

NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

RAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

I. 1982-83 RSSG Committees

Issue No. 7 February 1983

The RSSG has committees for awards, goals, nominations, programs and publications. Most members of these three persons committees were selected by the RSSG chairperson following an examination of a sheet circulated at the RSSG business meeting in San Antonio on which persons indicated an interest in serving on committees. Any RSSG member interest in serving on committees during 1983-84 should indicate their interest to Paul Mausel via a letter or directly at the Denver business meeting. The current committee membership is indicated below.

Awards Committee

Don Rundquist, Chairperson
Conservation and Survey Division
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 78588

David Schwarz
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San Jose State University
San Jose, California 95192

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Goals Committee

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Murray, Kentucky 42071

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Nominations Committee

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Jack Estes
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Program Committee

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Publications Committee

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A. Awards Committee

The directors of this specialty group endorse the guidelines below (drafted 1981-82) and hope that the membership will actively nominate geographers who have made meritorious contributions to the field of remote sensing. Note that all our nominations must be reviewed by the AAG Council. Please send nominations to Don Rundquist.

1. It should be standard procedure for the Awards Committee to solicit nominations from the membership via appeal in the AAG Newsletter or Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter.

2. Eligibility for Honors:

- a. Among remote sensing specialists resident in the United States, only AAG members should be eligible for consideration.
- b. Remote Sensing Specialists resident outside of the United States shall be eligible for consideration.
- c. In rare cases, persons from other disciplines or professions --who have made singular contributions to the furtherance of remote sensing and geography goals--shall be eligible for consideration.
- d. Posthumous awards should be given only in the instance when a nominee dies subsequent to the official nomination.
- e. Recipients of previous honors shall be eligible for a second award, but the second award should be given for achievements since the first award.
- f. The Awards Committee should maintain maximum freedom and flexibility in the selection of nominees vis-a-vis age, sex, type of contribution, etc.

3. The Awards Committee will be expected to present to the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors:

- a. Nominee's name.
- b. The Honors Citation.
- c. Nominee's vita.
- d. A few paragraphs providing the rationale for the award.

4. The following sequence of Awards Committee activities is recommended in order to assure careful deliberations and maximum participation by all committee members.

- a. First Year. Awards Committee appointed by AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors.
- b. Automatic invitation for nominations to appear in AAG Newsletter or the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter.
- c. Receipt of nominations. Request for and receipt of additional materials on nominees.
- d. Second Year. Awards Committee of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group meets during Annual AAG Meetings. Awardees will be selected at this time. Assignments will be made within the committee for the development of each nominee's "packet" (i.e., citation, vita, etc.) which is to be presented to Council. These materials should be developed as soon as possible.
- e. Presentations of nominees to the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Directors.
- f. April, end of third year. Presentation of Awards at Annual Meeting.

5. The citations, awards, and prizes presented by the AAG Remote Sensing Specialty Group shall, in some cases, be made without financial supplement. When awards are made, the funds for these awards will come from the sale of Remote Sensing Specialty Group Publications, or monies donated by corporations or private individuals.

B. Goals Committee

The objectives of this Specialty Group are indicated below. Please send suggestions to Sam Goward, Chairperson.

1. To encourage and promote remote sensing as an academic area of study within geography--
 - a. provide assistance, guidance, curricula, etc. to departments, developing or expanding remote sensing programs;
 - b. assist in the recruitment and placement of remote sensing oriented geographers;
 - c. produce a resource paper assessing the role and scope of remote sensing in geographic education;
 - d. support, organize, and conduct workshops, seminars, etc. promoting the continuing education of professional geographers in remote sensing; and
 - e. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested persons abreast of trends in departments promoting remote sensing education.

2. To serve as a support group for remote sensing researchers and the larger "user" community
 - a. assist in the review and screening of professional papers and articles dealing with remote sensing;
 - b. promote multiple (high quality) paper sessions at national and regional meetings dealing with remote sensing;
 - c. promote the establishment of specialty group members on editorial boards of all relevant professional publication outlets in the field, e.g. the Annals;
 - d. promote the establishment of specialty group members on appropriate granting and funding agency review panels;
 - e. communicate grant/contract opportunities to appropriate people in the discipline;
 - f. communicate unique experience/capability of specialty group members and cooperating institutions to appropriate individuals within the "user" community; and
 - g. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested individuals abreast of current trends in remote sensing research and development.

