

The ROVER Reporter

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF eGPS SOLUTIONS

WINTER 2008

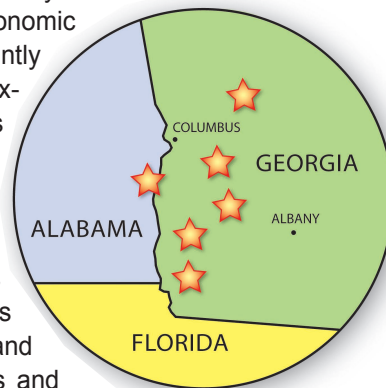
Finishing Touches: Southwest Georgia Joins Network

The finish line is clearly in sight for Georgia! eGPS Solutions is on the threshold of covering the entire state with its Virtual Reference Station (VRS) base station network. By the third week in January, the company will have erected six new base stations to encompass a strip of southwestern Georgia that winds up the Alabama border from the Florida line to Taylor County; circumventing the immediate Columbus area which has been on board since 2006. Until recently, developing the network in this area has been slowed by minimal interest and spotty cell phone coverage. Economic factors and cell phone carrier advances have recently helped to change that and eGPS Solutions is excited to be able to supply network service to this region and finally announce coverage over all of its home state!

As cited in Georgia Trend magazine (April 2007), development in southwest Georgia is currently experiencing a bit of a boom. Retirees seeking refuge from hurricane prone coastlines and industrial prospects driven to the area by taxes and insurance costs elsewhere are finding renewed interest in the region. Tourism is also headed to new horizons. Albany, the region's largest city, has aggressive plans to increase tourism with its Flint Riverquarium, a "Theater in the Trees," extending the River Trail system to link the 700-acre Parks of Chehaw to the Radium Springs area and other projects. There are also studies for an extension of I-185 from Columbus to Tallahassee which will further incite economic development as Georgia's Panhandle bound beach goers will finally have a direct expressway.

Numerous new towers with improved 3G technology have sprung up throughout Georgia, including the southwest region. This added utility increases the reliability of modems being used for RTK correction. Innovative advances like this and expansions by cell phone carriers are benefiting the RTN industry here and elsewhere.

Wes Hand, is eGPS Solutions' main regional sales representative and support technician for south Georgia. A native of Nashville, Georgia, Wes is well respected from his surveying days and his knowledge of GPS. His humble nature and patience when teaching have made many of subscribers comfortable with the new technology and processes. Wes can be reached on his cell phone at 678-787-9639 or get connected with any of our technicians by calling the eGPS Solutions office at 770-695-3310.



In This Issue:

- ▶ HYPACK 2008® Conference Attendance
- ▶ Prior Proper Planning
- ▶ Product Showcase
- ▶ Roundtable News
- ▶ President's Corner

Welcome to Our Newest Subscribers:

ABE Consulting, Inc.
AJ Johns Construction, Inc.
Holman Land Surveying, Inc.
J.B. Faircloth & Associates
Langford & Associates, Inc.
Regional Engineering Group, Inc.
Saussy Engineering, LLC
Shupe Surveying
Statewide Engineering Group, Inc.
The Oconee Company
W.E. Rice, LS

Mark Your Calendar:

January 24- 26

SAMSOG Technical Seminar
Southern Polytechnic State Univ.
Marietta, GA

February 26

Roundtable Meeting
Tampa Area
Details TBD



www.egps.net

HYPACK® 2008 Conference Attendance

eGPS Solutions kicked off the new year by attending the HYPACK® 2008 Training Conference in Savannah, Georgia. HYPACK, Inc. is the leading developer of PC-based software for marine surveying, positioning and navigation. One of the most widely used hydrographic surveying packages in the world, it provides the surveyor with all of the tools needed to design their survey, collect data, process it, reduce it, and generate final products. Hydrographic surveys are taken for navigable waters, including lakes and rivers. Data includes shore features as well as information such as water depth and nature of the sea floor material (i.e. sand, mud, rock) due to its implications for anchoring, dredging, structure construction, pipeline and cable routing and fisheries habitat.

