

VGIS NEWS

A quarterly publication for the users and developers of Vermont's spatial data produced by the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.

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- EmergencyE911_ESITE, E911 Site locations (buildings, hydrants, public phones, ..)
- EmergencyE911_ESZ, E911 Emergency Service Zone data layer
- EmergencyE911_RDS, E911 Road center lines from 1:5000 orthophotos and GPS
- EmergencyE911_SHEETS, E911 Atlas Map Sheets Boundaries
- LandLandcov_LCA19962006, Landcover Change Analysis (LCA) - 1996-2006 (NOAA)
- TransRoad_RDS, VTrans Road centerlines from 1:5000 orthos and GPS
- TransRoad_RDSMAJ1, Major road centerlines extracted from TransRoad_RDS
- TransRoad_RDSMAJ2, Major road centerlines extracted from TransRoad_RDS

HAPPENINGS AT VCGI

New and Updated Data at the VGIS Warehouse

VCGI Data Warehouse Web Page

New Data:

- GeologicSurficial_CONTACTS24K, Surficial Geology Maps - 24K
- LandLandcov_LCLULCB01, Generalized Landcover/use for Champlain Basin - SAL 2001
- LandLandcov_LCLULCB92, Generalized Landcover/use for Champlain Basin - SAL 1992
- TransRoad_LRS2007, VTrans Linear Reference System (2007)
- TransRoad_RTLOGPTS2007, VTrans 2007 Route Log intersection and LRS calibration pts

Updated Data:

- EmergencyE911_DW, Driveways captured for E911 use

VCGI Offers RSS Feeds

Leslie Pelch, VCGI



VCGI recently created two VT GIS RSS feeds (RSS has various definitions, but the easiest is Really Simple Syndication) in order to make “headline news” available in a simple convenient manner to those who subscribe . We created one feed to provide only topics that might be of interest to those outside the state, and one that includes a wider array of topics of interest to locals.

You will see the RSS Feed symbol somewhere on your tool bar and if you click on the drop down arrow next to it you can choose to view the local or national feed. Then you click on “subscribe to this feed” after you take a look. I will do my best to add interesting content to these feeds, but I hope that all of you will send me interesting tidbits as well: lesliep@vcgi.org.

New Geocoding Web Service

Steve Sharp, VCGI

VCGI has released a new Geocoding Web Service called GEOCODE_ESITE. It allows ArcGIS Desktop 9.2+ users to batch geocode addresses directly from ArcMap. Just load a table containing addresses into ArcMap, link to VCGI's geocoding service, and bingo...you've got geocoded addresses (shapefile).

We don't guarantee Google-like match rates (if you're getting 70-80% you're doing well), however, the results you do get will be more accurate than geocoding against standard road centerline / address range information. The other benefit is that you don't need to download anything, just use the service when you need it. Other geocoding services (such as www.batchgeocode.com) can be used to geocode those records that don't get mapped via GEOCODE_ESITE.

Type "geocode" into the keyword search at the VCGI web site (either at the data warehouse or in the keyword search box found in the upper left corner of every page) for more information!

Introduction to GIS Training Being Offered in Rutland and Montpelier

Leslie Pelch, VCGI

VCGI is offering a 12-hour course (consisting of three 4-hour classes) for municipal officials, K-12 educators, and others this summer.

The course will be offered in Rutland (July 9, 16, 23) and Montpelier (August 6, 13, 20). Topics that will be covered in the course are described below. The fee for the course is \$50 and includes a 150-page training manual.

This course will provide training designed to teach basic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) knowledge and skills. It is not required that the intended participant have

any prior experience using GIS, but familiarity with using computers (especially basic file management) is important.

Using free software (ArcExplorer - Java Edition for Education (v2.2.3)) participants will explore mapping options and resources they can continue to use when they return to their office or classroom. Exercises and supplemental information provide additional opportunities for exploration.

The successful completion of these exercises will give participants the skills necessary to:

- Acquire, evaluate, and use digital geographic data in a GIS application
- Modify the appearance of geographic data layers
- Perform simple queries and analyses, and
- Create and export maps and data.

Exercises use ArcExplorer - Java Edition for Education (v2.2.3) software from ESRI. ArcExplorer is a **free**, downloadable software package specifically designed to explore geographic data for both Windows-based and Macintosh OS X-based computers.

If you would like to participate, please contact Leslie to verify that there is room in the course of your choice: lesliep@vcgi.org or 882-3002.

