

FieldNotes...

Affiliated with the
National Society of
Professional Surveyors

The Monthly Newsletter of the **Maine Society of Land Surveyors**

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Your Story?
Maybe in the next issue?
Send it in; we'd love to have it!
Pages 1, 2, 3, or more!

Fall Meeting Program Announced



The 2026 Fall Meeting will be held at **Keeley's Banquet Center**, 178 Warren Ave, Portland on Friday, October 2nd. The event will offer 5.5 CEUs, our General Membership Meeting, and plenty of great surveyor camaraderie.

Your hosts, **Narragansett Chapter**, have worked hard to line up and offer the following informative and interesting program:

Registration
7:30 am – 08:00 am

Speaker Guy Ladd Maine DOT Chief Surveyor
08:00 am – 09:30 am



Break
09:30 am -10:00 am

Speaker Jake Clark Maine Geo Library
10:00 am – 11:30 am



MSLS Fall General Membership Business Meeting
11:30 am-12:00 pm

Lunch
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Terry Bennett: "Surveying Easter Island"
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm



Break
2:30 pm – 2:45

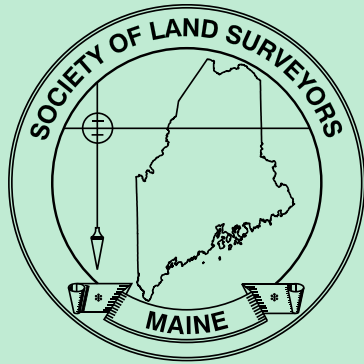
Speaker Guy Ladd Maine DOT Chief Surveyor
2:45 pm – 3:45



Mark your calendars and save Friday, October 2nd!

MSLS Contact Information

Levi Ladd, President	416-5644
Jonathan Stewart, Vice President	947-0019
Kevin Farrar, Secretary	215-6340
Jimmy Courbron, Treasurer	200-1678
Ellen Brewer, Director At Large	767-0821
Judd Vear, Director At Large	200-5877
Keith Morse, Androscoggin	754-5937
Spencer Caron, Crown of Maine	532-7313
Karl Olson, MidCoast	882-7008
Wayne Wood, Narragansett	657-3330
Nathan Rice, Penobscot	942-1680
Stephen Gould, Somerset	474-6223
Matt Ek, NSPS Director	831-9470
Cassandra Quintal, Immediate Past Pres.	577-5840
Daniel Bernier, Esq., Legislative Monitor	877-8969
Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director	882-5200
	director@msls.org



Legislative Committee
(Jonathan Stewart - Chair & Daniel Bernier, Esq.)

Nominating & Membership Committee
(Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Budget & Finance Committee (Jimmy Courbron)

Board of Licensure (Jonathan Stewart - Liaison)

NSPS (Matt Ek, NSPS Director)

SVT at UM (Stephen Gould - Liaison)

GIS (Greg Copeland - Liaison)

FEMA (Mark Carpenter - Liaison)

DOT (Guy Ladd - Liaison)

Education Committee - (Cassandra Quintal - Chair)

Scholarship Committee
(John Lloyd & Stephen Gould - Co-Chairs)

Historical Committee - (Levi Ladd - Chair)

Benevolent & Betterment Benevolent Fund Com't
(Matt Ek - Chair)

Program Committee
(Steve Gould & John Lloyd Co-Chairs)

Publications, FieldNotes and Website
(Bruce Bourgoine)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Cabana, Wales, ME
June 18, 2026

Members Present

Officers -	
President	Levi Ladd (Zoom)
Vice President	Jon Stewart (Zoom)
Secretary	Kevin Farrar
Treasurer	Jimmy Courbron
Directors -	
Crown of Maine	Spencer Caron (Zoom)
Narragansett	Wayne Wood
NSPS Director	Matt Ek (Zoom)
Past President	Cassandra Quintal

President Ladd was logged in via zoom but was driving during the meeting so Cassandra Quintal ran the meeting and called it to order at 6:03.

Legislative Committee (Jon Stewart) – No report. The Legislature is not in session.

Secretary Report (Kevin Farrar) – The minutes from the May 15th ExCom meeting held at Fogg Brook Resort in Palmyra were accepted as printed. Motion to accept made by Cass, seconded by Wayne, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (Jimmy Courbron) – There is currently \$48,481 in the Checking Account. The Bereavement and Betterment Fund (B&B) account has a balance of \$14,446.55. Jimmy transferred about \$470 to the B&B fund as a result of the golf tourney. The scholarship fund contains \$285,279.14 which is down almost \$3000 over the amount reported last month. Jimmy said that we now have enough money in the B&B fund to consider investing some of it. Moved to approve by Wayne, seconded by Spencer, passed unanimously.

