



July, 2009

Kachina Chapter 28, Newsletter

International Right of Way Association

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Happy Birthday America

July 4th!!

The fourth of July is the birthday of our nation!

We celebrate and enjoy the freedom that comes with the event that made this day so special.

Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence led a committee that crafted the declaration between June 11-28, 1776. Jefferson and other discontented representatives from the thirteen colonies, voted and approved it on July 4, 1776, declaring freedom from British rule.

The Declaration of Independence currently resides in the Exhibition Hall of the National Archive in Washington, D.C.

Did you know?

The Declaration of Independence was not signed by all representatives until August, 1776? To make it official, John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress signed it. Now, guess where the saying "put your John Hancock on it" came from!?!

Today, we enjoy the benefits of the freedom which the framers signed and ultimately fought for. For us, the Fourth of July is not complete without parades, fireworks, bbq's, baseball, hot dogs, summer fun and most of all - pride!



Presidents



Message


A total of 880 people, including several Chapter 28 members, recently attended the IRWA Annual International Education Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. As your elected chapter President, I was among them. The educational sessions were very informative and, of course, the networking opportunities were incredible!

International had encouraged chapters to send the Education Chairs to this conference, which Chapter 28 did. Kaye Bockmann and others spent nearly one full day “talking shop” with Valerie Fries, Chief of Education, assisted by Nathan Cruzado, Education Program Assistant. Each chapter was also provided several “briefing cases” containing new materials and information regarding credentialing, education and membership.

Frank Abagnale, foremost authority on fraud and identity theft, and whose teenaged years was the subject of the movie “Catch Me If You Can” starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks, talked of his life, the movie and protecting ourselves from identity theft. Rupert Boneham, founder of Rupert-Kids.org, that helps “at risk” kids and young teens, was every bit as genuine, kind and passionate about helping children as he appeared to be on the “Survivor” reality tv shows in which he participated.

Monday’s Awards Luncheon included:

- Gene L. Land Award (for chapters demonstrating significant growth over the calendar year) was presented to Gulf States Chapter 8 for Highest Numerical Gain and Dakotas Chapter 72 for Highest Percentage Gain
- Member Appreciation Program Award for the individual who has recruited the most new members was given to Mary Anne Marr, SRWA of Chapter 7
- Employer of the Year awarded to Contract Land Staff (company with more than 20 employees) and Otter Tail Power Company (company with less than 20 employees)
- Newsletter of the Year Award went to Indiana Chapter 7’s “Crossroads of America” (chapter with more than 100 members) and Mississippi Chapter 40’s “Magnolia Tribute” (chapter with less than 100 members)
- The Mark A. Green Award recognizing the most outstanding article published in Right of Way magazine went to “The Zigs and Zags of Legal Descriptions” (January/February 2008 issue) by Alan Morganfield, SRWA and Charles Carpenter, Esq.
- Chapter of the Year Award honors chapters who have focused on fulfilling their chapter responsibilities, including membership growth, professional development, education courses, chapter meetings, chapter goals, new ideas, successes, recommendations and award nominations submitted. This year’s recipients were San Diego Chapter 11 (chapter more than 100) and Jackson, Mississippi Chapter 40 (chapter with less than 100 members)
- The SARPA (State Association of Real Property Agency) Scholarship Award, which is given to active students majoring in a course of studies related to the right of way profession and/or public works administration. The scholarship was awarded to Mason Harry of Region 2, who is attending the Mays School of Business at Texas A&M University where he is pursuing accounting and is considering law school after graduation.



There were three finalists for the Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award. This award, named after the founder of the IRWA, is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an IRWA member. The finalists were Donald J. Sherwood, MAI, SR/WA, FRICS of Chapter 26, Region 2; Kevin M. Stout, SR/WA, R/W-NAC of Chapter 33, Region 2; and the ultimate winner, Jeffrey L. Jones, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC of Chapter 7, Region 5.

