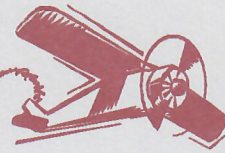




# The Sidwell Flyer



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## SPOTLIGHT ON IS:

### At the Core of the Company

It maintains the electronic skeleton that supports the company's production operations, provides the means by which the administrative staff perform much of their work, develops new applications to market, and generally makes sure that the company keeps pace with the hardware and software technologies necessary to successfully advance our business. With all of these responsibilities, it's no surprise that the Information Services (IS) Department has the longest list of goals for this fiscal year of any department within the company.

The department's team of IS specialists is headed by Manager Dave Larson, who dispatches department members to perform a variety of tasks essential to creating, selling and delivering geographic information systems (GIS) and other automated mapping solutions.

Charged with overseeing the day-to-day process of building new applications to expand our GIS capabilities is Software Development Supervisor Brent Mainzinger, who recently led development efforts for the company's 9-1-1 GIS offering and the FARMS agricultural real estate assessment solution. Brent also spends a good deal of his time in the field, working with clients on system implementation, and providing training services as well as sales support.

To meet the increasing demands placed on it, the department has taken on new members over the past couple of years with GIS Programmer/Analyst staff additions Andy Wagner and Doug Cain, who focus much of their attention on assisting production staff with technical solutions. Additionally, they provide programming talent for software application development (and, if asked, might offer consultation on how to decorate an office).

GIS Analyst Bob Sifferd is deployed to support photogrammetric operations, and has been instrumental in the Photogrammetry department's

adoption in recent months of new equipment and processes associated with digital orthophotography.

Programmer Alysa Hwalisz performs a variety of programming tasks and offers information processing assistance to support administrative functions, such as accounting. Additionally, she assists from time to time in application development. And, although actually an employee of the GIS Compilation Department, Chris Furmanek has IS responsibilities as Network Coordinator.

In addition to managing a team of professionals required to have the skills and versatility necessary to command an environment marked by frequent change, IS Manager Dave Larson must frequently take a step back from the day-to-day activities of overseeing such a dynamic department to survey the information processing field so as to best direct the technological course of a company at which information systems are at the core. "With the proliferation of information technology options," he says, "determining the timing and suitability of solutions for both our operation and for our clients presents significant challenges." Dave adds, however, that in working to meet these challenges he finds assistance from his staff to be of great value. "I have been fortunate to have a staff that is very technically competent and conscientious," he says.

#### Milestones

The following employees are celebrating significant service anniversaries this winter (January through March):

##### 5 Years

Dick Kennedy

##### 30 Years

Dave Squires

Congratulations to each of you as well as to those employees celebrating anniversaries in other increments of time!



#### *DON'T FORGET:*

Our suggestion box is still located in the downstairs hallway at the base of the west stairwell. All submissions are reviewed by Dudley Sidwell and the Employee Advisory Committee on a regular basis.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Users Conferences Held

The company held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conferences for Users of Sidwell systems on January 28 and February 4 in Bloomington-Normal, Ill., and Des Moines, Iowa, respectively. During those days Sidwell staff members presented a variety of mapping and GIS-related topics in a "two-track" format. The presentations included a discussion of CAD and GIS by Scott DeHainaut; a workshop on mapping with plats, surveys and tracts led by Mark Dupree; an overview of aerial interpretation and its relationship to the rectangular survey system by Randy Kobiella; and a workshop by Karen Fouts which focused on legal descriptions. Other conference presenters were Arlette McNamara, Mike Tesch, who taught an introduction to Sidwell maps, and Tracy Engel and Brent Mainzinger, who concentrated their efforts on GIS-related topics and "What's New at Sidwell."

New this year to the conferences was the "Map Gallery," which showcased maps submitted by Sidwell clients. The Map Gallery—which was recently displayed in the conference room here at Sidwell—consisted of examples of work representing a variety of specialized and thematic maps.

Although attendance to both conferences was reduced due to inclement weather, feedback by conference attendees was positive, especially with regard to idea of the map gallery, and the variety of work displayed.

### *New Employee Advisory Committee Chosen*

The members of the Sidwell Employee Advisory Committee for 1997 are as follows:

Don Dieckmann  
Tracy Engel  
Arlette McNamara

The committee will continue to be chaired by Dudley Sidwell. Thanks to all employees who expressed their interest in serving on the committee, and thanks also, to outgoing committee members Russ Donovan, Karen Fouts and Denise Lester for their service to this group. All employees are encouraged to contact any member of the committee with questions or topics to be discussed at the Committee meeting.

### Education & Training

Don't forget, Microsoft Training Tapes are available for 2-day checkout by all employees. Topics include:

- Windows '95
- Access
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Schedule
- Word
- Windows NT

See Cindy Bohr to check out these tapes.



Sidwell Sweatshirts are on order! They are expected to be ready the week of March 17 or March 24. See Sue Tarczueski for additional information.



### **R**ecommended Reading

The following authors come highly recommended by fellow employees—look up titles from these writers for reading material to help combat your cabin fever:

#### Dean Koontz

Writes some very twisted stories: you wonder how anyone could come up with these ideas, but he manages to hold your interest nonetheless!

#### Mary Higgins Clark

Has a flowing writing style, and keeps the stories, the characters and their relationships uncomplicated so that the story is easy to follow.

#### Jonathan Kellerman

Writes about a continuing character named Dr. Alex Delaware, who is a child psychologist turned police consultant.

#### John Sanders

Writes the "Prey" series: all of the books have the word "prey" in the title. Highly recommended is his story "Winter Prey".

#### Stephen King

Suggested selection: "The Green Mile," a serialized novel in six installments. Definitely a vintage, bizarre, Stephen King story.

### Welcome, New Employees!

The most recent additions to the Sidwell staff include:

Justin Anderson-Topo  
Lisa Bemis-GIS Maintenance  
Pat Krook-Compilation I  
Chris Kumnick-Compilation I

Please take a moment to stop and welcome these new members to our staff!