

# cartographic perspectives

Number 9, Spring 1991

## message from the executive director

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It gives me great pleasure to respond to the editor's request to address you as the new executive director of this vital young organization. NACIS is beginning its second decade in a position of considerable strength. This strength is, I believe, derived from several factors. We have been fortunate in our selection of elected leadership, for the vision of the organization they have pursued. We are fortunate to have had efficient and reliable executive directors to handle the day to day business of the organization, and we are fortunate to have committees which have worked well and with a purpose. In a sense though, to say 'fortunate' ascribes to mere luck our success, which is in truth a natural outcome of the dynamism of our organization.

Not listed in my litany of 'fortunates' is that on which your attention is currently focused. And again, given our membership, it is not especially surprising that we possess the human capital to produce a journal of such exceptional quality (several colleagues have remarked that it is the only cartographic journal which they read from cover to cover). This





cartographic perspectives

bulletin of the  
North American Cartographic  
Information Society

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ISSN 1048-9058

*Cartographic Perspectives*  
is published quarterly

gets me to the central point of this letter. Although it's frequently touted that an advantage of the Society is its compact size, we currently find ourselves engaged with a 'threshold' problem: our income falls short of what CP costs. This is not cause for immediate panic, but the problem must be successfully addressed within the next year. We do have a number of options: a) raise dues, b) decrease the number of issues per year, c) lessen the quality of the product, or d) moderately increase our memberships (especially institutional).

To my mind, option 'd' is the most reasonable. It is within our power to attain, and does not require backsliding or additional pain to our membership. *Cartographic Perspectives* is a journal

worthy of any college or university library, or library serving a cartographically inclined clientele.

**Why aren't we promoting it?** I suspect because no one thought of it. My own naivete should serve as an example. Wanting to be a good Joe in this time of austerity, I have been donating my copy to the library, a fact I pointed out at the last NACIS Board meeting.

"You're doing WHAT? — We need institutional memberships, make your library subscribe."

The above cited austerity is real, and I don't propose that we set a goal of thousands of institutional memberships. But if we had just **one hundred** total institutional members we would be running well in the black. This is not an unreasonable goal, and I believe that if each of us were to promote CP to our own libraries, we would be well on the way.

Before signing off, I must make one additional, related appeal — **REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES**. Late dues payments cause all sorts of problems, especially for those responsible for distributing CP. We don't want to suspend your subscription any more than you want it suspended, but we cannot continue to send copies to (former) members for more than a few months. If you are reading this you've probably paid your dues, and I apologize for bothering you. However, as a member, you should realize that this is an ongoing organizational problem which will not go away, and requires our constant attention (next year).

Finally, I should say that following Ron Bolton will make my job both easier and more difficult. Easier because of the condition in which NACIS affairs were left, but more difficult in maintaining the high standards set by him. I believe the organization owes Ron a large debt of gratitude, and me, a lot of leeway.

Thank you for your attention,

and I sincerely hope to see you all in Milwaukee next October!

**Christopher Baruth**

*Executive Director*

*cartographic perspectives  
on the news*

**CALIFORNIA GPS NETWORK  
SIDESTEPS CENSORSHIP**

Global Positioning System satellite data is subject to the Defense Department policy of degrading its quality in the interest of preventing potential adversaries from using the information to guide missiles in wartime. However, that policy is not affecting the scientific programs of the nation's first continuously monitoring GPS network in California.

At the American Geophysical Union meeting held in San Francisco, scientists reported that their new system overcomes the DOD application of "selective availability" by using multiple receivers to make simultaneous measurements. They stress, however, that GPS selective availability does have adverse effects on networks with non-simultaneous observations.

GPS is a constellation of satellites put into orbit by the Defense Department since the early 1980s to support military and commercial air navigation around the world by supplying precise location information. Earth scientists soon learned that the signal could also be used to measure the relative position between two sites to an accuracy of millimeters. So far, most geophysicists using GPS have focused on movements of crustal plates, including crustal deformation, earthquakes, volcanoes, and related global changes.

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