

GNI Employee Newsletter

25
YEARS

Exceptional Design for a Better Community

February 2018

Dates to Remember

- 2/5 Biggest Loser Weigh-in
- 2/5 Souper Bowl Contest 12pm
- 2/6 Ameriprise Semi-Annual Meeting
- 2/14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 2/15 Armorock Corrosion Proof Sewer Manholes Lunch Seminar 12pm
- 2/19 President's Day
- 2/20 Biggest Loser Weigh-in
- 2/22 "How to Use and Misuse OneDrive" Lunch Seminar hosted by New River Computing 12pm
- 2/27 Book Club Meeting 12pm



GNI Anniversaries

2/25 Kevin Dickerson 18 Years

Happy Birthday!

2/7 Josh Maurer
2/14 Tim Guthrie
2/26 Sarah Weir



Welcome Mike Rucker!



GNI would like to welcome Mike Rucker to our staff as a Design Technician. Mike comes to us from Orlando, FL where he worked in Mechanical Drafting. Prior to moving to Orlando, he lived in Blacksburg. Mike says he has known of GNI's reputation in the community and has wanted an opportunity with the company for several years, so when he moved back to Virginia, he was glad to finally be able to come to work for us. So far, he likes the "family" atmosphere. Mike and his wife Erin have been married for 6 years. He has a niece and a nephew (Rylie 10 and Ryan 4) who might as well be his children (long story!). Mike and his wife work in the children's ministry at their church, and he loves to spend time with his niece and nephew (playing softball/t-ball, basically whatever he can get them into). Mike also loves reading, traveling, fishing and woodworking (although he doesn't get to do as much as he'd like now that they're in a small townhouse). Mike's goals for the future are to be a millionaire and retire early and live on the beach (he's just kidding...kind of!). Realistically though, his future goals include: growing in his profession and enjoying what he does every day, traveling and exploring the world with his family, and growing old with his wife and knowing they did ok!

Welcome to GNI, Mike!!

Upcoming Seminars



Stephen Covey with Armorock, LLC will be here on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 12pm to discuss corrosion proof sewer manholes. <http://armorock.com/>

Jeff Wynn with New River Computing will be coming on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 12pm to educate us on OneDrive. We all have OneDrive with our Office 365 subscriptions. OneDrive will benefit you in the office and out of the office. <http://www.dummies.com/computers/operating-systems/windows-10/what-is-onedrive/>

2018 VAS Convention

submitted by Matt Mosteller

This year, the Virginia Association of Surveyors (VAS) held our 70th annual convention at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Convention Center in Staunton, from January 18-20. Rooms filled up quickly and I wasn't able to get a room at this hotel. I ended up staying at the Frederick House a couple of blocks away. This is a few old houses that have been converted into hotel rooms. It was much like a bed and breakfast. If you ever spend the night in Staunton, I would recommend staying at the Frederick House. I arrived Wednesday evening, January 17th and made my way over to the Stonewall Jackson hotel to meet up with my fellow surveyors to enjoy some networking and socializing.

Thursday morning, after breakfast at the Frederick House, I went back to the convention to attend the VAS Board of Directors' meeting where I was appointed as a co-chair of the Workforce Development Committee and also appointed to the Constitution and By-laws Committee. After the meeting and lunch, I spent time walking through the exhibit hall talking with various vendors of surveying equipment and services. I spoke with Tom Lussier and Matt Smith, from MRG-GEO, our aerial consultant. I spent a good amount of time talking with Greg Perkins, our Leica sales representative. That evening, several of us ate a great meal at the Mill Street Grill near the hotel. Great atmosphere and great food!

On Friday, Craig joined me to attend two educational seminars. The first 4-hour seminar was entitled "VDOT: What's Our Position" presented by Reed Adams, LS, VDOT State Survey Program Manager. This covered a lot of information regarding VDOT and how it relates to surveying. I feel the best part was that they are now producing right-of-way sheets that show only the relevant information for the centerline, right-of-way, easements and property owners without all of the extra information to dig through on a typical highway plan. This should help speed up recreating this information on future projects. The second 4-hour seminar was entitled "Business Ethics" presented by Marvin Miller, who has too many titles after his name to list here, but suffice to say, he is a licensed surveyor and photogrammetrist in several states and holds an MBA. Marvin is a great speaker that also presented at our summer seminar last year in Roanoke.

The local news channel also interviewed a few people, including our VAS state president and a few of the ETSU surveying students. The clip aired later that evening. The survey profession will take all of the good exposure we can get!



Friday night was the awards banquet and dinner. The food is always great. For our entertainment we had mentalist Dick Steiner perform a magic show after the awards ceremony. I was honored to accept 3 awards on behalf of Ralph and GNI in the annual Plat Contest. We won first place in the Boundary/Cadastral maps category (Quaid Boundary) and the Topographic Surveys category (William Byrd High School Field & Track Facility). We also won second place in the ALTA/NSPS maps category (Freedom Lane). I was one of the recipients of the VAS President's Award for my ongoing efforts with Workforce Development and leading the Western Chapter as host for the 2017 Summer Seminar and Board Meeting.

On Saturday morning I attended the VAS General Membership meeting. We had a presentation from Scott Lokken, Mid-Atlantic Regional Geodetic Advisor of the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) about the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS) 2022 datum update. The best part of this meeting was when I got to present a check for \$1,000 for the East Tennessee State University (ETSU) Surveying Foundation Fund to Dr. Jerry Taylor, ETSU Survey Program Manager, on behalf of the VAS Western Chapter. Dr. Taylor was very appreciative and I received a warm reception from those in attendance for showing our Chapter's generosity.

I had a great time at this year's convention and I would like to give a big thanks to GNI for allowing me to attend. It is truly an honor to serve my profession as a VAS officer.

Pictures of the Month



John had the opportunity to speak to Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Leadership program graduates.



Huge thanks to our surveyors and to everyone who helps out around the office when it snows! Gotta keep those sidewalks safe!



GNI recently attended CTE (Career and Technical Education) Open House Night at Christiansburg High School. Stephanie Bell was there representing the Business Department at CHS and Ralph Clements was there with the Virginia Association of Surveyors representing careers in Surveying.



Stay Healthy!

GNI would like all of our employees and their families to stay healthy this flu season! That's why we'd like to share these good tips with you from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention) on how to stop germs and prevent the flu. Please remember that we are always willing to provide Emergen-C, disinfecting wipes, lysol, etc. for you while you're here at work.

The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Stay home when you are sick.

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.

3. Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

4. Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

6. Practice other good health habits.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