Network RTK is relatively new to this market segment. A few of the hydrographic surveyors at the conference were aware of Network RTK, however this was the first time most of them were able to actually learn first hand how the technology can benefit their operations. Several of the seminars acknowledged RTK technology and mentioned the use of individual C.O.R.S. for RTK precision onboard a surveyor's boat.

eGPS Solutions' first visit to HYPACK's conference was busy to say the least.

In addition to sitting in seminars to become more acquainted with this field of surveying, Lonnie Sears and Jeff Little were active as exhibitors. Many of the visitors to the company's booth were interested in talking about eGPS Solutions' services. Lonnie reported, "We were happy to see several of our subscribers in attendance and to have the opportunity to assist them with

The programmers at HYPACK, with assistance from eGPS Solutions, are working on an interface in their software that will make RTN connections as easy as RTK connections for the hydrographic survey industry. Jeff Little added, "This is just the beginning of a great relationship between eGPS Solutions and the hydrographic surveying industry!"



integrating our RTN solution into their process. He went on to say, "Many attendees stopped by our booth to talk and take the company's literature. We are excited about the prospect of adding hydrographic surveyors to our mix of clients."

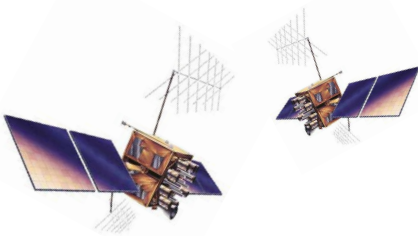
Pictured:
Examples of floating offices used by hydrographic surveyors who attended the HYPACK® conference.

Not any boat will do since vessel movements effect survey results...adding another layer of working conditions for this group of surveyors!

Top:
The impressive *Sea Beneath* belonging to EMC, Inc.

Left:
Tampa-based, hydrographic survey company, George F. Young, Inc.'s fine looking vessel.





Prior Proper Planning

...Prevents Poor Performance

Planning software is a dynamic tool, offered by many survey equipment manufacturers at no additional cost. It supports any form of analysis to determine visibility for GPS, GLONASS, IGSO and geostationary satellites. Planning should be used to define station parameters (location, time span and time zone, and obstructions), for multi-station analysis, almanac control, to display visibility graphically, and generate reports. It only takes a few minutes and should be done at least weekly, if not daily. Planning helps to prevent wasting time due to high PDOP and poor satellite visibility for any given geographical location.

We frequently get support calls from clients who are working at times during the day when they are not getting optimum satellite coverage. The ever changing GPS environment encompasses the launch of new satellites, old satellites that are downgraded to an unhealthy status and the movement of existing satellites to change a constellation's geometric configuration. All of these changes solidify the importance of daily planning to get the maximum productivity out of GPS and the RTN.

Satellite changes are not the only reason to plan. Each worksite requires individual consideration. Some worksites are more susceptible to multipath or the interference that occurs when GPS signals arrive at an antenna after traveling different paths. This requires planning by coupling both planning software and the use of clinometers to help determine the best possible time of day to be on a specific point on a particular jobsite.

Continued on back page

Product Showcase

This quarter, eGPS Solutions features a carbon fiber rod and bipod set from SECO. Chosen for their innovative, lightweight durability, and ease of use, this set is available for rent or purchase by calling Martha Vaughn in the eGPS Solutions office at 770-695-3361. eGPS Solutions is an authorized SECO dealer and offers very competitive pricing.



Thumb-Release™ Carbon Fiber Bipod

SECO PN: 5219-03

- Weighs only 3 pounds! (1.36 kg)
- Easy handling
- Features a large 5-lobe soft touch rubber clamping knob, and legs of super strong, lightweight carbon fiber.
- SECO Thumb Release Open Clamp Bipod allows user to simply clamp the pole into place without lifting and threading it through the bipod head!
- Takes seconds to set-up a free standing GPS antenna pole or prism pole.
- Legs extend to 6 feet (1.8 m) for use in uneven terrain. Collapses to 43 inches (109 cm).