The Silent and Live Auction, the proceeds from which are donated to the Right of Way International Education Foundation (RWIEF) and Canadian Right of Way Education Foundation (CRWEF), grossed more than \$20,300 (Chapter 28's Kachina was in the live auction portion of the event and sold for \$375). Additional donations were made to both the RWIEF and CRWEF at the Board of Directors meeting.

Tuesday's SR/WA Recognition Breakfast honored all members who had attained their SR/WA between May 2008 and April 2009. Eight of those honored are Chapter 28 members: Susie Beall, SR/WA; Kaye Bockmann, SR/WA; Ms. Arlene D. Harman, SR/WA, R/W-NAC; Mrs. Lari Beth Kirkendall, SR/WA, R/W-EC; Mrs. Kathy Pettigrew, SR/WA; Mr. Reginald Rector, SR/WA; Mr. Donald Solon, SR/WA; and Mrs. Michelle Tiller, SR/WA. CONGRATULATIONS! once again to all of our Chapter 28 members who have earned a certification, the SR/WA designation, or are striving toward one or more.

The Board of Directors meeting included a presentation to Rupert Boneham of \$14,950 donated by chapters, regions and individual members to RupertsKids.org. The meeting also included voting on two resolutions to amend the International Bylaws. One, which establishes an International Governing Council consisting of the International Executive Committee and the Region Chairs from all ten regions, passed easily. The second, which proposed to remove voting rights of any past International President who didn't participate in the annual International Board Meetings at least once every three years, failed (90 voted in favor; 78 were opposed). The conference concluded with the Installation Banquet and dance honoring the 2009-2010 International President, Sandy Grigg, SR/WA.

Oh! I almost forgot. Region 1 met with Region 9, at the request of Kevin Winner, SR/WA, 2008-2009 Region 9 Chair, to discuss the possibility of (and rationale for) a joint Region Forum in the future. The newly elected Chairs and Vice Chairs of both Regions agreed to explore planning such a joint meeting.

Next year's conference will be in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. That's a whole year to make plans to attend, folks! I hope to see you there.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write or email.

Respectfully,

Kathie A. Sholly, SR/WA
2009 President, IRWA Kachina Chapter 28



Take me out to the ball park... IRWA CHAPTER 28!



It's summer and it's baseball season! This is your chance to attend a baseball game as a group with your friends in the Chapter. The game is between the **Arizona Diamondbacks** and the **Pittsburgh Pirates** at Chase Field on **Friday night, July 24th**. Our Chapter will be listed as a group on the Jumbo Tron, too!!!

You will get the Season Ticket holder discount for the "All You Can Eat" Section 221 (Left Field near the bullpen) for \$27.50 per person. In addition, if you arrive early, the 1st 25,000 fans will get a **FREE** DBacks sunshade for their car! And to add even more to the excitement, it's a fireworks night! After the game, win or lose, the DBacks will put on a spectacular **FIREWORKS** show. And don't forget to bring your glove – that's a great section for catching foul balls!

Fine print: *This is a limited offer.* We have purchased 52 seats together in this section so the offer is first-come, first-served. Don't delay - the best seats will go fast. Please RSVP to Kaye Bockmann at Kaye.Bockmann@srpnet.com, 602-236-3129.

Take the Light Rail and save on parking!! **Mark Your Calendar!**
 RSVP to Kaye Bockmann at 602-236-3129,
Kaye.Bockmann@srpnet.com

ATTENTION CHAPTER 28 MEMBERS!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!

As a chapter, we are in need of your help. Several of our committees are inactive – others don't even have a chair person to head them up. Please consider volunteering a little of your time to one of our committees. Many require little more than periodic contributions of newsletter articles or timely information on a relative topic of interest. Some require a little more time and effort on a more regular basis to plan or assist with certain events.

