

# International Right of Way Association



## KACHINA CHAPTER 28

Phoenix, AZ

Chapter Newsletter

[www.irwaaz.com](http://www.irwaaz.com)

## MARCH, 2004

-  Executive Board Meeting
-  Wednesday, March 3, 2004
-  Az State Land
-  3rd Floor Conference Room
-  4:45 pm

Confirm to Doug at [dwm@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:dwm@mail.maricopa.gov)

### March Luncheon

**When:** Tuesday, March 9, 2004 @ 11:30am

**Where:** Doubletree Guest Suites \* 320 North 44th Street (NWC 44th Street & Van Buren)

**Menu:** Breast of Chicken sauteed with a medley of Forest Mushrooms and fresh Basil; Chef's selection of Rice or Potato; fresh Vegetable medley; Rolls and Butter; Doubletree Cookies, and Coffee, Decaf or Iced Tea

**Cost:** \$15 for members & guests (please have exact change or your check payable to IRWA Chapter 28)

**RSVP:** Please RSVP online at [http://www.irwaaz.com/index\\_luncheon.htm](http://www.irwaaz.com/index_luncheon.htm) or Call Pam Hicks @ 602-236-5948 or Rebekah Louis @ 602.236.8195

### March Luncheon Guest Speaker

#### Reed Kempton MCDOT

Reed Kempton is the Bicycle / Multi-Modal Planner at the Maricopa County Department of Transportation. He holds a BS in Urban Planning from Arizona State University and for the past three years has worked as the project manager for the County's regional trail plan. Reed was a founding member of the Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists and served as their first executive director. He served as editor for Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals' *Bicycle Parking Guidelines*, has been a bicycle commuter for more than 30 years, and currently pedals the 40-mile round trip to work about twice a week. Reed has pedaled over 40% of Arizona's state highways and has twice completed the Cochise County Cycling Classic, a 252-mile, single-day event.

Join us March 9th for this very informative presentation. Make your reservations now.

## President's Message

Doug McLaughlin, SR/WA

What's new from the Presidents corner?

The IRWA's 50th Annual International Education Conference is scheduled to be held in Philadelphia from June 20 - 24. If you have an opportunity to go to this one or one in the future, do not hesitate.

After attending the most recent one in Kansas City I found it to be helpful in advancing my education and professional development within the right of way field. There were workshops for many of the different fields within the right of way community; appraisal, acquisition, relocation, etc. I attended as many of the workshops as was possible. Those sessions gave me the opportunity ask questions and to discuss right of way issues with other members within similar field from across the country as well as other nations.

After the workshops session had been completed for the day other activities were available such as visiting and enjoying their museums, blues and jazzes clubs, some of the Kansas City famous BQ places.

If you would like to go, look in January/February Right of Way Magazine for further details or check out International's website – [www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org). Hope to see you there.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It takes mental toughness to be an optimist. Cynics and pessimists are cowards because they are eternally engaged in emotional self-preservation to the point of paranoia. They live in a state of fear and scarcity in an effort to over protect themselves from the challenges of life. Optimists await the same challenges in a mindset of love and abundance. Faith, gratitude, and vision are their watchwords. The optimist believes in his/her ability to handle anything that life delivers. They choose to focus on the sun and cope with the rain. Thank God for the optimists. They are the saviors of the world.

## Membership Committee

Rebekah Louis, Chair

The following people were read for approval at the March 3, 2004 Executive Board Meeting:

- William Biggs, Universal Field Services

The following applicants were read for 30 day consideration at the March 3, 2004 Executive Board Meeting:

- James Rees, Az State Land
- Michelle Generoux, SRP
- Jason Blades, SRP
- Maria Muiser, SRP
- Jean Ambrosier, SRP
- Wanda Gollihare, SRP
- Kathy Grimes, SRP

The following applicant transferred membership from Chapter 28:

- Trudy Lichtenburger

For Membership information, please refer to the Chapter website or contact our new Membership Chair, Heather McCook at [heather@davisvaluation.com](mailto:heather@davisvaluation.com).

## PDC

Larry Ambrosier, SR/WA, Chair

The Professional Development Committee would like to announce the newest SR/WA's, they are Joel A. Gilmore and Jamie M. Lando. CONGRATULATIONS to these individuals for their outstanding achievement.

There is an upcoming course that will be held that will give any SR/WA Candidate the opportunity to take the SR/WA exams. The dates for this course are May 3, 4, & 5. DON'T MISS IT.

**Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day**

## EDUCATION

Dan Kovoich, SR/WA, Education Chair

### **UPCOMING SR/WA REVIEW & PREPARATION PROGRAM**

Are you serious about receiving your SR/WA designation? Don't miss this rare opportunity!

Chapter 28 is currently working out the details to host an SR/WA Review, Preparation and Examination program this May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of 2004. The Cost structure will be as follows:

#### **Review/Preparation Fee**

Law \$50.00

Negotiation \$50.00

Appraisal \$65.00

Engineering \$65.00

#### **Senior Examination Fee**

\$25.00 per examination; (4) examinations (Law, Negotiation, Appraisal & Engineering) will be offered.

