

PLATTE RIVER CURRENTS



Chapter 78 News is a publication of the International Right of Way Association Platte River Chapter #78. Send comments or articles to: Dan Greco, (402) 955-2900

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OPEN!! Asset Management

President's Update



Hello Fellow Members,

I hope everyone had a great summer and is gearing up for an exciting fall. As fall begins, we will start it off with our third quarter chapter meeting. The meeting is being held August 27th, 2005 at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. A task that will be addressed at this meeting will be the nominations for this years "Platte River Chapter 78-Professional of the Year. Nominations will be taken from the floor and also via e-mail. Nominations will not be accepted after September 2, 2005 in order to elect the "Professional of the Year" before the Region 3 Fall Forum in October. Chapter 78's "Professional of the Year" will have an automatic bid for "Region 3-Professional of the Year". Good luck!!

Platte River Chapter 78 will be the host of the 2006-Region 3 Spring Forum. Arrangements have been made with the Omaha Downtown Hilton for the event. There will be a social event the evening of April 20, 2006. The business meeting will be held April 21, 2006. We will provide more details as they become available.

Thanks to all who attended the IRWA Annual Education Conference held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I was very excited to hear we had 9 -Members and 4-Guests/Spouses. We were only surpassed by Chapter 20, who had 9-Members and 8-Guests/Spouses. Altogether, Region 3 had 47-Members, 23-Guests/Spouses and 8-Youth. What a great showing by both the Region and our chapter.

The conference theme was "Where the World Meets", a very fitting theme! The Monday night event was held at the Atlantis Pavilion over looking Lake Ontario. The view was spectacular! The Jimmy Buffet concert from the rooftop of the pavilion was a great treat. Other official IRWA events happened throughout the week and the education seminars were top notch.

I would like to congratulate Judi Sorenson, SR/WA and Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA. Judi was elected to Vice Chair of the Asset Management committee, while Jack was elected to the Chair of the International Development Committee. These appointments are a great honor in our organization and I am confident they will provide great leadership to their international committees.

Congratulations to Jack Borgmeyer, SR/WA, who was recognized at the Awards Luncheon in Toronto, as one of six finalists for the prestigious Balfour Award. Although he did not win the award, his commitment to our organization is unmatched by many. Make sure to check the IRWA website for pictures from the conference.

If there are any questions or comments that need to be addressed, please feel free to drop me a note at pawloskic@midwestrow.com.

Thank you,
Chris A. Pawloski / President
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*Region 3 Fall Forum
Hosted by Chapter 20
October 13 and 14
Details on page 6!*

Don't get caught holding the pumpkin! Make plans to attend.



Toronto 2005



IRWA Quarterly Meeting on June 1, 2005

The meeting was held at Mahoney State Park and was attended by about 36 members. Chris Pawloski welcomed everyone and Julie Westergren was introduced as a new Member.

Old Business:

Membership voted on the minutes from the last three chapter meetings (11/01/04; 01/15/05 and 03/23/05). The minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report: Joey Kramer reported the balance of the checking account, CD and expected fees for a course instructor.

Education Report: Joel Walker reported on completed courses 202, Interpersonal Relations in Real Estate (April) and 214, Skills of Expert Testimony (May). Course 800, Principals of Real Estate Law, is being offered August 24 & 25 at the Nebraska Department of Roads. Leslie Meyers will be the course coordinator. The pilot for the re-written course 701, Leasing, will be offered in September or October with Judi Sorensen coordinating. Course 602, Project Development and the Environmental Process will be offered in November. Joel asked for volunteers to coordinate course 602 and Randy DeGeorge said he would do some research and get back to Joel.

Membership Report: Sarah Crook reported that we currently have 119 members with 3 applications pending.

Newsletter Editor: Dan Greco has added a tech section to the newsletter and requested tech related suggestions for the next newsletter. There is also a new epage and Dan asked for website suggestions and articles for the next newsletter. A crossword puzzle has been added and the first person to turn in a complete puzzle with correct answers will be awarded a prize at the next quarterly meeting.

Chapter Professional Development: Randy DeGeorge presented SR/WA plaques to George Howard, John Rownd and Jim Shotkoski. Tim Lenz & Tim Mullen have submitted their applications for SR/WA. Since November Chapter 78 has 7 new SR/WA's.

Judi Sorensen is now International's Vice Chair of Asset Management and we need a replacement for her position at the chapter level.

New Business: Chapter 78 will host the Region 3 Spring Forum in 2006. A meeting of the executive board will be held a later date to discuss details and ideas.

The 2005 Fall Forum will be held in Bloomington, MN October 13th & 14th.

