



# INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Kachina Chapter 28  
Phoenix, Arizona

Newsletter

www.irwaaz.com

## JUNE, 2004

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

- ★ Wednesday, June 2, 2004
- ★ 4:45pm
- ★ 3rd Floor Conference Room
- ★ Az State Land

Confirm your attendance with  
Doug McLaughlin, SR/WA at  
dwm@mail.maricopa.gov

The 2004 Education Seminar Committee is actively planning the 46th annual Education Seminar, scheduled for September 16-17. If you would like to help and have some fun while donating your valuable time, please contact Chris Banks, SR/WA or any Board member (the list can be found at: <http://www.irwaaz.com/committees.html>). The Committee is currently seeking sponsors (corporate and private) to help defray the cost of providing the best educational conference ever. If you know someone who would like to be a sponsor, advertise in the Seminar brochure, or donate door prizes or "goody bag" items, please let me know and someone will contact them.

Chris Banks, SR/WA  
2004 Seminar Co-Chair  
602-236-8175  
cdbanks@srpnet.com

### Guest Speaker—June Luncheon

Carrie Morgan from the Better Business Bureau of Central and Northern Arizona will highlight the benefits of being a member of the Better Business Bureau and will present a brief overview of the BBB.



Why we live  
in Arizona

### JUNE LUNCHEON

**When:** Tuesday, June 8, 2004

**Where:** Double Tree Guest Suites / 320 North 44th Street (NWC 44<sup>th</sup> Street/Van Buren)

**Menu:** London Broil- Flank Steak marinated in Wine and Herbs, Char-broiled to medium and served with a Forest Mushroom sauce, Chef's selection of Rice or Potato, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rolls and Butter, Doubletree Cookies and Coffee, Iced Tea, Coffee or Decaf.

**Cost:** \$15 for members & guests. Please have exact change or your check made out to IRWA Chapter 28.

**RSVP: Deadline is 3:00PM, Thursday, June 3, 2004.** RSVP online at [http://www.irwaaz.com/index\\_luncheon.htm](http://www.irwaaz.com/index_luncheon.htm) or by phone to Pam Hicks @ 602.236.5948 or Rebekah Louis @ 602.236.8195.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doug McLaughlin, SR/WA, Chapter President

Chapter Members:

As part of normal operating procedures, the current Executive Board and Committee members are tasked with reviewing the financial needs of the Chapter for the balance of FY 2004 and for FY 2005. A Finance Committee has been formed to examine Chapter revenue sources and expenses.

The Finance Committee will make recommendations that should make positive changes in the way the Chapter conducts its financial business. The following is a list of the revenue and expense sources for the Chapter:

Revenue:

- Educational Class/Attendance fees
- Corporate/Company Sponsorships (to apply toward the Annual Seminar)
- Website advertising income
- Registration/attendance fees for the Annual Seminar

Expenses:

- Website maintenance
- Chapter Representation at Annual IR/WA Educational Convention
- Chapter Representation at Region One Forums
- Monthly Chapter Luncheon meetings and speakers' gifts
- Miscellaneous operating/office supplies
- Class expenses (Instructor fees, materials, site fees, fees to International, etc.)
- Annual Seminar (lunches, SR/WA and Past Presidents breakfast, Classes, meeting rooms, meals, audio visual equipment, speakers gifts, and related materials)

This year's review of the financial status is important because the Chapter is experiencing the effects of the national economy with continuing increases in expenses and declining revenues. The attendance at the classes is down and the cost to sponsor them has increased. The overall expense of presenting the Annual Seminar has also increased.

When the final report of the Committee has been presented to the Executive Board, the Executive Board and Committee Members will review the recommendations and act upon them accordingly.

Please feel free to contact the Executive Board if you have questions or comments.

Thank You.

## EDUCATION

Dan Kovoich, SR/WA, Chair

Chapter 28 is pleased to be offering the following courses in June and July:

- **Course 303** - Managing the Consultant Process on June 8-9, 2004
- **Course 700** - Introduction to Property Management on June 29-30, 2004
- **Course 506** - Advanced Relocation Assistance II (Business) on July 19-20, 2004

Information for these classes can be found on the Chapter website ([www.irwaaz.com](http://www.irwaaz.com)) or you can contact me at 602.236.8184 or [djkovoch@srpnet.com](mailto:djkovoch@srpnet.com).

