

Surface Matters

What Arizonans are doing with geospatial *technology*

Newsletter of the Arizona Geographic Information Council

In Review....

*What shall we discuss today
Would someone like to guess?
Shoes, or ships, or sealing wax
Or statewide GIS?*

*Subjects geographical
Are chiefly on the slate
Engaging individuals
Across our Western state*

*Places swamped by flooding rains
Or charred by fires hot
Perfectly present themselves
As regions we should plot*

*Hydrologic modeling
Is something we could try
Or mapping distant surfaces
Of planets in the sky*

*Some go up in little planes
Propellers spinning 'round
Taking orthophotographs
Imaging the ground*

*When a great emergency
Throws danger in our laps
Personnel with special skills
Respond to make the maps*

*Sometimes, though, our daily work
Is not our main concern
User groups and conferences
Present new things to learn*

*If your skills are falling short
New concepts too opaque
Colleges have many plans
With classes you can take*

*Sometimes tricky obstacles
Pose questions we must ask
Talking with a survey crew
Gives insights to our tasks*

*Software can't do everything
Some jobs are too unique
Custom applications give
New life where things were bleak*

*When we find we want to know
What other folks have done
Jaunty publications spread
The news to everyone*

*Spinning on this lovely Earth
Computers at our call
Geospatial inquiries
Give meaning to it all*



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Regional GIS User Groups

One of the aims of *Surface Matters* has been to notify readers of relevant events taking place around the state so that people can participate and make professional connections. With that in mind, here's a reminder of some of the active user groups in Arizona.

Maricopa Regional GIS Technical Council

Serving Maricopa County for about 15 years. Meetings are typically scheduled once per quarter. Meeting places rotate among cities in the county. Moderated by Marta Dent and Russell Heisinger. We collaborate with local agencies or commercial entities to host and present any topic to share data and/or technology regarding any GIS subject.

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Northern Arizona GIS User Group

Serving Northern Arizona. Meeting places vary but usually Prescott or Flagstaff; hosted by various agencies and broadcast via Go-To-Meeting for those who cannot attend in person. Meetings held every 3-5 months. Meetings consist of a half day filled with local user presentations/discussions and at least a presentation from ESRI or another vendor.
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NAGIS_Users/

Tucson GIS Cooperative

Serving the Tucson area. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. Public Works Building
201 N. Stone Avenue, Tucson
Northwest corner of Stone and Alameda
Basement, Conference Room C
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/giscoop/gis-cooperative>

PHXGeo Group

Serving the greater Phoenix area. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, typically in the evening. Meeting locations will shift around the Valley to attract users from different areas. PHXGeo was started to attract users at all levels in a relaxed atmosphere away from formal, vendor-dominated events. Meetings are half social, half professional, and are sometimes held at local pubs.
<http://phxgeo.org>
phx.geo.group@gmail.com

Southwest Area GIS User Group (SWAG)

This group hasn't been active for the past few years, but that may change soon. A GIS Day user group meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday morning, November 16th at the Yuma County Department of Development Services. This will be a formal program with speakers and presentations. A GIS open house will be held in the afternoon. Users in the region have expressed an interest in having regularly scheduled meetings again, so they will discuss that after the GIS Day events.

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Previous issues of Surface Matters are available at agic.az.gov/newsletter.

Mention of private companies in this newsletter is for information only and does not imply endorsement by AGIC or the State of Arizona.

Surface Matters is the quarterly newsletter of the Arizona Geographic Information Council. It is written for those who want to stay in touch with the vision and activities of AGIC and with the continuing growth of GIS in Arizona.

Your comments about this publication are always welcome. Please send all correspondence to the editor.

Readers are invited to submit articles that they wish to be considered for publication. The author retains all copyrights. Please let the editor know if the article has been published elsewhere.

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Hall of Presidents

When the President of the United States enters a room, the U. S. Marine Band plays “Hail to the Chief,” everyone stands up, and the whole world knows about it. When the president of AGIC enters a room, nobody plays anything and hardly anyone takes notice. It’s a cruel, disheartening state of affairs, yet every year a gallant soul takes up the mantle of leadership and bears it with stalwart resolution. *Surface Matters* is pleased to salute those who have stepped boldly in leading Arizona into the future.