2-Meter Carbon Fiber Snap-Lock Rover Rod

SECO PN: 5218-20

- Carbon Fiber Snap Lock Rover Rod features one-piece design!
- Faster, easy handling than traditional 2-piece, screw together rods.
- Ideal rod for all GPS RTK surveys.
- Telescopes and locks at 2 meters and collapses to 1.354 meters.
- Features two locking systems: snap lock guarantees no slipping and compression lock centers the telescoping inner and maintains straightness.
- Includes a 40-minute adjustable circular vial.
- Carbon fiber is strong, dent resistant and has a zero coefficient of expansion.

Visit our rentals display and meet Martha Vaughn,
eGPS Solutions' Rental Specialist at SAMSOG.
Booths 21 & 22

Continued from page 3.

Proper Planning

Proper planning has always been necessary for static surveying and it is becoming a vital tool for use in network based RTK surveying as well. Almanacs are available on our users site: web.egps.net and most manufacturers' websites (Trimble, Topcon, Leica). Free planning software is available at www.trimble.com/planningsoftware_ts.asp. For additional information or training on Planning you can contact Jeff Little at 678-787-2693 or jlittle@egps.net.

Roundtable News

eGPS Solutions is strategically planning the Roundtable Meeting locations for 2008 in an effort to reach out to as many of our subscribers as possible this year.

The first Roundtable Meeting for 2008 will take place on Tuesday night, February 26 in the Tampa area. Meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday from February through October at 5:00 PM. Details for future meetings will be announced as soon as they become available. Watch your e-mail or check our web site for meeting announcements and updates.

If you or your company would like to host a Roundtable Meeting in the coming months, please contact our Office Manager, Martha Vaughn.



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President's Corner

Reflecting back, 2007 was another year of explosive growth for eGPS Solutions. Prior to 2007 we measured our enlarging network footprint by counties, metro areas or stretches of interstate. Never an entire state. The Florida expansion is a reflection of the efforts and investments of many people. It wasn't easy. The effort was challenging and costly. Yet, in less than twelve months, the eGPS Solutions network grew to include the entire Sunshine State...from Pensacola to Jacksonville to Key West and *all points in-between!* It was quite an endeavor. Our knowledge of RTNs has exponentially increased, strengthening our product and service for existing subscribers and those to follow.

Since the launch of the eGPS Solutions' network, several other networks have sprung up in the U.S. and the world with claims to be the "largest, privately owned." To the best of our knowledge, this title belongs to eGPS Solutions. Operating the largest RTN was not the company's goal, but to become the best most certainly is our measure for success. We strive to provide a higher quality and reliability than other networks. eGPS Solutions utilizes many FDOT CORS stations along with a dozen of our own to cover Florida. In Georgia, eGPS Solutions operates 50 of its own stations to cover the state. During the first two weeks of 2008, we are adding additional stations in Georgia to solidify the network and assure repeatable vertical results.



The eGPS Solutions staff has recently completed a state wide geodetic survey across Florida to better establish scalable infrastructure (homogeneous datum) throughout the state. This type of survey would have taken 50 men two years to complete only a few years ago. Networking CORS stations correctly has taken the surveying and mapping profession to an entirely different level of capability and productivity. It is truly amazing what can now be accomplished with only a few good men.

During 2007 eGPS Solutions added additional staff members and expanded office space. Office Manager, Martha Vaughn took her experience in survey sales and rentals and turned the rental segment of our business into a full service division offering Rovers, Base and Rover, Robotics, Total Station, Auto Levels and Mapping Grade as complete systems or by the piece. For those with equipment, Martha can rent them a cell phone or modem. She's very service oriented and even includes the return shipping labels in the packages as a convenience to the customers she sends equipment. Expect the rental portion to grow even more in 2008.

Additional plans for the upcoming year include perfecting the performance of the existing eGPS Solutions footprint, a continuation of selling services in all market segments and to continue with training and support services to our subscribers.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lonnie Sears".

Lonnie Sears, RLS
President, eGPS Solutions