

NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER NEWSLETTER

RAG REMOTE SENSING SPECIALTY GROUP

I. 1983-84 RSSG Committees

Issue No. 10 January 1984

The RSSG has committees for awards, goals, nominations, programs and publications. Most chairpersons of these committees were selected by the RSSG chairperson. The chairpersons selected members of their committee primarily from an examination of a sheet circulated at the RSSG business meeting in Denver on which persons indicated an interest in serving on committees. Any RSSG member interested in serving on committees during 1984-85 should indicate their interest to Paul Mausel or Don Rundquist via a letter or directly at the Washington, D.C. business meeting. The current committee membership is indicated below.

Awards Committee

Jack Estes, Chairperson
Department of Geography
University of California
Santa Barbara, California 93017

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

David Schwartz
Department of Geography
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San Jose, California 95192

Ray Lougeay
Department of Geography
SUNY-Geneseo
Geneseo, New York 14454

Ted Alsop
Department of Geography and Geology
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

Goals Committee

Neil Weber, Director, Chairperson
Mid America Remote Sensing Center
Murray State University
Murray, Kentucky 42071

William Hamilton
Department of Geography
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

Louis Trapasso
Department of Geography
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Michael Peterson
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University of Nebraska-Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska 68182

Nominations Committee

John Jensen, Chairperson
Department of Geography
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Ben Richason, Jr.
Department of Geography
Carroll College
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Robert Holz
Department of Geography
University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712

Program Committee

James Latham, Chairperson
Department of Geography
Florida Atlantic University
Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Thomas Morelli
Defense Mapping Agency
Washington, D. C.

Publications Committee

M. Leonard Bryan, Chairperson
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Mail Stop 183-701
Pasadena, California 91103

Merrill Ridd
University of Utah Research Institute
Center for Remote Sensing and Cartography
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Tina Cary
 Goddard Institute for Space Studies
 2880 Broadway
 New York, New York 10025

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

Kam Lulla
 Department of Geography and Geology
 Indiana State University
 Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

A. Awards Committee

This committee was lead early this academic year by Don Rundquist until Jack Estes assumed the chair late in the Fall. Jack and Don, with the assistance of Steve Dicks (student director of the RSSG), were responsible for starting to initiate awards as described in the August, 1983 RSSG Newsletter.

Two sets of awards will be given at the Washington, D. C. meeting this April if there was sufficient response from the membership. One award was to be for the best student paper in an RSSG sponsored paper session and a second award was to be for the best paper (student or non-student) in an RSSG sponsored poster session. The AAG Central Office has approved giving these awards, thus the RSSG has begun to turn a goal of the Awards Committee into a reality, if not this year certainly by next year.

Any RSSG member or person interested in remote sensing who has questions or wishes to make suggestions about awards should contact Dr. Jack Estes.

B. Goals Committee

The objectives of this committee are indicated below. Please send suggestions to Neil Weber.

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 1984-85 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. Suggestions to this committee should be made to James Latham, Chairperson

The largest number of paper and poster sessions ever sponsored by the RSSG will be given at the Washington, D.C. AAG meetings this April. Jim Latham and his committee was responsible for developing and/or organizing a majority of

these sessions. More information about all the remote sensing activities sponsored by the RSSG is provided in a separate section of this newsletter.

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/materials. Please send your suggestions to M. Leonard Bryan.

Len Bryan, with the assistance of Neil Weber, has paved the way for several remote sensing articles to be included in a future issue of the Professional Geographer. Details about this important breakthrough in getting remote sensing articles published in geographic journals is found under a separate heading in this edition of the RSSG Newsletter.

II. Nominations for RSSG 1984-85 Election

A slate of nominations for 1984-85 RSSG offices will be developed by the nominations committee (Jensen, Richason and Holz). Other names can be added to the ballot for any of the open offices by submitting a petition which provides five names of support from fellow RSSG members. Petitions with five or more names of RSSG members supporting a candidate for a RSSG office should be sent 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) Secretary/Treasurer; (3) Director; and (4) Student Director. Ron Mower will fill his second year as a director. Don Rundquist will automatically assume the chair since he currently is Vice-chairperson. Paul Mausel (Chair), Lee Williams (Secretary/Treasurer), Sam Goward (director), and Steve Dicks (Student Director) will have completed their terms as RSSG officials in Spring 1984.

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

Secretary/Treasurer: This is a two year position which focuses on being the fiscal officer of the RSSG as well as its recording secretary.

III. REQUEST FOR REMOTE SENSING PAPERS FOR PG PUBLICATION

The Publications Committee of the Remote Sensing Specialty Group requests papers to be considered for publication in a special issue of the PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHER. Papers should focus on some aspect of remote sensing, either theoretical or applied, which would be of interest to the members of the AAG. It is suggested that papers presented at the AAG annual meeting in APRIL 1984 would be appropriate for submission; however, it is not required that papers be so presented prior to submission for this publication.

All papers should be prepared as described and published in the INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS in each issue of the PROFESSIONAL GEOGRAPHER. Because of the dual review process for these papers (described below), it is requested that seven clear copies of each paper be submitted. It is, at present, uncertain if the PG will be able to sustain the full cost of continuous tone photography (either black and white or color) and therefore authors should be advised that they may be requested to help support publication costs for their imagery.