Of most urgent need are volunteers to help with our Member Meeting/Luncheons Committee and our newly forming Newsletter Committee. The Member Meeting/Luncheon Committee is in charge of negotiating the locations and menus of our meetings, taking reservations, and greeting the members and guests as they arrive, as well as collecting payment from each. The Newsletter Committee will be responsible for content, layout and appearance of the monthly newsletter, with the goal being to bring our newsletter to a competitive level sufficient to make a play for the Regional and International "Newsletter of the Year" awards in upcoming years. If you have any interest to help out with either one of these, or with any of the other committees listed below – to whatever extent you are able – let one of the Executive Board members know. If you have any questions about any of the responsibilities of any of the committees, give me a call (623-930-3652) or shoot me an email (President@irwachapter28.org)

Other committees for which you could volunteer your expertise, time and assistance include:

- **Transportation**
- **Ethics**
- **Utilities**
- **Relocation**
- **Survey**
- **Education Certification & Credits**
- **Environmental**
- **Local Public Agency**
- **Valuation**
- **Seminar**
- **Title & Escrow**
- **Property Management**
- **Marketing/Public Awareness/Public Relations**



IRWA

INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Education Schedule ~ Chapter 28

July

07/15/09 - 07/16/09

C800 - Principles of Real Estate Law

07/17/09

C802 - Legal Aspects of Easements

Location:

**Flood Control District Maricopa County (FCDMC)
2801 W. Durango Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009**

September

Education Seminar

"Restructuring Infrastructure"

9/17/09

C-104 - Standards of Practice for the Right of Way Professional

9/16/09 & 9/17/09

C-803 - Eminent Domain Law Basics for Right of Way Professionals

Location:

**Desert Willow Conference Center
4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd, Phoenix, AZ
(Check website for details & registration form)**

October

!!!SR/WA Review Study Session!!!

Facilitator - Beverly Francy, SR/WA

Location:

**Glendale Regional Public Safety Facility
11550 W. Glendale Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85307
(Course Coordinator - Jason Foster - check website for more information).**

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**International Education Schedule**

Check international website for more upcoming courses!!

**[www.irwaonline.org](http://www.irwaonline.org)**

# July, 2009



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |

## Schedule of Events

- 4th July!!!  
Happy Independence Day
- Seminar meeting at 11.30am.
- Board Meeting at SRP or ASL @ 4.30pm!!
- Baseball Night—D'Backs!!
- Submit an interest article for next months newsletter issue!!!!



**Member Meeting and Lunch! August 11, 2009 @ 11.30am**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Gary M. Scott, SR/WA**

Gary is the Land Acquisition Branch Manager for the Maricopa County Public Works Real Estate Division. Gary graduated from Arizona State University in 1982 with a B.S. in History. He has been employed with Maricopa County since 1985 and a member of IRWA Chapter 28 since 1987 receiving his SRWA in 1999. Gary has worked on numerous infrastructure projects for the Maricopa County Department of Transportation and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County including many multiple jurisdiction projects.

He manages an acquisition program for MCDOT and FCD that yearly averages 300 parcels and expenditures of \$12 million – and seven very dedicated and gifted Right-of-Way Agents. Gary has been married to his wife Penni since 1989. He enjoys travelling with Penni, golfing, playing the Bass Guitar, historic architecture, and gardening. He is a native Arizonan and enjoys the wonders of this great state.

**Serrano's Mexican Restaurant**  
**141 S. Arizona Avenue, Chandler, AZ**  
**Cost: \$20.00 RSVP by 8/3/09!!!**

**RSVP: [www.irwachapter28.org](http://www.irwachapter28.org)**

# Why the Four Corners Monument is in Exactly the Right Place.....By Bill Stone, National Geodetic Survey.

**(Submitted by Todd E Rakstad, RPLS, Salt River Project LAND-Surveys Manager)**

Recent media reports incorrectly stated that the location of the Four Corners survey monument – marking the point common to Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah – is in error by 2.5 miles and suggested that the monument therefore does not correctly mark the intersection of the four states. These reports also erroneously attributed the discovery of this supposed error to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Geodetic Survey (NGS). NGS did not, in fact, make any claim or pronouncement that the monument is incorrectly located or suggest that it should be relocated. NGS has, however, worked with the media to correct inaccuracies in the initial reports, clarifying that the distance between the actual location of the monument and its intended location is substantially less than the reported 2.5 miles, and that – as affirmed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – it does indeed correctly mark the four-state-intersection point. Because NGS was specifically named in the reports, this brief document was prepared to present some pertinent facts and history about the Four Corners monument and its placement.

