Summer Chapter Meeting

On June 17th, 2008, the Oklahoma Chapter hosted members of the geospatial community from across the state at the Tulsa Community College-Metro Campus for a jam packed informational seminar. The first presentation was given by Ami Arthur, Research Associate with the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies at the National Severe Storms Laboratory. Ami introduced the audience to Flash Flood Prediction Modeling and its use of geospatial data. She explained the entire process, from using available digital elevation models to basin delineation and warning announcement.

In continuation of the weather theme, Tulsa News Channel 8 Meteorologist Frank Mitchell highlighted details about “Frank’s WeatherCall,” which uses state-of-the-art storm-based warnings (recently implemented by the National Weather Service) and geocoded locations of a participant’s home or business to deliver precision warnings over the phone, 24 hours a day. In the past, every person living within a county received storm warnings, increasing the number of individuals notified that were in no danger. Now, warnings are sent out only to those within the more refined storm-based warning. For more information on the program, visit KTUL Weathercall (http://cfc.ktul.com/external).

Next, Sterling Overturf, business systems analyst, demonstrated the GIS System Architecture deployed and managed by ONEOK. He provided a glimpse of its system and the platform-diverse consumers of the information his team provides. One particular focus was on the details about the variety of users and the custom applications developed to enhance their productivity.

The final technical presentation was given by Jeff Chamberlain with Intermap Technologies. He introduced the audience to his company and their suite of products, specifically the acquisition of digital elevation data using IFSAR (Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar) technology. After a thorough explanation of both the pros and cons of IFSAR versus LiDAR for various applications, many questions from the audience were fielded.
Last, but not least, Lisa Connor (GITA membership services manager) along with Chapter President Robert Stokes encouraged those attendees who were not members to join, and proceeded to draw for door prizes. Congratulations to Kate Iwata, GIS Specialist, ONEOK, who won the grand prize of a one-year free individual membership to GITA!

**Fall Meeting Plans**

A fall meeting is being planned with target dates of October 14 or 21st. The meeting will take place in the Oklahoma City area and will feature presentations about the important topics of interoperability and business cases for geospatial implementations. We plan to have a panel discussion, featured speaker, and a vendor spotlight. Lunch will be provided.

How Geospatial Information Technology interacts with other operational and IT systems is a key part of achieving maximum return on investment. The goal of the fall meeting is to examine the technology and workflows associated with interoperability and how these can be leveraged in improving ROI and facilitating business justification for implementing or expanding the use of Geospatial Information Technology in your organization. More information concerning the meeting will be available soon. If you are interested in speaking, please contact Robert Stokes (Robert.Stokes@Topographic.com).

**Get Involved: Upcoming Fall Elections**

The Oklahoma GITA Chapter will begin its elections for executive committee positions in November. All positions are open for nominations and we encourage anyone who is interested to get involved. If you would like more information about member roles or the election process, please contact Robert Stokes (Robert.Stokes@Topographic.com) or Kris Gill (kgill@aplmc.com).

**Other Upcoming Events in Oklahoma**

- **Oklahoma Geographic Information Council Meeting**
  10:30 a.m.
  Water Resources Board Building
  2nd Floor Conference Room
  3800 North Classen, Oklahoma City, OK
  September 5, 2008

- **Oklahoma South Central Arc User Group**
  Moore Norman Technology Center
  South Penn Campus
  Oklahoma City, OK
  September 29, 2008 - October 3, 2008

- **Oklahoma Emergency Management Association Conference**
  Reed Center
  Midwest City, Oklahoma
  October. 7- October. 9th, 2008

- **Midcontinent Prospect Expo Clarion Meridian Convention Center**
  Oklahoma City, OK
  Sponsored by the Oklahoma City Geological Society (OCGS) and the Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS)
  October 29, 2008

**In Support of Our Own**

When Chapter Secretary Kris Gill was six years old, arthritis stole her ability to walk. This September, Kris will be participating in a physical and mental challenge to make a difference for herself and others fighting arthritis. The California Coast Classic Bicycle Tour is a group of volunteers who commit to train for and bicycle 525 miles from San Francisco to Los Angeles in an effort to raise money for arthritis research, patient services, and educational programs.

The Oklahoma Chapter has committed to helping Kris in her goal to raise $5,000. To learn more about Kris’ personal story, go to [Kris Gill](http://cccsocal.kintera.org/krisgill).

We encourage you to learn more about an affliction that nearly 46 million Americans suffer from, two-thirds of which are under the age of 65. We encourage you to make a tax-deductible donation to help affect change in the lives of others. Every donation, large or small, brings us all one step closer to reaching Kris’ goal as well as those of the [Arthritis Foundation](http://www.arthritis.org/). For more information on the event, please go to: [California Coast Classic](http://www.californiacoastclassic.org).