## MEMBERSHIP

Heather McCook, Chair

The following applicants were approved for membership at the May 5, 2004 Executive Board Meeting:

- Kathy Pettigrew, MCDOT
- Curtis Zeitelhack, MCDOT
- Lawrence Long, City of Phoenix
- Philip M. Barlow, Philip M. Barlow & Associates

The following applicant transferred membership from Chapter 68 to Chapter 28:

- Jack Aquino, SR/WA, Tierra R/W Services

The following applicants were read for 30 day consideration at the May 5, 2004 Executive Board Meeting:

- Carol Martsch, City of Tempe
- Thomas Hosier, GE Franchise Finance Co.
- Steven Thoreson, Acquisition Sciences, LTD
- Leon Graton, City of Glendale

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to  
**JAMES R. ROMINES**  
who has received his  
**SR/WA.**

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming -- WOW -- What A Ride!

## SEMINAR UPDATE

The 46th Annual Educational Seminar is fast approaching. It's time to start thinking about the special awards that will be given out at the Awards Luncheon on September 16th. Criteria for the awards can be found on the Chapter website at: [www.irwaaz.com/04seminar.htm](http://www.irwaaz.com/04seminar.htm).

You can email your nominations to Paul Herndon at:  
[paul.herndon@aps.com](mailto:paul.herndon@aps.com)

## 2004 Kachina Chapter Executive Board

### President:

Doug McLaughlin, SR/WA  
602.506.4648  
[dwm@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:dwm@mail.maricopa.gov)

### Treasurer:

Toni Soderman, SR/WA  
602.506.4883  
[tonisoderman@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:tonisoderman@mail.maricopa.gov)

### President Elect:

Chris Banks, SR/WA  
602.236.8175  
[cdbanks@srpnet.com](mailto:cdbanks@srpnet.com)

### International Director:

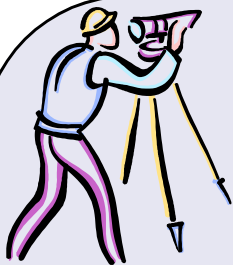
Melita Hillman, SR/WA  
480.644.2671  
[melita.hillman@cityofmesa.org](mailto:melita.hillman@cityofmesa.org)

### Secretary:

Michael Sterling  
602.410.2994  
[doc51s.ent@earthlink.net](mailto:doc51s.ent@earthlink.net)

### Region 1 Chair:

Mark Keller, SR/WA  
602.236.8164  
[makeller@srpnet.com](mailto:makeller@srpnet.com)



## Surveyor's Corner

Gregg Tuttle, Manager  
SRP Land Department  
Surveys Division

Gregg- I just want you to know that I particularly enjoyed your March 2004 discussion of the AZ PLSS initial point. I wanted to ask you why the Gila and Salt River Meridian is variously referred to as different things. Sometimes I see it GR&SRBM, and, sometimes something else. What is the proper designation?

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This question is an old favorite - in the AZ Surveying community - which is generally discussed after having one too many beers.

The following was a very similar question dating back from 1999:

**"The lender won't fund the project unless the description includes 'Base and,' in Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian (sic). The surveyor has to explain why this is incorrect, but the lender is adamant because "all the other surveyors write it that way."**

And, from March, 2002:

**"I am with the Arizona State Land Dept. and I have been using Gila and Salt River Meridian in my descriptions since I have been here (7 years).**

All records and maps we receive from BLM reads G&SRM.

**Last week an Attorney insisted we use Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, in the description of a sale. Can anyone tell me which is correct and why???? Our Title and Contract People are insisting that I use Base in the descriptions."**

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Well, being a (public) land survey *trivia* buff, I couldn't resist an attempt to add to the knowledge, (and, probably, the controversy), surrounding this age old question, (which is right up there with the chicken and the egg.)

In the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Manual of Surveying Instructions, 1973, Chapter III, The System of Rectangular Surveys, page 59, section 3-3 it states:

"In accordance with the foregoing legal requirements, the public lands are surveyed under the method called the system of rectangular surveys, which embraces the following procedure:"

- (1) The establishment of independent initial points, each to serve as an origin for surveys to be extended in separated localities.
- (2) The survey of principal meridians AND BASE LINES, originating at the initial point.  
(CAPITALIZATION is EMPHASIS added for this article.)