The review committee for these papers will be composed of the following AAG members: M. Leonard Bryan (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) - Chairman
Tina Cary (Goddard Inst. for Space Studies)
John Jensen (University of South Carolina)
Kam Lulla (Indiana State University)
Merrill Ridd (University of Utah)

Papers should be submitted to the Chairman of the review committee, in the P.G. format, by 01 JUN84. The committee will then review the papers and make their selection. The committee may, at that time, request revisions from the authors. On 01 OCT84 these selected and revised papers will be forwarded to the editor and staff of the P.G. This group will make the final decision concerning the publication of the papers. It is projected that the selected papers will be published in the spring of 1985.

Please forward publications in the proper format to:

M. Leonard Bryan, Chairman, P.G. Papers
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Mail Stop 183-701
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, California 91109

For inquiries concerning this announcement, please contact M. L. Bryan at the above address or via phone at (818) 354-3263.

IV. NEWLY AVAILABLE--SPACEBORNE IMAGING RADAR SLIDE SET

The Great Plains National Instructional Television Library, a service agency of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, has announced a new slide series which they published in conjunction with the National Council for Geographic Education. One of their new offerings for 1984, titled "Radar Remote Sensing from Space - Cultural Features", was designed and authored by M. Leonard Bryan (Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA) and Floyd M. Henderson (State University of New York, Albany). Their brochure indicates that the slide set "...offers fascinating radar images of the United States and the world - California,

New York, New Orleans, China, Brazil and more - from Seasat Satellite and the Space Shuttle Columbia." The set of 40 slides is available for \$40.00 from: GPN, Box 80669, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-0668.

V. Remote Sensing Activities/Programs Scheduled for the AAG National Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The RSSG has organized four paper sessions, a poster session, a field trip and two workshops for the Washington, D. C. meeting. A business meeting for the RSSG will be held and if possible a remote sensing open house will be developed similar to that given at the Denver meeting. 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 about all these activities will be given in the March RSSG Newsletter.

A. Workshop--The Basics of Satellite Land Remote Sensing

Dr. Ron Weinkauff has organized and developed the RSSG-sponsored workshop "The Basics of Satellite Land Remote Sensing". This 1½ day workshop will cost \$35/participant and is scheduled for April 21-22 immediately before the AAG meetings. The objective of the workshop is to foster greater understanding and instructional use of Landsat and other remotely sensed data among geographers new to the techniques of our specialty group. Emphasis is on the basics of existing satellite land remote sensing systems. Image interpretation, optical/digital processing, and field verification procedures are explained and practiced. Activities include oral/visual presentations by authorities in various phases of satellite remote sensing, indoor/outdoor image-data interpretation exercises and a field trip to Goddard Space Flight Center and vicinity. An image/data packet and basic documents will be supplied to participants.

The tentative schedule of the workshop is indicated below. Since participation is limited to a maximum of 30 persons it would be desirable for those interested in attending to reserve a slot in this workshop as soon as feasible. Further information about the workshop can be provided by Ron Weinkauff at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, Department of Geography and Earth Science, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601 (or call 606-785-8340).

SATURDAY APRIL 21, 1984

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SESSION LEADER*</u>
8:00-8:30 am	Coffee and donuts	Weinkauff, Ronald
8:30-9:00 am	Registration Plan of Workshop Distribution of Materials	Weinkauff, Ronald
9:00-10:00 am	Overview of Satellite Land Remote Sensing	Sheffield, Charles
10:00-11:00 am	Satellite Thermal Infrared Imagery	NOAA/NESDIS
11:00-12:00 am	Orbital Radar Imagery	Campbell, James
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00-2:00 pm	Field Preparation/Landsat Thematic Mapper Imagery	Bohn, Charles
2:00-4:30 pm	Field Trip (Goddard Space Flight Center)	Bohn, Charles

SUNDAY APRIL 22, 1984

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SESSION LEADER*</u>
8:30-9:30 am	Remote Sensing in Thailand	Ellefsen, Richard
9:30-10:45 am	Vegetation Analysis with Weather Satellite Imagery	NOAA/NESDIS
10:45-11:30 am	National Space Science Data Center	Vette, James

Geographic Information System Workshop

A second RSSG-sponsored workshop entitled "Geographic Information Systems: Theory and Practice" was organized and submitted by Charles Killpack, President of IRIS International. The status of this workshop is uncertain at this time because of technical reasons; however, if certain problems are solved, this workshop will be offered and it should be an excellent opportunity to remote sensing people to better understand GIS and its relationships to remote sensing. The March RSSG Newsletter will provide details about this workshop if it definitely will be offered at the Washington, D. C. AAG meeting.

B. Field Trip--NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Sam Goward of NASA/University of Maryland has organized a seven hour trip to the NASA facilities at Goddard Space Flight Center. Tentatively the trip will be on April 23 (Monday) from 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Up to 40 persons can participate. The cost will be approximately \$25 which includes transportation and a BBQ dinner at the NASA facility. Included in the field trip will be a tour of the Landsat assessment facilities at Goddard and numerous discussion/presentations about recent research by NASA scientists.