1990	Lou Schmitt (Committee Moderator)	Arizona Department of Transportation
1990	Ben Froelich (October)	Arizona Department of Administration
1991	Ben Froelich	Arizona Department of Administration
1992	Frank Segundo	Arizona Department of Water Resources
1993	Diana Barnes-Freshwater	Private Sector
1994	Seth Franzman	Arizona Department of Revenue
1995	Chris English	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
1996	Gene Trobia	Southern Arizona GIS Consortium
1997	Don McTaggart	Arizona State University
1998	Sally Lanier	Arizona Game and Fish Department
1999	Craig Wissler	University of Arizona
2000	Tom Elder	Arizona Department of Water Resources
2001	Tim Smothers	Northern Arizona Geographic Information Forum
2002	Jana Fry	Arizona State University
2003	Jami Garrison	Arizona Department of Transportation
2004	Sharon Nicholson	Arizona Department of Public Safety
2005	Tim Smothers	Arizona League of Cities and Towns
2006	Rick Harrington	Southern Arizona GIS Consortium
2007	Tom Sturm	U.S. Geological Survey
2008	Tim Smothers	Arizona League of Cities and Towns
2009	Kevin Blake	Northern Arizona Geographic Information Forum
2010	Jana Hutchins	Arizona State University
2011	Keith Larson	Natural Resources Conservation Service

Skyrocketing Growth of AGIC-L Membership

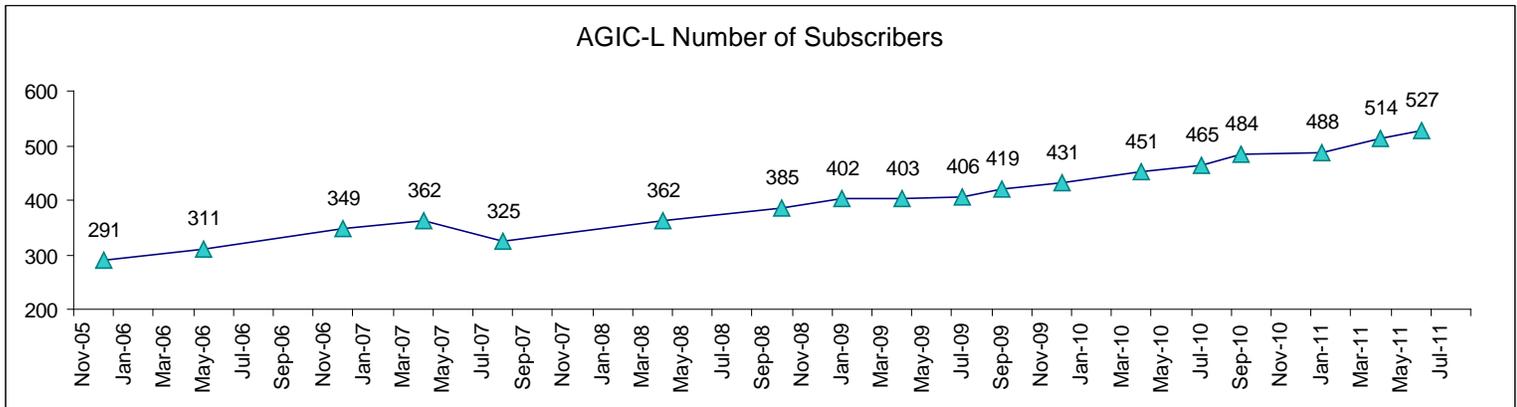
Back in December of 2005, the editor of *Surface Matters* was seized with an unquenchable curiosity to know how many people subscribed to AGIC-L. He submitted the proper command to the listserv and promptly found out: it was 291. Periodically after that he checked back to see if the populace was latching on to this lively neighborhood of online conversation. It was!