3. To assist the central administration of the A.A.G. in taking aggressive and positive action in support of the remote sensing contingency in the A.A.G.
 - a. establish remote sensing special interest steering committees in each of the A.A.G. Regions;
 - b. promote the election/appointment of specialty group members to key administrative positions at the National and Regional level of the A.A.G.;

- c. provide a highly visible point of contact among the central administration of the A.A.G., the Regional administration of the A.A.G., the Specialty Group, and government agencies, business, and industry;
- d. to establish remote sensing panel discussions, forums, etc. to all national and regional meetings of the A.A.G.; and
- e. circulate a regularly scheduled newsletter keeping interested individuals abreast of activities, events, and current trends in remote sensing in Geography.

C. Nominations Committee

See discussion of "Nominations for RSSG 1983-84 Elections" elsewhere in this newsletter.

D. Program Committee

This committee is pursuing topics related to improving the quality and amount of RSSG participation in national and international geography meetings and conferences. Its full function is in the process of formulation and the total mission of this committee will be discussed at the business meeting in Denver. Suggestions to this committee should be made to James Latham, Chairperson.

E. Publications Committee

This committee is pursuing topics related to (1) improving the Remote Sensing Specialty Group Newsletter, and (2) the development of Remote Sensing Specialty Group sponsored publications. Please send your suggestions to M. Leonard Bryan. This topic will be addressed at the annual business meeting in Denver.

II. Nominations for RSSG 1983-84 Election

Last April at the San Antonio RSSG business meeting it was decided that a slate of nominations for offices open would be developed by the nominations committee (Jensen, Estes, and Holz). However, at that meeting, it was also suggested that some other mechanism for providing names for the election, in addition to those suggested by the nominations committee, be developed. The Denver business meeting will address this issue. However for the 1983-84 elections in April the nominations committee will present their suggestions and other names can be added for any of the offices by submitting a petition which provides five names of support from fellow RSSG members. Thus, the membership at large can supply names and should send petitions with five or more name of RSSG members supporting a candidate to:

Dr. John Jensen
 Department of Geography
 University of South Carolina
 Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Please send your nominations to John Jensen no later than March 7. Shortly after March 7 the nominations suggested by the committee will be combined with the nominations by petition and they will be published as a ballot in the March RSSG Newsletter.

The positions open for election this year are: (1) Vice Chairperson; (2) Director; and (3) Student Director. Lee Williams, the Secretary/Treasurer, is in the first year of a two year term, thus that office is not open for the 1983-84 election. According to the RSSG by laws Paul Mausel, as Vice Chairperson who assumed Chairperson duties following the departure of Gary Johnson, remains as Chairperson for the 1983-84 term.

Vice Chairperson: This person is elected to a two year term. The first year is served as a director and the second as the Chairman of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group.

Director (Non-Student): This person is elected to a two year term. One of the two non-student director offices will be vacant. This person supervises several committees and provides counsel to the Chairman.

Student Director: This is a one year position and should be filled by a graduate student specializing in some aspect of remote sensing of the environment.

III. Remote Sensing Activities/Programs at the AAG National Meeting in Denver

The RSSG has organized two paper sessions, a poster session, and two workshops for the Denver meeting. There is also a field trip with a remote sensing emphasis. A business meeting for the RSSG will be held. We hope that all persons interested in remote sensing will try to attend/participate in as many of these activities as possible. More specific information on the paper sessions, poster session and business meeting will be given in the March newsletter. Because of the need for pre-registration in the workshops and field trip, more information on these is given here.

Saturday, April 23rd, 1-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Workshop on The Use of Landsat in Regional Analysis.

Landsat satellite imagery provides a perspective on regional patterns that is unmatched by conventional maps and aerial photography. Landsat offers worldwide coverage, providing thematic and in many cases cadastral coverage superior to existing sources. The well-established techniques of visual photointerpretation applied to Landsat imagery are similar to the procedures followed in regional analysis. However, despite its potential utility, Landsat is not widely used by regional analysts, possibly due to a perceived emphasis on digital image classification techniques. This workshop will introduce Landsat imagery and by lecture, demonstration, and practical experience, present the techniques and uses of visual analysis of Landsat imagery in regional studies.

The workshop will be given by Lee Williams and Bob McColl of the University of Kansas. The workshop fee is \$16.50.

Sunday, April 24th, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Workshop on Applied Remote Sensing.

The workshop objectives are to:

- 1) Familiarize workshop participants with a representative array of remote sensing applications involving geographic researchers.
- 2) Familiarize workshop participants with 'state-of-the-art' techniques and methodologies in applied remote sensing.
- 3) Create a forum in which workshop participants and presenters can enter into creative dialogue concerning the role of applied remote sensing in geographic research and instruction.

