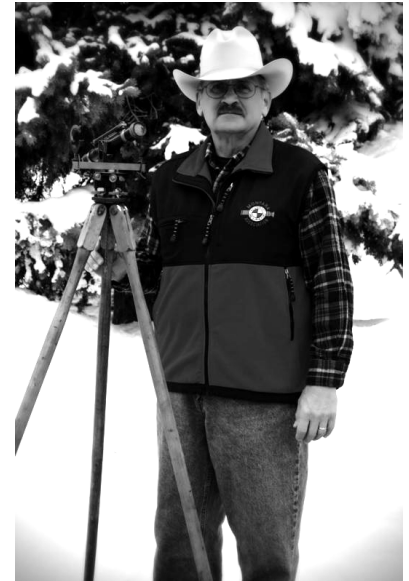




President's Message



Dear MARLS Membership,

As my year draws to a close I would like to thank my Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Kay McDonald for their yeoman efforts in helping me make this a productive and memorable year. In light of the economic condition I feel we as a professional organization have accomplished a lot.

I would like to recognize several who have gone well above what I expected.

Rick Gustine for his untiring efforts chairing the legislative committee.

Deb Anderson for her work with NSPS and especially her efforts on the Railroad preservation.

Warren Latvala, for his untiring efforts with the GAC and getting it finalized.

By now the membership should be aware of a letter authored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding surveys on Indian reservations. The BILS (Bureau of Land Management Indian Land Surveyor) Tim Quincy has sent a clarification statement regarding what type surveys will require a CFedS certificate. Mr. Quincy will be at the Annual Conference for further questions and answers. We're looking forward to seeing him there.

An update on the Manual of Surveying Instruction – 2009, there is a web location to keep informed on relevant corrections (errata) to the latest edition. Each Manual holder should include the errata list in their Manual. Go to <http://www.blmsurveymanual.org/errata.asp>

National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) has approved the 2011 Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/ACSM Land Title Surveys. The new standards take effect in February 2011. Please take the time to review the new standards.

As you are aware there are some major changes underway regarding the National Society of Professional Surveyors, NSPS and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). Deb Anderson, Dick Smith and Kay McDonald are still immersed in the various negotiations and proposed changes. I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication. I would like to encourage our entire membership to affiliate with the National Society of Professional Surveyors, NSPS. NSPS is our national organization and they need our support and we need theirs. By working together we have strength and leverage to prevent the deterioration of our profession.

In June the David Thompson Brigade will be coming down the Kootenai River, there will be a ceremony when crossing the international boundary into Montana. This ceremony will be attended by both the US and Canada international boundary commissioners (the Canadian commissioner is an Alberta Land Surveyor, A Canada Land Surveyor and the surveyor general for Alberta) and Michael Thomson; surveyor general of British Columbia. I encourage each of you to attend this historic event. At this time the June BOD is scheduled to be held at Thompson Falls to coincide with the David Thompson Brigade itinerary.

The Brigade is soliciting for paddlers for the Montana canoe. They have reserved 4 seats in the new canoe for either a one or two week block (sorry, we already have too many folks signed up for the whole 6 week trip) for Montana surveyors. He has agreed to do so. We have been asked to provide 4 Montana surveyors to the effort. If you're interested please go to the brigade's website is www.2011brigade.org and our NALS Canoe website is: www.skylark.ca/nals.htm

The Southeast Chapter is putting the finishing touches to the 2011 Annual Conference. I looking forward to seeing you all there, as I believe it will be very informative. As a reminder, The 2012 Conference will be in Great Falls, and Missoula will be the location for the 2013 Conference.

I encourage you to read the minutes of the December Board of Directors meeting to see what is happening around the state.

Thank you for letting me serve you this past year.

Sine die,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A.A. Olson".

Peter A. Olson
President