring Meeting hosted by MidCoast Chapter at the Elks Club in Rockland, Tentative plans are now being finalized for Friday, **April 12**; more information coming soon!

2024 International Ice Carousel Update

Due to the safety issues regarding the warming trend and River Ice instability, the NORTHERN MAINE ICEBUSTERS must postpone their March 2, 2024, attempt to establish a 4th World Record on the International Boundary Line on the Saint John River. We look forward to a **February/March 2025** event!

Send Your Calendar Notes to: editor@msls.org



President Cassandra Quintal hosted a "Women in Surveying and Leadership" luncheon roundtable on Friday at the Annual Conference. Hopefully this will a regular feature at our meetings and rapidly outgrow one table! *Photo courtesy of Mike Cyr.*

"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!