VCGI and VGS Partner to Create Statewide Surficial Geology Data

David Brotzman, VCGI

VCGI, in partnership with the Vermont Geological Survey, has awarded a contract for the digitization of the state's Surficial Geology. The contract was awarded to VHB Pioneer in Vergennes, VT through an RFP process. VHB Pioneer will be creating a single state-wide surficial geology data layer by digitizing the states existing hardcopy field notes and analysis as recorded upon USGS quadrangles scaled primarily at 1:62,500 scale. The digitized quadrangle-based data will then be edge-matched into a single, unified statewide surficial geology data file. This data will be completed in mid-summer and available for public access soon after from VCGI.

VOICES FROM ALL SECTORS

Notes From VTrans

Sara Moulton, VTrans

nVidia - PLTS MPS Atlas

Note that if you want to use the MPS Atlas feature in PLTS, the computer you are using needs to have an nVidia graphics card. Without it, MPS Atlas is too unstable to produce a product. VTrans experienced a variety of unpredictable errors that couldn't be traced. The issue turned out to be an unsupported video card.

Onboard Navigation Data Problem

Periodically, we receive complaints that someone's onboard car navigation system has shown a road that turns out to be a Proposed highway, or a Class 4 Primitive or Impassible road, with the result that the driver was greatly inconvenienced by the experience. We'll repeat our mantra "Read the Metadata." If you are involved in placing the Transroad_RDS data layer into an onboard navigation system, please pay particular attention to the attributes "AOTCLASS" and "SURFACE".

AOTCLASS Exclusion Query

When using the VTrans road centerline data layer, you might find it helpful to use variations of the following exclusion query clause: ([AOTCLASS] NOT in (5,6,7,8,9,25,34,35,42,44,45,46,52,56,57,70) and [AOTCLASS] < 80). (Refer to the metadata associated with the data layer to double-check what you are excluding.) In ArcMap, SQL queries can be saved and loaded for future reuse, so you don't have to type in this clause every time you want to use it. Note that there is different syntax between layers stored in SDE, personal geodatabase, or shapefile formats, especially with wildcards and fieldnames.

Basic information about forming a SQL statement in ArcMap can be found at: http://webhelp.esri.com/arcgisdesktop/9.2/index.cfm?TopicName=About_building_an_SQL_expression.

Questions? Contact Sara at 802-828-2109 or Sara.Moulton@state.vt.us

Kudos!

Congratulations to the following members of the VT GIS community who have either received recognition or attained professional certification:



Chittenden County RPC Receives Special Achievement in GIS Award from ESRI - Each year ESRI, a leading company in designing and developing Geographic information technology, honors organizations that use GIS to improve our world. CCRPC is among the most active regional planning commissions in Vermont in their use of GIS to support community planning. CCRPC supports data development, town plans, and project-based mapping for the Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO), CCRPC, and its 19 member communities. Congratulations to Pam Brangan, GIS Services Administrator for CCRPC!

John Waterman of GCS Research Wins First Prize in ArcGIS Server Code Challenge - John Waterman, vice president of Geospatial Solutions at GCS Research in East Burke, Vermont, won first prize for his entry, *Display Geospatial Analysis Results in Google Maps and Microsoft Virtual Earth with ArcGIS Server*. "A lot of our customers at GCS Research ask us how to build custom applications using Google Maps and Microsoft Virtual Earth software," says Waterman. "The ArcGIS Server Code Challenge was the perfect opportunity to demonstrate how easily GIS and custom databases can be added to this software using their included APIs. People want to use these programs for geospatial analysis, and some are already using the script in their work, which is great to see." - from the ESRI web site (via Jon Hall of microDATA) <http://www.esri.com/news/arcwatch/0408/agserver-challenge-winners.html>

Steve Sharp of VCGI Attains GISP Certification from the GIS Certification Institute - A GISP is a certified geographic information systems (GIS) Professional who has met the minimum standards for ethical conduct and professional practice as established by the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI). In order to attain this certification, an applicant completes an application that reflects professional experience,

education, and contributions to the profession. Visit the GISCI web site for more information, and remember that the “grandfathering” deadline (which allows the applicant to substitute experience for deficiencies in education and contributions) is January 1, 2009! www.gisci.org

mashup that allows users to put a “virtual pin” in a map showing what type of Internet access they have at home. Turn check marks on and off to see who accesses the Internet thru an air card in their computer, over a cell phone network, or only through dial-up. It will help the VTA find out where there is and isn’t adequate coverage around the state.