As time went on it became clear that the membership was growing by leaps and bounds. After only three years the number of subscribers had increased by one hundred! Three and a quarter years later it was up by another hundred! This breathtaking pace made it clear that interest in geospatial technology was spreading like crazy. Of course, tempering this growth was the fact that some people subscribed to AGIC-L through more than one email address, but that only accounted for a small percentage of the total. It didn't do much to allay fears that the server might be overwhelmed, a condition which has thankfully not come to pass. As of June 29, 2011, the number stood at 527. That's a staggering 3.5 people per month since we started keeping score!

We at *Surface Matters* have been pleased to distribute the newsletter through AGIC-L, and hope that the listserv continues to serve the people of Arizona for many years to come. ◇



AGIC-L Number of Subscribers



Reaching Out with the Outreach Committee

Little known to the outside world is the fact that each issue of *Surface Matters* is reviewed by the members of the AGIC Outreach Committee before publication. These stern and resolute censors comb its pages for the occasional misplaced comma or unlikely fragment of confusing phraseology. We salute all who have served on the Outreach Committee and thank them for their attentiveness and devotion.

Shea Lemar	Adam Iten
Santiago Garcia	Glenn Buettner
Jason Howard	Carol Warren
Eva Reid	Jean Ann Rodine
Tim Colman	Brian Bond

Let's Not Forget....

A brief note of thanks to the members of the AGIC Board, whose kind indulgence has allowed this newsletter to exist for a year plus half a decade. We tip our hat in grateful acknowledgement. ♦

Did You Learn...?

As we were putting together the final issue of *Surface Matters*, we wondered what effect it might have had on the readership across the state. We sent a message through AGIC-L asking the readers if they had leaned anything from the newsletter. The responses we received contained many flattering sentiments about our efforts, as well as a few words about what was learned. We would like to thank our gracious respondents and share with you some of their thoughts.

"I really enjoyed reading about what was happening locally. Arizona has a pretty solid GIS community, and *Surface Matters* was able to highlight what everyone was doing. It will be missed."

"It was good to see and hear about what was going on in Arizona."

"Wow. It's the potential end of an era. Sorry to see you (and *Surface Matters*) go."

"Always interesting - unique perspective - off-the-beaten-track, upbeat, quirky."

"It was a terrific way to learn some of the neat things GIS professionals are doing all over Arizona!"

"I found it very interesting and informative."

I enjoyed seeing what GIS resources are in Arizona (or what's happening in Alaska), learning about new advancements such as height modernization, and what's new and exciting such as free LANDSAT imagery. It's a nice summary of GIS happenings in Arizona all in one place, and gives GIS users a chance to investigate interesting articles before the AGIC conference."

"That's too bad you're closing it up but I wanted to let you know I did enjoy reading your newsletters!"

"I liked the newsletter, it helped me and other colleagues here to understand better what is happening around the state. It gave helpful insight of projects, conferences, user groups, etc. to help inform people. If something really caught my eye I could contact the person from the article to better help our needs."

"The surveying article had tons of great info in it and I learned a lot reading it. And I LOVED the Idiotic Mystery Theater!!

"My favorite article of all time was your article 'Planning and GIS at the Top of the World.' I loved learning about the area you went to, I enjoyed seeing how the work we do is the same and I really enjoyed learning how different some little things are (like flying in someone to fix a broken plotter and GPSing in the summer and having to pay for a helicopter to do it).

"I like all of the articles you do because they are interesting, timely and applicable to me. Whether it is about dealing with certification, continued education, employment agencies or informing me who is doing what with GIS throughout the state (and nation) they are all written in a way that connects to me, as the reader."

We are humbled and gratified that our efforts seem to have had a positive impact. Many thanks to our readers for their long-standing interest in *Surface Matters*. ♦

Contributors Galore!

Without those who have contributed their knowledge, expertise, and perspectives, *Surface Matters* would be a weak, bland, shallow, anemic, insignificant, empty shell of a newsletter. Therefore we gratefully extend an ebullient **Thank You!** to all those who have been contributors over the past six years. Here, in chronological and alphabetical order, we present their names once more.