Schedule of Presentations

8:30 - 9:00	Orientation and Overview - Neil Weber
9:00 - 9:45	'The Remote Sensing of Thermal Plumes' - John Jensen
9:45 - 10:30	'Thematic Extraction of Surface Mines from Remotely Sensed Data' - Dale Quattrochi
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 - 11:15	'Utilizing Remote Sensing in Cultural Resources Management' - Neil Weber
11:15 - 12:00	'Utilizing Thematic Mapper Data in Vegetation Analysis' - Sam Goward
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Break

1:00 - 1:45	'Information Systems and Non-Point-Source Pollution Analysis' - Steve Walsh
1:45 - 2:30	'Remote Sensing in Agricultural Monitoring' - Jack Estes
2:30 - 3:00	'Using Thermal Scanning in Heat Loss Detection' - Paul Mausel
3:00 - 3:15	Coffee Break
3:15 - 4:00	'Utilizing Landsat MSS Data in Forest and Range Management' - Jim Merchant
4:00 - 4:45	'The Role of Remote Sensing in Predictive Modelling: The Oregon Example' - Tom Loveland
4:45 - 5:30	Summary and Wrap-Up.

Participants will receive a workshop notebook with paper synopses and A-V representations of the paper presentations. The workshop was organized by Neil Weber of Murray State University, and the fee is \$25.00.

Monday, April 25th, 8:30 - 5:30 p.m. Field Trip-Boulder and Environmental Management.

Field trip participants will examine physical and cultural features of Boulder's setting at the Great Plains-Rocky Mountain boundary. Emphasis will be on the use of environmental information in public and private management decisions. The range of ecosystems from Plains grasslands to upper montane forest will be observed in relation to urban growth management, agriculture, open-space planning, high-technology industry and resource conservation. Local geology will be examined in relation to resource extraction, natural hazards, and attractiveness for settlement. Applications of remote sensing to resource management decisions and the study of land use changes will be illustrated in the field. The Boulder Creek flood management regime will be observed at several sites along the stream course. Bring comfortable shoes for a short hike in Boulder Mountain Parks.

The field trip will be led by Bob Anderson of the USGS. The field trip fee is \$15, and includes a box lunch.

IV. Remote Sensing Articles

During the past decade it has been difficult to get remote sensing oriented articles into the Professional Geographer and the Annals. A few articles have been published, but far too few considering the strength and interest in remote sensing by the geographic community.

Currently conditions are much more favorable than they have been in the past with respect to publishing remote sensing articles in our two primary journals. Neil Weber has been assured by Stanley Brunn, editor of the PG, that there will be opportunities for publications of remote sensing articles. Dr. Brunn indicated that he would like a list of reviewers. Paul Mausel, as chairperson of the RSSG will supply such a list to the PG editors this spring. Anyone with remote sensing publication experience and remote sensing expertise who would like to be on the list sent by the RSSG to Dr. Brunn should indicate their interest to:

Paul Mausel
 Department of Geography and
 Geology
 Indiana State University
 Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

Jack Estes and Dick Witmer have been appointed to the Annals editorial board. Jack indicated that all remote sensing articles will be given a fair review. He suggests that if you have a remote sensing oriented article to submit to the Annals it can be sent to him to assure that it will be reviewed properly (Jack's address is given in the nominations committee section of this newsletter).

With the support indicated above, it seems likely that good remote sensing articles will have an excellent chance to be published in the future. Let us think of the PG and Annals as outlets for our research.

Another journal outlet for remote sensing articles is, of course, Photogrammetric Engineering and Remote Sensing, published by the American Society of Photogrammetry. The Geography and Land Use Committee of the Remote Sensing Applications Division of the ASP handles and sends out for review articles that have a geography or land use emphasis. The committee maintains a list of reviewers but is always interested in adding qualified names to the list. There is a particular need for more reviewers in the digital/statistical analysis areas and in all aspects of geographic information systems. If you would be willing to review papers for the ASP, please contact:

T. H. Lee Williams
 Department of Geography
 University of Kansas
 Lawrence, Kansas 66045

V. RSSG Membership

Approximately 200 persons check the remote sensing specialty group interest on their sheet for yearly AAG dues. Looking at the official list of persons expressing an interest in RSSG, it is evident that many AAG members active in remote sensing are not on the list. Let us make an effort in the future to encourage our colleagues to check the remote sensing specialty. Larger numbers mean a larger rebate from the AAG office.

The cost of becoming a RSSG member is zero although RSSG requests that a \$5.00 per year fee be paid to the Sec/Treasurer. Currently, approximately 1/3 of the membership has paid the \$5.00 fee. We encourage all members to send a \$5.00 membership fee to the RSSG Sec/Treasurer, Lee Williams, at the address above.

It is most imperative that members of RSSG remain members regardless of the \$5.00 fee. Membership is not affected by non-payment of the \$5.00; however, anyone in a position to help support the RSSG via the \$5.00 is encouraged to do so.