#### **Total Package: \$330.00**

All candidates are encouraged to prepare and take all (4) exams

This program is specifically designed to prepare candidates to pass the four (4) senior examinations the first time. Past attendees have a better than 90% pass rate by this program!

The Programs Instructor will be Michael Wolfe. Michael Wolfe, SR/WA is a Right of Way Agent with the Alameda County Public Works Agency performing Right of Way acquisition activities for several agencies throughout Northern California. Mr. Wolfe has conducted a number of SR/WA review sessions and has made presentations at several IRWA International Education Seminars over the years. Chapter 28 is looking forward to hosting Mr. Wolfe again in May.

Pre-registration will be mandatory so be on the lookout for Program information, available soon. If you are interested, please forward Dan Kovoich at quick note at [djkovoch@srpnet.com](mailto:djkovoch@srpnet.com).

### **OTHER UPCOMING CHAPTER 28 COURSES**

- Course 600 Environmental Awareness

Please contact me with any questions!

*A Note from Me to You - Thanks to all of you for your cards, notes, emails, thoughts and prayers in the recent deaths of my mother (February 23rd) and my husband Loren (February 28th). I'm still in a 'semi-automatic' function mode but I do a little better each day. Your support has meant the world to me and I appreciate it. I will be writing personal notes but please forgive me if it takes a little time. There doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day to get everything done that I plan on.*

*Cate*



## SURVEYOR'S CORNER

Gregg Tuttle, Survey Chair

Question: [How were the principal baselines and meridians established in terms of location?](#)

Wow! Yet another 'simple' question that doesn't have a simple answer.

I am going to (re)frame the question with an Arizona perspective, as in:

How, when, where, and, why, was the Arizona "Initial Point" established?

The INITIAL POINT is the 'starting point' for most all of the United States Public Land Survey System (PLSS) endeavors in Arizona. This is the township, section and range-line designation used in locating and identifying current and former public lands within our state.

In 1812 Congress created the agency called the General Land Office (GLO), to be within the Treasury Department. The agency was headed by a Commissioner of the General Land Office, while most of the surveying matters were in charge of the Clerk of Surveys. The GLO was primarily a "disposal" agency, tasked with the duty of first surveying, then selling and patenting the Public Lands. The GLO was made part of the Department of Interior upon its creation in 1849.

It was combined with the Grazing Administration in 1946, and the combined agency was renamed the Bureau of Land Management. The GLO decided on the locations for all of the Initial Points of the PLSS.

The Act of February 24, 1863 (12 Stat. 664), created the Arizona Territory. Section 2 of the Territorial Act of February 24, 1863, provided for Arizona territorial government officials AND, for a Surveyor General of the territory. We will skip up to the Appropriations Act of July 2, 1864, 13 Stat. 344, which provided \$10,000 for public land surveys in the Territory, BUT, then in Section 8, of the Act, it states that Arizona and New Mexico territories will constitute one surveying district under the GLO Surveyor General at Santa Fe, John A. Clark. Clark makes several 'recon' trips to the Arizona territory, and in his report to the GLO Commissioner (James M. Edmunds) of May 24, 1865 makes his recommendations for the location of the INITIAL POINT for Arizona. We quote from that report:

"Here I left the old overland mail route, which had followed from Tucson, and took the trail for Prescott, which runs nearly north, six miles to the Gila river. (sic) I found the river very high, but, fortunately, some parties at Wickenburg had built and sent down a small boat, in which we succeeded in crossing the wagons and baggage; the horses and mules swam safely over. From the crossing we proceeded down the river, twenty miles, to the Rio Salado – a beautiful stream, clear and rapid, now about ten chains in width. The boat in which we crossed the Gila was brought down to the mouth of the Salado and up that river about twenty chains to the point of crossing, and we crossed safely our wagons and baggage without much detention.

Immediately opposite the mouth of the Salado, on the south side of the Gila, there is a conical hill, about one hundred and fifty feet in height, upon the pinnacle of which Mr. Bartlett, in making the survey of the boundary line under the treaty with Mexico of Guadalupe Hidalgo, established a corner "to mark the mouth of the Salt river." (sic) I visited this monument and found it compactly built of stone, circular, about eight feet diameter at the base, four feet at the top, and eight feet high, with a post, four inches in diameter, projecting from the center of the top about six feet, upon which is marked — "United States and Mexican boundary survey, 1851. This monument erected, in 1851 to mark the junction of the Gila and Salt rivers. (sic) A.B. GRAY, U. S. Surveyor."

The hill upon which this monument is erected is in fact a part of a short mountain range which extends southeasterly from this point, called the Sierra de la Estrella, but is separated therefrom by a narrow valley. It is a mass of igneous rocks, and forms of itself a remarkable landmark; and being situated immediately opposite the mouth of the Salado or Salt river, the geographical position of which has been determined, and, with respect to the arable lands of Arizona, being very central, I have selected it as the initial point for the meridian of that Territory, subject to your approval."