Issue	Contributor
1	Stuart Bishop
1	Jeff Cook
1	Carla McAuliffe, PhD
1	Tim Smothers
2	Nadine Barlow, PhD
2	Carlos Carriaga, PhD, PE
2	Sarah Elwood, PhD
2	Noel Gorelick
2	Ronald Greeley, PhD
2	Phil Guertin, PhD
2	Trent Hare
2	James Klemaszewski
2	Alfred McEwen, PhD
2	Jani Radebaugh, PhD
2	Craig Wissler
3	M. C. Baldwin
3	Mary Cook-Hurley
3	Rob Decker
3	Leland Dexter, PhD
3	David Major
GIS Day	M. C. Baldwin
GIS Day	Diana Branson
GIS Day	Jami Garrison
GIS Day	Brittney Knoblauch
GIS Day	Chris Mack
GIS Day	Scott Moore
GIS Day	Jennifer Psillas
GIS Day	Sara Rusk
GIS Day	Mike Tschudi
GIS Day	Vernon Woods
4	Sonya Glavac, Ph.D.
4	Jana Hutchins
4	Shea Lemar
4	Bill Miller, Ph.D.
4	Marlene Shields
4	Barbara Trapido-Lurie
4	Elizabeth Wentz, Ph.D.

Contributors

Kevin Blake, Yavapai County
GIS Coordinator

Candace Bogart, U.S. Forest Service
Regional GIS/Photogrammetry Program Manager

William Flynn, GISP, Yuma County Department of
Development Services
GIS Manager

Kelly Hetzler, GISP, San Carlos Apache Tribe
Forester, GIS and Inventory

Jana Hutchins, Arizona State University, Tempe
Manager, GIS Services

Darlene Jenkins, Navajo Division of Transportation
GIS Analyst

Shea Lemar, Arizona State University, Tempe
Senior Project Manager

Michele Mattix, GeoMattix LLC
Owner, Principal Consultant

Gady Pitaru, City of Phoenix
IT Analyst/Programmer

Aaron Seifert, GISP, Guardian Medical Transport
GIS/IT Specialist, EMT

Barbara Trapido-Lurie, Arizona State University,
Tempe
Senior Research Professional, Dept. of Geography

5	Karen Blevins	10	Vivian Gonzales
5	Shea Lemar	10	Julie Hoff
5	Marlene Shields	10	Carol Levine
		10	Nigel Reynolds
		10	Tim Smothers
6	David Andes		
6	Michael Dennis, PE, MSCE	11	Kevin Blake
6	Leo Donahue	11	Erinne Blakeman
6	Reece Hanifin	11	Jeff Boyd
6	Lee Harbers	11	Glen Buettner
6	Doug Hood	11	Glen Buettner
6	Jenny Immich	11	Marcos Coria
6	Ruth Jensen	11	Tom Elder
6	Priyanka Kashyap	11	Santiago Garcia
6	Shea Lemar	11	Michael Gatewood
6	Anthony Maslowicz	11	Jason Howard
6	Christianne Mouette	11	Ausrine Kelbauskiene
6	Gady Pitaru	11	Eric Kent
6	Jean Ann Rodine	11	Wesley Kortuem
6	Tyler Savoy	11	Jamie Marin
6	Tim Smothers	11	Raiza Negron
6	Brian Sovik	11	Ben Pearson
6	Karen Thomas	11	Thomas Peiffer
		11	Joseph Plotz
7	Melvina Adolf	11	Beth Roberts
7	M. C. Baldwin	11	Meagan Rubel
7	Gabriel Bey	11	Brian Sovik, GISP
7	Jami Garrison	11	Timothy Tait
7	Diane Jimro	11	Karen Thomas
7	Mele Koneya	11	Karen Wigglesworth
7	Larry Prentice	11	Johannes Zech
7	Paul Scipione		
7	Tim Smothers	12	Brian Fisher, RLS
7	Karen Thomas	12	Michael Magyar, LSIT
7	John Wharton	12	Connie Mar
7	Vernon Woods	12	Mare Schumacher
		12	Alana Shacter, MPH
8	Brad Christensen		
8	Ken Fiebelkorn	13	Glen Buettner
8	Lawrence Hansen, PhD, PE	13	Michele Mattix
8	Eric Priewe	13	Barbara Stoddard
8	Tim Smothers	13	Bill Timmins
8	Brian Sovik, GISP		
8	Ralph Weeks, PG	14	Remy Autz
		14	Candace Bogart
9	Raymond Brunner	14	Nicole Brown
9	Carlos Carriaga, PhD, PE	14	Ron Couillard
9	Michael Dennis, PE, MSCE	14	Leland R. Dexter, Ph.D., GISP
9	Aaron Seifert, GISP	14	Tim Duncan
9	Tim Smothers	14	Jami Garrison, GISP
9	Brian Sovik, GISP	14	Kelly Hetzler, GISP
9	Gene Trobia	14	Don Kapetanovic
9	Howard Ward	14	Priyanka Miller, GISP
		14	Gady Pitaru