On page 60 of the manual there is a table entitled: Meridians AND BASE LINES of the United States Rectangular Surveys (CAPITALIZATION EMPHASIS added.)

The first column is entitled: MERIDIAN under which is listed, in alphabetical order " Gila and Salt River".

Well so far, it still seems up in the air - could be either G&SRM or G&SRB&M, or even G&SRM&B !

Next source: A HISTORY OF THE RECTANGULAR SURVEY SYSTEM, Volume One, by C. Albert White, original BLM published version, early 1980s.

Page 164:

"Clark reported on May 24, 1865, that he had adopted this monument, as the initial point for the Gila and Salt River Meridian in Arizona...." (quoted from the official GLO report.) **Hmmm, - - - Sounds like a vote for G&SRM.**

Next source: a published paper, from a 1939 conference, by Sherman C. Fiske, Engineer of Public Surveys (GLO) on the HISTORY OF PUBLIC LAND SURVEYING IN ARIZONA, it says:

"The General Land Office on December 15, 1866, entered into a contract with deputy surveyor Wm. H. Pierce, through John A. Clark, surveyor general at Santa Fe, for the survey in Arizona of 96 miles of the Principal Meridian, 46 miles of Base Line, 84 miles of the First Standard Parallel North and various township boundaries initiated there from, for an aggregate sum not exceeding \$7,500.00 In the instructions issued for those surveys the monuments set at the junction of the Gila and Salt Rivers in 1851, and mentioned on the preceding pages as being one the U.S. - Mexico original boundary monuments, was designated as the Initial Monument for the Arizona Public Land Surveys, the Principal Meridian to be called the Gila and Salt River Meridian, and the Base Line to be called the Gila and Salt River Base Line."

Continued next page...

## Surveyor's Corner...continued

Wow! how about G&SRM -and- G&SRB ??

Further on Fiske states:

"This monument has since controlled all of the public land surveys in Arizona, except for a period in the Colorado River Indian Reservation, where a special Base and Meridian controlled the survey of part of the townships therein, but which was later abandoned and all such townships resurveyed, using the Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian for control;..."

Interesting! Maybe we should include: "G&SRBL&M" !!!???!!!

A (very) brief review of microfiche GLO/BLM plats illustrates that there is no real hard and fast rule for the title. The vast majority use Gila & Salt River Meridian... However, I was easily able to locate examples from T1N/R1W in the 1919 era, whose title included the phrase Gila & Salt River Base & Meridian. (G&SRB&M )

Well.... what to think? What to do?

I think that this little survey trivia question has probably been around since they started PLSS in AZ. When I took the 1976 Arizona land boundary surveying examination, one of the 'fill-in' questions was what is the "correct" title when reference the subject meridian and baseline? The only address accepted by P.B. was G&SRM (period! end of discussion!)

However, I am personally at a loss to find that definitive document which MANDATES the use of G&SRM to the exclusion of all other variations and forms, such as G&SRM&B, G&SRBL&M, G&SRB&M or even G&SRB, -- not to mention G&SRM and G&SRB as a separate coupling.

Now we could all get together and pass a legislative fiat that herein after it will officially known as, and only accepted as G&SRM....

Yeah right! - in our dreams!

Maybe we can be a little more tolerance because as noted above even GLO used G&SRB&M on their office plat maps.

Maybe if you are an extreme stickler for details you would dictate that any reference on a modern survey drawing, and/or written description, should reference EXACTLY whatever is shown on the appropriate/applicable GLO/BLM official plat map.

(It would be my luck to have to reference two difference plat maps with difference meridian/base descriptors!)

In the future, maybe we should have a more tolerant attitude on the issue of G&SRM versus G&SRB&M, or is it G&SRM&B, or maybe G&SRBL&M? What would you do? What are you using?

If you have feedback or comments, please feel free to share them.

As always, I am interested in the opinions from the readers of the Kachina Chapter 28 Newsletter.

Until next time – Thank you.

Gregg Tuttle, manager, SRP LAND-Surveys Division

There will be no Chapter Luncheon in July. The August Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, August 10th where nominations will be taken from the floor for the 2005 Chapter Officers. If you have a desire to serve the Chapter, please communicate your wishes to Paul Herndon, SR/WA (Nominations & Elections Chair) at paul.herndon@aps.com.