C. Paper Sessions and Poster Sessions

A 16 paper poster session entitled "Remote Sensing Applications and Research Methodology" is being sponsored by the RSSG. Dr. Jim Latham, (Florida Atlantic University), RSSG Program Chair, is the organizer of this large session.

Two RSSG-sponsored papers sessions of four papers each is being presented on the theme of global habitability/remote sensing. One of these sessions is entitled "Global-Scale Remote Sensing of Vegetation" and the other session is entitled "Global Monitoring and Modeling". Both sessions were organized and will be chaired by Dr. David Greeger, Jr. from the Department of Biology at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln Nebraska.

A third RSSG-sponsored paper session was organized by Jim Latham and will be chaired by Simon Baker (East Carolina University). This session is entitled "Environmental Studies and Data Analysis".

A fourth RSSG-sponsored paper session which will be presented in the format of a panel discussion was organized and will be chaired by Jim Latham. The title of the session is "Policy and Priorities for Geographic Remote Sensing". The discussants will include Roy Welch, Jack Estes, Richard Witmer, Ray Lougeay, and John Jensen.

Collectively, these five sessions include 34 presentations by more than 40 remote sensing oriented scientists. These presentations plus any other remote sensing papers not associated with the RSSG submission promise to provide a wealth of information for persons interested in remote sensing.

VI. RSSG Questionnaire

The RSSG has had few responses to its request for information via a remote sensing questionnaire published in the August, 1983 RSSG Newsletter. The information we need to acquire is important to students and other RSSG members, thus if you have not responded please do so prior to the April meeting in Washington, D.C. Send your completed questionnaire to Steven Dicks at the address indicated below.

Mr. Steven Dicks, RSSG Student Director
 Department of Geography
 University of Florida
 Gainesville, Florida 32611

The completed results will be made available to students and other RSSG members upon request to the student director. Thank you in advance for your participation.

1. Is the primary Remote Sensing facility at your University located within/ associated with the Department of Geography? If not, please indicate which administration unit houses the Remote Sensing Laboratory/Center.
2. How many faculty in the Department of Geography have expertise in Remote Sensing? Please provide names.
3. How many faculty in other departments of the university have expertise in Remote Sensing. Please provide names and departments.
4. Is Remote Sensing an "area of excellence" in the Geography Department - i.e., do you consider it a specialty of your department?
5. Please list the courses taught at your university which are aimed at Remote Sensing. Indicate whether they are taught at the undergraduate or graduate levels (or both), and the frequency with which the course is taught. A course description and average enrollment would also be useful.
6. How would you describe the automated image-processing capabilities at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please provide a list of important image-processing and related equipment.
7. How would you describe the photo-interpretation hardware capabilities at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please provide a list of important photo-interpretation and related equipment.
8. Have the Geography/Remote Sensing graduates from your university been successful in obtaining meaningful employment where their training in remote sensing has been put to good use? Please provide examples, if possible.
9. How many of your graduate assistants have teaching or research responsibilities related to Remote Sensing? Any detail which you could provide here would be appreciated.
10. How many Geography theses/dissertations involving Remote Sensing have been completed in your department in the last five years? Names and titles would be helpful here.

11. How would you describe the data holdings, both photographs/images and computer-compatible tapes, at your university; poor, fair, good, or excellent? Please indicate where your strengths lie with regard to data.
12. Would you recommend your Geography Department to prospective students who desire training in Remote Sensing?

VII. Landsat Coverage of China Available

The China Map and Imagery Repository at the University of Kansas has acquired complete Landsat coverage of China. FCC images are available for most areas. For those areas where suitable FCC images were unavailable, bands 5 and 7 BW images were selected. The collection is available for use on campus by researchers, by appointment. CMIR also has complete contemporary 1:250,000 scale map coverage of China, and selected 1:50,000 scale coverage.

The Landsat collection is available in its entirety or by region on 35 mm slides. An index map and image listing (date of coverage, image type) is available on request. The complete set of 400 color and 135 Band 7 (or Band 5 if preferred) slides is available for \$850. Individual slides or selected regions are available at \$2 per slide. Each slide is a high quality reproduction from the original image and retains enough resolution to allow moderately detailed analysis. Further information is available on request from CMIR, Department of Geography, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045.

VIII. RSSG Membership--Need for Membership Fee

More than 250 persons checked 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.

There is no cost in becoming a RSSG member although the RSSG requests that a \$5.00 per year fee be paid to the Sec/Treasurer. Currently, very few of the membership had paid this voluntary \$5.00 fee. We encourage all members to send a \$5.00 membership fee to the RSSG Sec/Treasurer, Lee Williams, at the address below.

The funds from the \$5.00 fee are needed to help support awards, cover some RSSG Newsletter cost, and support some costs associated with RSSG activities at the AAG national meeting.

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

This edition of the RSSG Newsletter was written, edited, and published by: Paul W. Mausel (Indiana State University) and T.H. Lee Williams (University of Kansas). Questions or comments about information provided in this newsletter can be addressed to either of these editors at the geography department of their university.