<http://www.telecomvt.org/>

Cool Stuff

An Atlas of Radical Cartography

This book is a collection of 10 maps and 10 essays about social issues from globalization to garbage; surveillance to extraordinary rendition; statelessness to visibility; deportation to migration. The map is inherently political—and the contributions to this book wear their politics on their sleeves.

<http://www.an-atlas.com/>

Maps of Strange

The Map Of Strange website is a way of recording strange, wacky, weird and wonderful anomalies, sights and oddities from Google Maps and Google Earth.

<http://www.mapofstrange.com/>

Mapping of China Earthquake

Satellite images of the Beichuan area of Sichuan, released by Taiwan’s National Space Organization in the days after the May 12 earthquake, showed huge landslides. The river running down from the mountains and through the devastated town of Beichuan was blocked by earth (seen as brown). Roads were covered and buildings swept away.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7404614.stm>

Fantom Planet Geo Blog

A geo-blog that includes a great list of Geography/GIS book suggestions.

<http://fantomplanet.wordpress.com/>

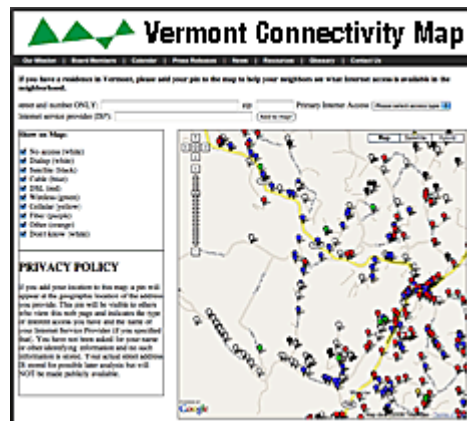
KML Validator

An automated KML validation engine that will make it easier to develop and test KML tools and components, and will contribute to the increasingly wide spread adoption of KML.

<http://www.kmlvalidator.com>

Vermont Connectivity Map

The VT Telecommunications Authority has created a



Calendar

VT History EXPO - June 21 and 22, 2008

VCGI will be at the Vermont History Expo, a collection of 150 local historical societies, museums, and heritage organizations that meet annually to create a fresh picture of Vermont history with exhibits, family activities, music, food, presentations, performances, and lots more in a timeless fairgrounds setting. <http://vermonthistory.org>

Teaching With Spatial Technologies (TwIST) Workshop July 7-11, 2008

Empowering Student Discovery Through GIS is designed to teach K-14 teachers in the United States how to use Geographic Information Technology (GIT) in the classroom. <http://www.iagt.org/twist/>

Intro to GIS Training - July 9, 16, 23, 2008

see article in this newsletter <http://www.vcgi.org>

VT Roundtable Conference July 17, 2008

see article in this newsletter, <http://www.vcgi.org/vsdp>

ESRI User Conference August 4 - 8, 2008

You’re invited to come together with GIS users from

more than 120 countries and share in the amazing activity, energy, and motivation that stem from the ESRI UC every year. <http://www.esri.com>

Intro to GIS Training - August 6, 13, 20, 2008

see article in this newsletter, <http://www.vcgi.org>

NEARC 2008 September 21- 24 2008

The Northeast Arc Users Group Conference will feature keynote sessions, vendor demonstrations, poster displays and over 60 technical workshops and user presentations. <http://www.northeastarc.org>



New England ArcGIS Server User Group Created

Tim Gunn, Microdesk, Inc.

There is now a NEAGS (New England ArcGIS Server User Group) group up on Google Groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/neags>. You can view all messages online or sign up for various levels of email notifications. These are some of your options:

1. No Email - I will read this group on the web
2. Abridged Email (No more than 1 email per day) - Get a summary of new activity each day
3. Digest Email (Approximately 1 email per day) - Get up to 25 full new messages bundled into a single email
4. Email (Approximately 1 email per day) - Send each message to me as it arrives

Jason Wise (GIS Manager for the City of Portsmouth, NH) and I started this group about a year ago with the intent of holding meetings with interested users throughout the northeast (not just New England). The only reason we used New England in the name is because this is a worldwide site and we wanted to be clear that we're in the US northeast. So far the topics have been introductory in nature. However, in time, I expect more users will have an interest in moderate to advanced topics.

Meeting locations can be anywhere that there's enough interested users that can make it and the topics will range from installation to custom development.

