

Doug Leibbrandt, MJ Harden's General Manager, Serves as 2009 GITA President

MJ Harden continues its long-standing relationship with the Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) as General Manager. C. Douglas Leibbrandt, serves as President of the 2009 GITA Board of Directors.



Doug has been a member of GITA since 1989 and has been on the association's conference committee since 1998. During this time he has served the association in a variety of ways, from acting as a principal for several different tracks to serving as the co-chair for the 26th Conference in 2003 and chair for the 7th Conference in 2004. Doug has also served on the Education Committee and the Industry Trends and Analysis Group (ITAG).

Doug's participation with GITA has grown over the years and he is excited to serve as this year's President and have the opportunity to give back to the geospatial industry and association. "The time and energy that I have invested in GITA these past 20 years has paid huge dividends for me personally, as well as professionally. I have met many interesting and diverse people who have had a huge impact on my life, and my involvement with GITA has allowed me to broaden my horizons, develop leadership skills, and discover interests that I was not aware of," says Doug.

Serving as the GITA president is a three year process. A person is elected as President-Elect a year prior to assuming the role of President. After serving as President for one year, he or she becomes Immediate Past President in the final year.

Project Snapshot: Mapping in the Northwest

San Juan County is located off the coast of Washington State and is comprised of 176 islands. The total area of the county is approximately 620 square miles, of which 175 square miles is land and 445 square miles is water. The four largest islands—San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw—are served by the Washington State ferry system, which is the primary source of transportation among the islands for the county's approximately 16,000 residents. If you are familiar with geospatial data and can picture this type of geography, you may begin to understand the challenges that exist in trying to maintain and provide accurate geospatial information for this community.



In 2008, the county contracted MJ Harden Associates to acquire and deliver color digital orthophotos for the entire county. MJ Harden had already successfully delivered recent orthophotography projects for other counties in the state of Washington and was very familiar with the unique weather patterns of the area that can be problematic when collecting aerial imagery. Coordinating the ground survey and flight planning activities between the county and MJ Harden played a key role in the success of the project.

MJ Harden captured more than 2,500 frames of digital imagery in June 2008 using its large format, frame-based Z/I Imaging Digital Mapping Camera (DMC[®]). The individual frames were orthorectified and delivered as more than 450 orthophoto tiles that were incorporated into the county's GIS. The new orthophoto dataset provided a dramatic improvement in terms of quality from the previous imagery and is a solid foundation for updating other GIS data layers.

Read the entire article, "Photogrammetry Helps GISers Overcome Challenges of Island Life," in an upcoming edition of the Professional Surveyor Magazine.

MJ Harden Professionals Continue Building Their Credentials

Since 1956, MJ Harden has recognized the importance of placing high value on our staff, realizing that their skills are important to our success. We carefully select employees not only for their outstanding credentials, but for their contribution to the MJ Harden culture and its continuous opportunities for professional development. We encourage our employees to continue to expand their skills and expertise, so MJ Harden is pleased to recognize the following associates for their recent accomplishments.

CERTIFIED PHOTOGRAMMETRIST

A growing number of scientific and technical disciplines depend on photogrammetry and the mapping sciences for reliable measurements and information. The ASPRS Certification Program has established and maintains the high standards of ethical conduct and professional practice among photogrammetrists, mapping scientists, and technologists.



Angela Livingston, Project Manager

Ms. Livingston joined MJ Harden in 1999 and was recently promoted from project coordinator to project manager. Her responsibilities include communications with the client and internal staff, managing project budgets, schedules, procurement, quality control and team resources.



Eric Eskew, QA/QC Lead

Mr. Eskew joined MJ Harden in 2000 and serves as the QA/QC Lead for the Compilation Department. He manages a thorough quality control process that has various accuracy checks throughout the production process to ensure that products meet pre-determined specifications. Mr. Eskew is also involved in maintaining MJ Harden's ISO certification through monitoring process controls and participating in external audits.

CERTIFIED GIS PROFESSIONALS

Several MJ Harden staffers have successfully completed the requirements to become GIS Professionals as part of the GIS Certification Institute's (GISCI) Certification Program.



Dal Chappell, Manager - Commercial Operations

Mr. Chappell joined MJ Harden in 2001 and has 17 years of experience in the geospatial industry. Mr. Chappell is responsible for the management of the Commercial Operations group. In a continued commitment to the geospatial industry, Mr. Chappell is also participating on the Sustaining Members Council of ASPRS and on the Certifications Committee for the GISCI.



John DiGiovanni, Project Manager

Mr. DiGiovanni joined MJ Harden in 1997 and he manages GIS data migration and conversion projects pertaining to electric, water and gas utilities. In addition to managing GIS projects he also manages mid- to large-scale photogrammetry projects.



Mike Flynn, Operations Manager

Mr. Flynn joined MJ Harden in 1999 and has 14 years of experience in the geospatial industry. As Operations Manager, and he is responsible for delivering high quality, timely data to our customers. He is also responsible for delivering the financial commitment of the Operations team. Mr. Flynn also currently serves as Vice President for the Central Region Chapter of ASPRS.



Michael Joos, Account Manager - East Coast Region

Mr. Joos has more than 22 years of professional experience in the photogrammetric mapping industry. As an Account Manager in the East Coast region, Mr. Joos is responsible for the consultative technical sales of MJ Harden's services to a broad range of customers. Mr. Joos is also an ASPRS Certified Photogrammetrist.



Mike Kallas, Account Manager - Midwest Region

Mr. Kallas has worked with MJ Harden since 2002. In his current role as Account Manager, Mr. Kallas leverages his 14 years experience in the GIS industry to educate customers on how to enhance their current GIS systems with other MJ Harden services such as digital aerial imagery and LiDAR acquisition and processing.



Josh Kling, GIS Production System Administrator

Mr. Kling joined MJ Harden in 1996 and as a GIS Production System Administrator; he recently completed an assignment as an onsite consultant for the Maps and Records Department of a well known transportation company. He provided IT and GIS consulting services for their CAD/GIS environment.



Jayson Troughton, Senior GIS Consultant

Since joining MJ Harden in 1999, Mr. Troughton has been a part of numerous GIS conversion and implementation projects. As a Senior GIS Consultant, he is responsible for supporting multiple clients at various stages of GIS implementation. He has 12 years of experience in data modeling, data conversions, and GIS implementations.



Jennifer Whitacre, National Account Manager - LiDAR Solutions

Jennifer Whitacre came to MJ Harden in 2007 with over 7 years of LiDAR experience and over 11 years of experience in the geospatial industry. Ms. Whitacre is a remote sensing professional with practical and technical experience in a variety of mapping disciplines.



UPCOMING MJ HARDEN CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- ESRI User Conference**
7/13 - 7/17 San Diego, CA
- Missouri Mappers Association Conference**
7/28 - 7/31 Lake Ozark, MO
- GITA's GIS for Oil & Gas Conference**
9/13 - 9/17 Houston, TX
- KAM Conference**
9/28 - 10/1 Wichita, KS
- ESRI EGUG Meeting**
10/11 - 10/14 Atlanta, GA
- NW GIS Conference**
10/12 - 10/16 Sunriver, OR
- Oklahoma SCAUG Local Chapter**
10/19 - 10/20 Oklahoma City, OK
- Arkansas GIS Users Forum**
10/28 - 10/30 Eureka Springs, AR

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