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN A. CLARK, Surveyor General of New Mexico and Arizona. From information within the Report it is determined that Clark was at the monument that he chose as the Initial Point on or about March 29, 1865.

On September 11, 1866, the new Commissioner of the General Land Office, Joseph S. Wilson, sent instructions to Clark concerning the New Mexico and Arizona surveys. We quote from that letter:

"As it is deemed expedient to initiate Surveying operations in the Territory of Arizona, the recommendations made in your report to this Office under date of May 24th, 1865, suggesting the Monument Erected in 1851 by the Mexican Boundary Commission, situated at the confluence of the Gila and Salt Rivers as the initial point, is concurred in by this Office: from which point you will establish the Base and Meridian lines for the public surveys in Arizona and calling this Special Meridian by the name of "Gila and Salt River Meridian" - - -

The Appropriation remaining unexpended "For Surveying the public lands in Arizona" amounts to \$14534 which you are authorized to apply towards the establishment, surveying and making the Standard lines, Townships, and such subdivisional lines as you deem exigencies will require them, at the rates not exceeding those allowed for the similar surveys in New Mexico."

(The maximum rate for New Mexico surveying was 15 dollars per mile.)

continued on next page...

On December 15, 1866, Clark contracted with William H. Pierce for the initial surveys in Arizona. Pierce had been a Deputy Surveyor and office clerk in Colorado, and was knowledgeable and trustworthy. On 12/17/1866 Clark sent a letter to Commissioner Wilson: (quoting from that letter):  
 "I entered into a contract with William H. Pierce for the Survey, in Arizona, of portions of the Base, Principal Meridian and three Standard Parallels and certain Exterior Township Lines, amounting in the aggregate to not exceed \$7,500, as shown by the contract herewith transmitted for your approval.  
 Mr. Pierce left this morning for the field of his operations via Fort Selder, Tucson and the Pima Villages. I have given him an official letter to Colonel Lovett, commanding district of Arizona, requesting him to furnish him (Mr. P.) with a military escort sufficient for his protection against the hostile Indians of the country while engaged in the prosecution of his work."

Pierce's field notes begin on January 19, 1867, as "Field Notes of the Survey of Base line in Arizona Teri from the Initial Corner East Thirty six miles." He finds the initial corner and uses Clark's description of the existing monument. He then notes: "In accordance with instructions I proceeded to perpetuate this cor. As follows I square the post and mark it as a tp corner I set a stone 20 x 10 x 8 marked according to instructions N.W. 50 lks dist A granite stone 24 x 12 x 7 N.E. 50 lks dist A granite stone 18 x 14 x 11 S.E. 50 lks dist A granite stone 19 x 13 x 6 S. W. 50 lks distant. No trees convenient for marking. I test the adjustment of my compass by an observation of the Pole Star and compare my chains with the Standard. Survey commenced Jan 19th 1867, I run E. on a true line along the S. Boundary of Section 31 T. 1 N. R. 1 E. Var. by Burts Solar Compass 13° 30' E. At 12.17 chs, the Left Bank of the Gila River 2.50 chs wide general cours from Maricopa Wells N. 37° W. A range of mountains parallel to the River Extends from Initial corner to a point West of Maricopa Wells about 20 miles. At 40.00 chs set a granite boulder 17 x 9 x 5 for qr. sec. cor. In willow thicket. At 58.00 chs Road from Tucson to Prescott brs N. 30° W. At 80.00 chs set stone 18 x 9 6 for cor to Secs 31 & 32 Surface W. of Gila rough & stony E. level covered with small willow brush no grass A few cottonwood trees on banks of River Soil a Sand loam 1st rate."

The Base line is now known to the general lay public as BASELINE ROAD. The north-south Meridian is now known as 115th Avenue (north of the River, as there is no roadway or right of way on the Meridian extending to the South.) The Initial Point is "Ground Zero" as THE point of reference in the written descriptions of lands that had their origins out of the public land system. The original boundary monument is long since gone. There have been a variety of monuments established and then vandalized and destroyed in the intervening 137 years since Pierce began the initial survey. The monument has been reestablished many times, most recently in 1952, 1960, 1984, and, most recently, November 14th, 2001, - 150 years after its original creation as an international boundary marker. The last two re-monumentation and re-dedication efforts were sponsored and accomplished by the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors Association (APLS, <http://www.azpls.org/>).

On current U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps the proper name for the hill is Monument Hill. Race fans attending events at Phoenix International Raceway know that the famous hillside seating overlooking Turn 4 is one of the best vantage points in all of racing. At the summit of that hill is the Initial Point of the surveying of the public lands in Arizona. Check it out. Explore!

I hope that this response has successfully addressed, and, answered the questions. As always, I am interested in the opinions of, and the feedback from, the readers of the Kachina Chapter 28 Newsletter.

Until next time – Thank you.  
 Gregg Tuttle, manager, SRP LAND-Surveys Division

### 2004 Chapter Executive Board

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