VTrans Makes Available Vast Archive of Digitized Maps

Johnathan Croft, VTrans

The Vermont Agency of Transportation, Mapping Unit is making available the vast archive of town highway maps, county maps, and other miscellaneous state maps from our files. At this point, this is not the full collection of maps, but currently over 5000 maps have been scanned and are now available for download. This project is the culmination of many hours of work by our Scanning, IT, and Mapping staff.

To find out more about this endeavor and how to access the maps, please go to the following web site:

http://www.aot.state.vt.us/planning/MapGIS/mapping_maparchive.htm

If you have any questions or comments regarding the map archive, please do not hesitate to ask:

Johnathan Croft: (802) 828-2600.

Web Mapping: The New Geography Conference A Success!

Leslie Pelch, VCGI

June 2 turned out to be a pleasant day, weather-wise, which I was particularly grateful for as all participants in the New Geography conference were filing down the stairs and out the doors of the Davis Center at UVM...at about 9:30 AM. We hadn't planned on having a fire drill, but we joked that it was a scheduled open-air networking opportunity to break up the keynote time slot. Luckily, our participants were as good natured as usual, Don Cooke's

keynote was engaging enough to keep them hooked through a sudden interruption, and we had built in some time between the keynote and the beginning of the first concurrent sessions - so we managed to stay on schedule!

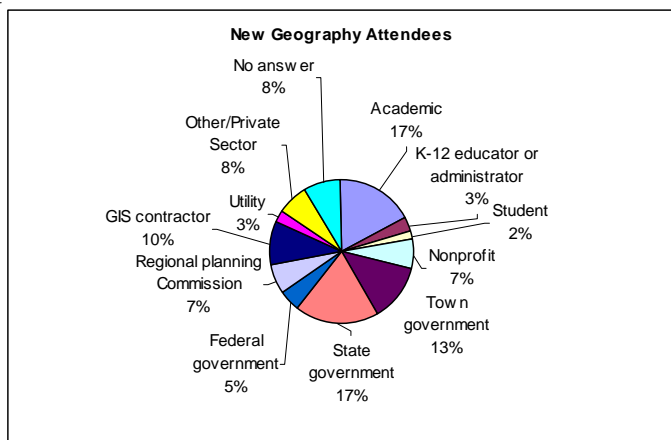
Most of you are probably more interested in the content of the conference and how well received it was. Almost all of the presentations are currently posted at the VCGI web site, and we received many enthusiastic comments throughout the day and afterwards. About 120 people participated in the day, and they came from a variety of different sectors with varying levels of GIS Skill:

NEWS FROM THE VSDP

Next Roundtable Scheduled for July 17 at VTC

Leslie Pelch, VCGI

The Roundtable Planning Committee has put together a conference that includes many topics requested by members of the VT GIS community via Feedback Forms at previous Roundtables! The venue is once again VT Technical College in Randolph which we hope is a central enough location to serve all interested participants! Here is the tentative schedule (schedule and registration form are posted at the VSDP web page www.vcgi.org/vsdp, click on Events):

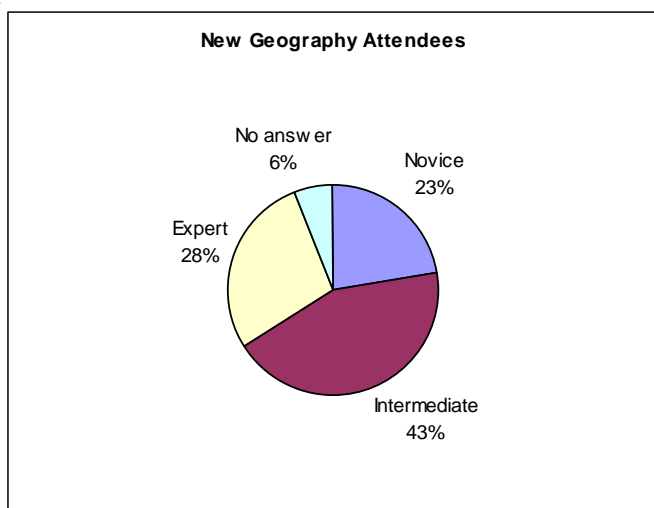


8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Coffee, Pastries, and Welcome!

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM:

- Using Lidar Data at VELCO - Jarrod Harper, VELCO
- Bicycle/Pedestrian GIS Projects Panel - Judy Bond (moderator)
- Muni Track: Using GIS for Planning - Presenter/moderator TBA

If you would like to view the posted presentations, visit the web page at www.vcgi.org/geoweb.