14	Jean Ann Rodine	24	Mike Magyar, RLS
14	Aaron Seifert, GISP	24	Rudy Stricklan, RLS, GISP
14	Travis Smith, CMS		
14	Sam Wallace, GISP	Grad GIS Guide	Robert Balling, PhD, GISP
		Grad GIS Guide	Stephanie Deitrick
15	Ken Fiebelkorn	Grad GIS Guide	Ruihong Huang, PhD
15	Julie Hoff	Grad GIS Guide	Alan Lew, PhD, AICP
15	Pete Marckmann	Grad GIS Guide	Chris Lukinbeal, PhD, GISP
15	Michele Mattix	Grad GIS Guide	Mark Manone, MA
15	Nigel Reynolds	Grad GIS Guide	Jane Matter
15	Tim Smothers	Grad GIS Guide	Elizabeth Wentz, PhD
15	Melanie Sturgeon, PhD	Grad GIS Guide	Craig Wissler, MLA
16	J. Allison Butler, GISP, AICP	25	Kevin Blake
16	Brian Sovik, GISP	25	Candace Bogart
16	Geney Terry, GISP	25	William Flynn, GISP
		25	Kelly Hetzler, GISP
17	J. Allison Butler, GISP, AICP	25	Jana Hutchins
17	Walter Domann	25	Darlene Jenkins
17	Gary Irish	25	Shea Lemar
17	Brian Sovik, GISP	25	Michele Mattix
17	Gene Trobia	25	Gady Pitaru
		25	Aaron Seifert, GISP
18	Karen Thomas, GISP	25	Barbara Trapido-Lurie
19	Bryn Enright		
19	Russ Heisinger		
19	Meckenzie Helmandollar		
19	Jason Howard		
19	Becky MacEwen		
19	Iris Patten		
19	Don Thorstenson		
19	Carol Warren, M.Ed., M.A.		
20	Dave Minkel		
21	Raymond Brunner		
21	Jana Hutchins		
21	Dave Minkel		
22	Michael Conway, Ph.D.		
22	Erika Green, AICP		
22	Charmaine Hingada		
22	David Logan		
22	Jeffrey Utter		
23	James Fee		
23	Seth Franzman		
23	Jami Garrison		
23	Helen Ireland		
23	Bob Roberts		
23	Steve Whitney		

Continued on page 9.

For those keeping score, here are the stats on who contributed the most.

Tim Smothers	7
Brian Sovik	6
Jami Garrison	4
Shea Lemar	4
Karen Thomas	4
M. C. Baldwin	3
Jana Hutchins	3
Michele Mattix	3
Aaron Seifert	3
Gady Pitaru	3
Kevin Blake	2
Candace Bogart	2
Raymond Brunner	2
Glen Buettner	2
J. Allison Butler	2
Carlos Carriaga	2
Michael Dennis	2
Leland R. Dexter	2
Ken Fiebelkorn	2
Kelly Hetzler	2
Julie Hoff	2
Jason Howard	2
Michael Magyar	2
Dave Minkel	2
Nigel Reynolds	2
Jean Ann Rodine	2
Marlene Shields	2
Barbara Trapido-Lurie	2
Gene Trobia	2
Elizabeth Wentz	2
Craig Wissler	2
Vernon Woods	2
Everyone else	1
Total contributors	147



Surface Matters Doughnut Award:

You get the same number of doughnuts as the number of times you contributed. ◇