In 1875, a surveyor named Chandler Robbins was contracted by the U.S. General Land Office (GLO), the BLM's predecessor, to survey the entire boundary between the territories of Arizona and New Mexico, from the U.S.-Mexico boundary to the 37<sup>th</sup> parallel of latitude north of the equator. He was charged with also establishing, at the boundary's northern terminus, the Four Corners monument, as it would be known upon completion of the other territorial boundary surveys terminating there. Robbins was directed to base his survey on the geographic coordinates of Ship Rock (a prominent northwestern New Mexico landform), which had been determined the previous year during the decade-long U. S. Geographical Surveys West of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian, led by First Lieutenant George Wheeler.

An 1863 Act of Congress, signed by President Lincoln, which separated Arizona from New Mexico, specified that the dividing boundary should be coincident with the 32<sup>nd</sup> meridian of longitude west of the Washington (DC) Meridian. The Washington Meridian, which had been in use since 1850, was defined as bisecting the dome of the old Naval Observatory, situated at a longitude of 77 degrees 03 minutes West (for simplicity, longitude values presented here are rounded to the nearest arc minute). In fact, the boundaries of 11 western states are similarly longitude-referenced to the Washington Meridian, and not the Greenwich Meridian. This practice was in place in the U.S. until 1912, when our nation adopted Greenwich as its standard longitude reference.

Hence, what Congress had specified for the Arizona-New Mexico boundary, and the Four Corners monument, was that they should be established at a longitude of 109 degrees 03 minutes West, as referenced to the Greenwich Meridian. Therein, we believe, lies the source of the invalid report of a Four Corners monument location error of 2.5 miles. Some people apparently relied on the incorrect premise that the marker was originally intended to be located at a longitude of exactly 109 degrees West. But, Robbins followed his marching orders correctly, and the Four Corners monument was established at the point he determined, to the very best of his ability and using the available technology, to be the prescribed location of 109 degrees 03 minutes West longitude and 37 degrees North latitude. There, his meridian survey intersected the 1868 New Mexico-Colorado boundary survey, which ran along the 37<sup>th</sup> parallel. Subsequent surveys established the Utah-Colorado and Arizona-Utah boundaries, thereby completing the Four Corners assemblage of territorial (eventually state) lines, as specified by Congress.





*Article continued.....*

It is interesting to note that, upon completion of his Arizona-New Mexico boundary survey, Chandler Robbins went to the effort to write a letter to the editor of *The Santa Fe New Mexican* (still today's daily newspaper) explaining the very issue of the difference between longitude values referenced to the Greenwich Meridian and those referenced to the Washington Meridian. In this letter of November 1, 1875, Robbins included the following explanation:

*It seems to have been the general impression that the line was the 109 degrees of longitude west of Greenwich. Such is not the case, as the law makes it 32 degrees of longitude west from Washington, which corresponds to 109 degrees 02 minutes 59.25 seconds west from Greenwich, and which places the line a small fraction less than three miles farther west than would have been the case if it had been run as the 109 degrees of longitude.*


In these few words, Robbins takes the mystery out of a technical issue that has evidently confused and misled some people for more than a century.