Executive Dir. Report (Bruce Bourgoine) – Bruce's written report is below.

From:	Bruce Bourgoine, Executive Director
Regarding:	April & May 2026 Report
Date:	June 5, 2026

Here are the items focused upon during April & May:

Spring Meeting planning and logistics, promotion to members and nonmembers, coordination with venue, registration, on-site support, and issuing CEUs.

Support B&B Golf Tourney promotion and invoicing.

Routine matters of ExCom meeting preparation, deposits, broadcast e-mails, website updates, FieldNotes publication, and handling external and member communications as required.

Looking ahead, the following items will be of focus in July and August:

Assist Narragansett Chapter with the Fall Meeting initial coordination.

Finalize searching for a location for the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Launching the historical records benefit for members via our AMS (website).

As always, I look forward to your feedback to assist efforts to meet Society goals.

Nominating & Membership Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – No news on nominating, the membership report follows.

June 2026 Report	Member type	June 5	April 7	+/-
	Associate	27	27	0
	Complimentary	2	2	0
	Honorary	8	8	0
	Life	10	10	0
	Life Charter	2	2	0
	Out of State	23	23	0
	Out of State Charter	1	1	0
	Regular	163	163	0
	Retired	31	31	0
	Student	15	15	0
	Sustaining Individual	1	1	0
	Sustaining	7	7	0
		-----	-----	
		290	290	0

Education Committee (Cassandra Quintal) – No report.

Scholarship Committee (John Lloyd & Steve Gould) – No report.

Benevolent & Betterment Fund Committee (Matt Ek) – No report.

Historical Committee (Levi Ladd) – No update.

Public Relations Committee – No report.

Next Pending General Membership Meeting – The next general membership meeting will be hosted by the Narragansett Chapter and will be held on October 2nd at Keeley's Banquet Center in Portland. Guy Ladd will be presenting a seminar on MDOT's on-line access for plans and survey information. The chapter is also planning to have a speaker there from Maine GIS to go over recent changes with that website and help with accessing data.

LIAISONS –

Board of Licensure (Jon Stewart) – The last meeting was held on April 28th and the next meeting will be held on June 23rd. Cass said she watched the meeting and they had an interesting case involving unlicensed practice. That person was referred to the DA's office.

NSPS (Matt Ek, Director) – Matt said that the registration for the NSPS fall meeting to be held in South Dakota, opened today and he booked his travel. Matt said that he met with some congressional staffers at the NSPS spring meeting in DC.

SVT at UMaine (Rich Vannozzi) – No report.

CMCC (Cassandra Quintal) – No report.

GIS (Greg Copeland) – Maine GIS is scheduled to have a presenter at the fall meeting.

FEMA (Mark Carpenter) – No report.

MDOT (Guy Ladd) – MDOT will also have a presenter at the fall meeting.

Registries (Kevin Sargent) – Jon said that he has talked to the Washington County Registrar and the York County Registrar about permitting color.

Chapter Reports –

Androscoggin Chapter (Keith Morse) – No report. **Narragansett** Chapter (Wayne Wood) – Working on the Fall Meeting
Crown of Maine Chapter (Spencer Caron) – No report. **MidCoast** Chapter (Karl Olson) – No report.
Penobscot/Hancock Chapter (Nate Rice) – No report. **Somerset** Chapter (Steve Gould) – No report.

Unfinished Business –

Spring Meeting review – Bruce included a 'profit/loss' printout with our meetings materials. The venues fee for the meeting room and food (plus taxes) was 3,911.95. Meeting book printing costs were \$501.60. Total expenses were \$4,538.55.

Registration money taken in was a total of \$7,345 for a profit of \$2806.45. Our 2026 budget targeted a profit of \$2500.

B & B golf tourney review – There were 16 participants. It sounds like a fun was had by all.

New Business –

Confirm next ExCom date and place – August 6th at Wayne Wood's house in Gray. Cookout at 5:30 and meeting at 6:30.