10:15 AM - 11:15 AM:

- Common Pitfalls When Working With Raster Data In an ArcGIS Environment - Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne, UVM
- Natural Resources GIS Projects - Presenter/moderator TBA
- Muni Track: Using GIS for Municipal Utilities - Kaytee Manchester, Stantec

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM:

- What's New with ArcGIS 9.3 - Carl Nysten, ESRI
- Muni Track: Everything You Need to Know About Tax Mapping...in an hour? - VCGI staff and RPC staff

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM **Lunch** (and GPSdemonstrations!)

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM:

- Geoprocessing/Model Builder - Dan Currier, CVRPC
- Cartography in ArcGIS - ESRI Staff
- Muni Track: Does VT's Future Include Statewide Digital Tax/Parcel Data? - David Brotzman, VCGI

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

- The National Grid - Lin Neifert, USGS
- Update From VT E911 - Jeremy McMullen and Angus McCusker, VT E911
- Muni Track: The ESRI Small Municipal and County Government Enterprise License Agreement Program - Carl Nysten, ESRI

This Is Not a Top Ten List...

*From the Phantom Planet Blog
(see page 4 of this newsletter)*

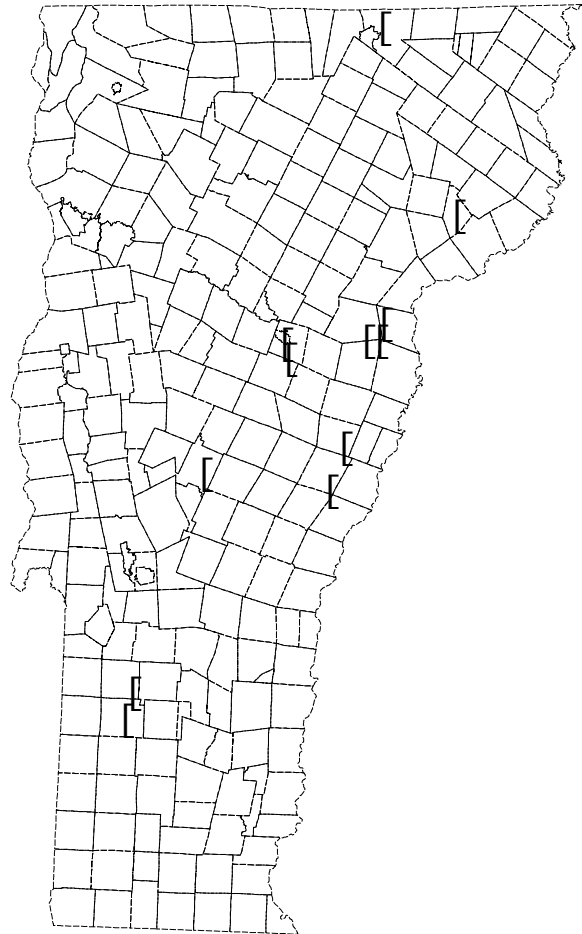
Edgar Horwood from the University of Washington (and first president of URISA) had a series of “short laws” that every paleo and neogeographer should know :

- Good data is the data you already have
- Bad data drives out good
- The data you have for the present crisis was collected to relate to the previous one
- The respectability of existing data grows with elapsed time and distance from the data source to the investigator
- Data can be moved from one office to another but it cannot be created or destroyed
- If you have the right data you have the wrong problem and vice versa
- The important thing is not what you do but how you measure it
- In complex systems there is no relationship between information gathered and the decision made
- Acquisition from knowledge is an exception
- Knowledge flows at half the rate at which academic courses proliferate

Your article, joke, map, or rant could be here! Send your ideas to Leslie for inclusion in the next VGIS News!

Mystery Map Contest

This quarter I am awarding the Mystery Map prize to the only person who sent in a correct response: John Broker-Cambell of Southern Windsor County RPC. The map showed Local Emergency Planning Committees (not counties or RPC boundaries!). Congratulations John!



What is indicated by the stars in the map above? Your only clue is that the points are extracted from the geonames data layer. Please submit your responses to Leslie at leslie@vcgi.org or at the address given on the back page of the newsletter. The winner, drawn from among the respondents who send in correct answers, will receive his or her choice of data CD: Starter Kit, Soils, or Topos.

VGIS NEWS

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Please send us feedback, articles, calendar items,
questions, and interesting tidbits. If you would like to
submit something, please send it to the attention of
Leslie Pelch.



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