Nonetheless, there remains the question of how close the Four Corners monument is relative to its *intended* location. In fact, there is a discrepancy between the actual location, which we know to a high degree of accuracy, and our best knowledge of where it was intended to be located. But, instead of a 2.5-mile discrepancy, as reported in the initial news items, this offset is in fact only about 1800 feet, or less. Not only is the offset only about one-tenth of the alleged location error, it is in the opposite direction; the intended monument location is west of the actual monument. There is, however, uncertainty in precisely quantifying the relationship between the intended and actual monument locations due to changes, since 1875, in some technical details of the geodetic reference systems utilized. The actual offset might in fact be considerably less than our estimate.

Regardless of the technical nuances, we can confidently say that, considering the relatively primitive surveying technology of the day, the remote and difficult prevailing field conditions, and uncertainty in the survey's beginning coordinates for Ship Rock, Chandler Robbins' survey was a resounding success. He "nailed" the location of the Four Corners, to the best of his ability, using the tools and information available to him at the time.

Finally, we cannot overemphasize the fact that the aforementioned technical geodetic details are absolutely moot when considering any question of the correctness or validity of the Four Corners monument in marking the intersection of the four states. Indeed, the monument marks the *exact* spot where the four states meet. A basic tenet of boundary surveying is that once a monument has been established and accepted by the parties involved (in the case of the Four Corners monument, the parties were the four territories and the U.S. Congress), the location of the physical monument is the ultimate authority in delineating a boundary. Issues of legality trump scientific details, and the intended location of the point becomes secondary information. In surveying, monuments rule!

The physical monument marking the Four Corners has been rebuilt multiple times by the GLO and BLM over the years since Robbins installed a seven-foot-tall sandstone shaft to mark the spot. But the same location has been perpetuated now for more than a century and a quarter. The current monument complex was constructed in 1992 and includes a visitor plaza area surrounding a commemorative survey disk. The Four Corners monument has been included in modern high-accuracy



*Article continued...*

Global Positioning System (GPS) geodetic surveys, producing three-dimensional coordinates accurate to an inch or better. These survey results and descriptive information about the monument are included in the database of geodetic control points maintained by NGS. The geodetic control datasheet for the Four Corners monument (designation: CO UT AZ NM) can be found online here: [http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds\\_mark.prl?PidBox=AD9256](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/ds_mark.prl?PidBox=AD9256).

Hence, in addition to marking the intersection point of four states, the Four Corners monument is also a component of what is known today as the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), which is maintained by NGS and serves as the nation's geospatial framework. Through its published geodetic position, the monument provides a mechanism for geospatial professionals (land surveyors, engineers, etc.) to access this framework with a high degree of both accuracy and certainty. The Four Corners monument continues its long-standing heritage of playing an important role in the history and demarcation of the American West – all the while bearing witness as the only point of intersection of four U.S. states – in exactly the right place.

NGS is responsible for defining, maintaining, and providing public access to the NSRS – a consistent national coordinate system that provides the foundation for mapping and charting; some state boundaries; transportation, communication, and land records systems; as well as scientific and engineering applications. More information about NGS and the various components of the NSRS can be found at: <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov>. NGS is not normally involved in boundary-related issues and is providing the information contained in this document simply as a statement of clarification of the pertinent facts and background regarding the Four Corners monument. The field notes and plats for the remonumentation of the Four Corners monument and the surveys/resurveys of the state boundary lines can be obtained from the BLM at: <http://www.gloreCORDS.blm.gov/>.



**The marker at the Four Corners point.**

# IRWA, Chapter 28

## 51st Annual Education Seminar

Date

**September 18, 2009**

(C104 & C803 will be offered 9/16 and 9/17  
— see page 6 for class descriptions)

Location

Desert Willow Conference Center  
4340 E Cotton Center Blvd, Phoenix

Theme

**“Restructuring Infrastructure”**

**Only \$100 for Education Seminar!!!!**

**Check the website for further details**

Or contact our President Elect, Karen Williams at 602-542-8857  
or email at [PresidentElect@IRWACChapter28.org](mailto:PresidentElect@IRWACChapter28.org).