Correspondence - None

Consent Agenda - June , 2026

From Whom	MSLS Committee	Amount
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Director Services - May	\$1,775.00
Bruce Bourgoine	Executive Director Expenses - May	\$256.04
Memberclicks, LLC	AMS (MSLS website)	\$5,111.19
Total		\$7,142.23
Additions at meeting –		
Keeley's Deposit	Fall Meeting Venue Deposit	\$250.00
Intuit	MSLS checks	\$233.63
Grand Total		\$7595.86

It was moved to accept the consent agenda, seconded and passed unanimously.

Moved to adjourn at 6:32 pm, seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted DRAFT
Kevin Farrar – MSLS Secretary



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Ancient Origins of Surveying

Part 2 (Part 1 appeared in [March FieldNotes](#))

The Ancient Greeks

Ancient Greeks used land surveying for purposes like establishing property boundaries, measuring land for construction, and creating accurate maps. They developed sophisticated tools like the dioptra, a sophisticated instrument for measuring angles and heights, based on advances in geometry. This was a significant step from earlier, cruder methods that relied on ropes, rods, and simple sighting tools. Greek surveying tools and techniques

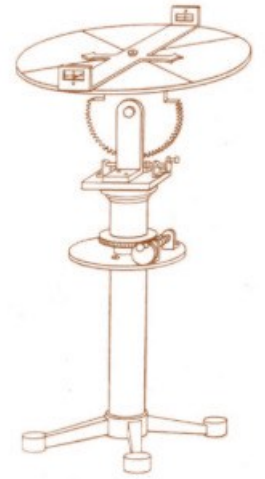
Dioptra: Around 120 B.C., the Greeks invented the dioptra, a portable tool used to measure both terrestrial and astronomical angles and heights.

- Its development was based on a greater understanding of geometry.
- A simpler form had a sighting bar pivoted on a disc with degree marks.
- More complex versions, like the one described by Hero, included worm gears and a water level for precise adjustments.

Geometric principles: The Greeks applied advanced geometry to their surveying, enabling them to calculate distances and angles with much greater accuracy than before.

Sighting tubes: Sighting tubes were used to accurately align measurements, a predecessor to the dioptra.

Measuring rods: Surviving measuring rods show that the Greeks used standard units of length, such as the "Royal cubit" for building and land surveying, which was a precursor to the Roman "aroura".



Graphic reconstruction of the dioptra, by Venturi, in 1814.

The Romans

Ancient Romans significantly advanced surveying techniques. Roman surveying techniques were instrumental in territorial expansion, military logistics, and infrastructure development, influencing subsequent civilizations' approaches to land management and engineering.

See more about Roman surveying and engineering at these links:

- [Surveying the Roman Empire](#)
- [The Romans - Masters of All They Surveyed](#)
- [Happy Terminalia](#)
- [Gaius Julius Caesar and the Appian Way](#)



An image of the Roman Surveyor Square found in France.

Middle Ages to Renaissance: Evolving Techniques

During the Middle Ages, land surveying became essential for feudal societies to establish property ownership clearly. Monastic communities played a significant role in refining surveying techniques, meticulously mapping their extensive lands, forests, and agricultural resources. Surveying manuals like England's "Domesday Book," compiled in 1086, illustrate the critical role surveying played in taxation, property management, and dispute resolution.

The Renaissance marked another significant leap forward, characterised by remarkable advancements in scientific understanding and instrument innovation. The invention of more precise instruments, such as the theodolite in the 16th century by Leonard Digges, allowed surveyors to measure angles with unprecedented accuracy. The increased precision enabled detailed urban planning, facilitating the creation of sophisticated maps and extensive city development.



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Calendar Notes...

Summer ExCom Cookout & Meeting

August 6 at 5:30 PM

At Wayne Wood's residence in Gray, Maine.

Zoom access will be available at 6:30 PM.

Women Surveyors Summit

September 17 - 19

The Westgate Hotel, San Diego, California

More information can be [found here](#)

MSLS 2026 Fall Meeting

October 2 (Friday)

Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Ave, Portland

The event, hosted by Narragansett Chapter will offer 5.5 CEUs, our General Membership Meeting, and plenty of great surveyor camaraderie. See page 1 for the preliminary program; further details and registration information coming in August.

The Parting Shot...



In June I had the opportunity to travel to Ireland and even though I am not of the tribe, I always stop to chat with land surveyors. I met two in Kinsale, County Cork, enjoying a coffee break.

Email your interesting surveying or Maine "Parting Shot" to editor@msls.org!