



Pipeline Open Data Standard

PODS Association Newsletter

Pipeline Open Data Standard

July 2008

In This Issue

[Upcoming Events](#)

[New Members](#)

[Board of Directors](#)

[PODS User Group Meeting](#)

[Sponsors](#)

[Beyond PODS 5.0](#)

[Meet a Board Member](#)

[Technical Committee Tip](#)

[Geocaching](#)

[PODS Association Leadership](#)

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

[Integrated Informatics](#)

[Resource Data](#)

[Saltriver Infosystems](#)

[Universal Ensco](#)

[Complete list of members](#)

Board of Directors

Our long-time friend and colleague Dan Colby, Sentinel USA, has resigned from the Board of Directors after eight years of service. We are greatly that Dan Colby and Sentinel USA will continue to provide support to the PODS Association. We are pleased to announce that Keith Chambless, GeoFields, has agreed to join the Board of Directors. Please watch for more information about both men in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Events

August 4-8, 2008: [ESRI International User Conference](#)

August 7, 2008: PODS User Group Meeting at the ESRI Conference (one hour)

September 21-24, 2008: [GIS for Oil & Gas Conference](#)

September 25, 2008: PODS User Group Meeting (all day)

PODS User Group Meeting

The annual PODS User Group Meeting will be Thursday, September 25, 2008, from 8am to 5pm, in Houston, TX. This is a great opportunity to meet with other operators and service providers to learn how they are using the PODS model to meet their business and regulatory needs. You will also hear updates from the working groups, information about the Technical Committee, and the future plans of the Board of Directors.

The meeting will be at the Marriott Westchase in Houston, TX, after GITA's GIS for Oil & Gas Conference. GITA has arranged a special room rate for a limited number of rooms to be extended through Thursday. Please book your room early to receive the discounted rate.

[Registration is now open.](#) Attendance is free for PODS members and only \$50 for non-members. You will need to register early because space is limited.

Quick Links
[Our Website](#)

Sponsors

The annual PODS User Group Meeting is September 25, 2008. Thanks to

your participation, we will have another successful year. The PODS Association Board of Directors invites you to sponsor the PODS User Group Meeting. All sponsorships are \$500.

Who Will Be Attending

GIS Analysts, Database Administrators, Pipeline Operators, Project Coordinators, Project Managers, Software Providers, Web Developers, Spatial Data Managers, GIS Managers, Programmers, Application Developers, GIS Developers, System Integrators, Right-of-Way Managers, Tax Managers, Pipeline Managers, Engineers and Constructors, Mapping Professionals, Safety & Compliance Officers, Information Systems, Environmental Coordinators, Corrosion & Cathodic Protection Personnel, Risk Analysis Personnel, Integrity Management Personnel

Sponsor Benefits

As a \$500 sponsor, your company will support the PODS User Group Meeting. Your sponsorship will be acknowledged in the following ways:

- Your logo and website link on the PODS website before and after the meeting
- Your logo in the meeting program to be received by all attendees
- Your logo on prominently displayed during the meeting room
- Verbal acknowledgement during the meeting
- Your logo on a PowerPoint display before and after the meeting and during breaks

As a sponsor, you may also provide:

- Brochures to be handed out with the meeting programs to all attendees
- Items to give away to all attendees

To sponsor, please contact Sheila Wilson at the PODS Association.

Important Statistics About Last Year's Meeting

- From 2006 to 2007, the attendance increased by more than 160%
- 40% of the attendees were operators and 60% were service providers

Beyond PODS 5.0

This month, the Board of Directors and Executive Director met for a day and a half in a face to face meeting. During this meeting we began re-assessing the data model, the pipeline industry, and the needs of our members. To this end, the Board is actively developing a 1, 2, and 5 year plan for our organization.

Your participation in the PODS Association is critical to our continued growth. Over the past two years, our membership has increased by more than 60%. The standards have also grown significantly. As the Board of Directors looks to the future, we want to know what is important to you. What expectations do you have of the Board and the standards?

During the PODS User Group Meeting, we will have an open forum in which you can help us formally determine the next phase. We invite you to listen to the ideas of the Board and to bring your own ideas.

Technology and resources have converged in the pipeline industry, making this an exciting time for all of us.

Meet Robert Brook



Robert Brook joined the PODS Association Board of Directors after his election this year. With 20 years of experience, Robert has seen many sides of the GIS, utility, and pipeline industries, having experience in oil and gas exploration, pipeline construction and management, gas distribution, and in the development and implementation of ESRI industry solutions. He is currently responsible for the development of ESRI's distribution/transmission vertical integration strategy. Along with his Board duties, he is also a member of the APDM Steering Committee and serves on numerous national and international committees.

We appreciate Robert's dedication to the PODS Association and his involvement in the Board of Directors.

Technical Committee Tip

Please explain more about GUIDs.

The PODS 4.0 model was a transitional model, allowing the change from EVENT_IDs to GUIDs. GUIDs (Globally Unique Identifiers) are important when combining data from multiple sources such as different vendors, different databases within a company, in the purchase of assets, etc.

Tracy Thorleifson with Eagle Information Mapping explains that a GUID is a 16 byte integer, usually expressed in hexadecimal notation. SQL Server stores GUIDs as a 16 byte number allowing better performance. Oracle stores the GUID as a 16 byte string, which decreases the efficiency.

For more information, please look up the [Globally Unique Identifier on Wikipedia](#).

Geocaching

[Geocaching](#) is a "high-tech treasure hunting game played throughout the world." Anyone can hide a treasure anywhere in the world. Once you find a treasure, you simply sign the logbook and return the geocache to its original location. People from all over the world use GPS to locate geocaches of "treasures."

Finding a geocaches can be an easy adventure or a difficult hike. The hunter can choose the level of difficulty at which he or she wants to hunt. Take time to check it out one weekend.

PODS Association Leadership

Executive Director: Sheila Wilson

President: Mike King, BP

Vice President: Scott Moravec, Eagle Information Mapping

Secretary: JW Lucas, Enterprise

Treasurer: Kenneth Greer, CenterPoint Energy

Board Members:

Scott Blumenstock, Sunoco Logistics

Rob Brook, ESRI

Ron Brush, New Century Software

Keith Chambless, GeoFields

Mark Goodman, ONEOK

Scott Hills, Chevron

Terrie Spicer, Kinder Morgan

Technical Committee Chairmen:

Gary Hoover, Enterprise

Technical Committee:

Rod Burden, Moore Resources

Kirk Cameron, New Century Software

John Chioles, Chevron

Mikel Collins, ConocoPhillips

Michael Emanuel, Michael Baker Corp

Bryan Ferguson, BP

Olga Ingerman, Fluor Enterprises

Janice Jett, Eagle Information Mapping

Costas Kotzbassis, BITS

Dean Mikkelsen, Colt Geomatics

Michael Ray, Boardwalk Pipelines

Sterling Overturf, ONEOK

Yan Wang, Geonamics

Rodger Weller, GE

Teresa Young, GeoFields

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