Chris requested input from the members on voting for candidates for International Elections to be held at the Education Conference in Toronto. Everyone agreed to a vote for Sandy Griggs and it was motioned that Chris & Paul would discuss who to vote for after getting input from other conference attendees.

The floor was opened for discussion. There was none.

David made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Randy.





2005 Educational Offerings IRWA Chapter 78
IRWA Chapter 78 Newsletter Report from Education Coordinator

August 2005

We are currently conducting IRWA Course 800 Principals of Real Estate Law (24th & 25th August). The course attendance is a whopping 33 students representing at least 3 regions. The Chapter is being well represented by our Course Coordinator Leslie Myers. This course will also be good for the chapter budget, because we expect to clear between \$3,000 and \$5,000 after expenses.

The plan has gone forward for having a "Relocation Week" which includes the URA Seminar and IRWA Courses 505 and 506. These courses will occur from 24 October through 27 October. This is a great opportunity to get updated on the recent changes to the Uniform Relocation Act.

I am very well pleased with our progress on the upcoming IRWA Course 701 set for October 20th and 21st. Our Course Coordinator is Judi Sorensen at OPPD. This is an excellent chance to learn more about leases as they pertain to the right of way profession. Judi can be reached by email at <jsorensen@oppd.com> or by telephone at (402) 636-3654.

On November 14th and 15th we plan to conduct IRWA Courses 901 Engineering Plan Development and 902 Property Descriptions. These courses always draw many registrants, and the timing appears good for our chapter to have these courses this winter. The Course Coordinator for Course 901 and 902 is Dan Greco. Dan can be reached at (402) 955-2900 or by email at greco@midwestrow.com.

I have attached our Chapter Education Plan for your reference.

Anyone with suggestions for improvement in the chapter education effort is invited to call, write, or talk with me in person. jwalker1@dor.state.ne.us (402) 479-4472.

2005 Educational Offerings
Chapter 78 as of July 18, 2005

August 24 & 25	Course 800 Principals of Real Estate Law	Coordinator Leslie Myers	2 Days
October 20 & 21	Course 701 "Pilot" Leases	Coordinator Judi Sorensen	2 Days
October 24,	Uniform Relocation Act Seminar	Coordinator Chris Pawloski	1 Day
October 25,	Advanced Relocation Assistance I (Residential)	Coordinator Chris Pawloski	1 Day
October 26 & 27,	Advanced Relocation Assistance II (Business)	Coordinator Chris Pawloski	2 Days
November 14,	Course 901 Engineering Plan Development	Coordinator Dan Greco	1 Day
November 15,	Course 902 Property Descriptions	Coordinator Dan Greco	1 Day

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!



Congratulations to the Chapters newest SR/WA's:



Chapter Professional Development

By Randy De George, SR/WA, PDC Chair

It is my great pleasure to announce the newest SR/WA for Chapter 78 as follows:

Timothy J. Mullen, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads
James Hunter, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads
Timothy Lentz, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads
Dean Hume, SR/WA from Nebraska Department of Roads

Recertifications:

Ronald Marshall, SR/WA from Omaha Public Power District

Congratulations to all on your accomplishments, and hope to see you at the next meeting on August 27, 2005 at Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha so I can present you with your pins and plaques to those who have completed their requirements.

Since November of last year the Chapter has gained 11 new SR/WA's and 3 recertifications.



2005 Officers



Chris Pawloski/President



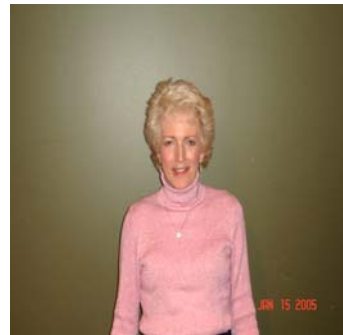
Jim Shotkoski/President Elect



**Joel Walker, SR/WA
Vice President**



John Meng-Frecker/Secretary



Joey Kramer, SR/WA/Treasurer

Region 3 Fall Forum

October 13-14, 2005

Holiday Inn Select Minneapolis Airport-Mall of America

3 Appletree Square

Bloomington, MN

Phone: 952-854-9000

www.himspairport.com

There is a block of 30 rooms held for Thursday October 13th. The rate is \$98/night. Contact the hotel before September 22nd and mention International Right of Way Association to receive this rate.

Social hour: 6 pm - 9 pm in the Pippin Room at the hotel.

For more information:

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The **E** Pages

[WWW.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)

Wikipedia is a Web-based, multi-language, free-content encyclopedia written collaboratively by volunteers and sponsored by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. It has editions in about 200 different languages (about 100 of which are active) and contains entries both on traditional encyclopedic topics and on almanac, gazetteer, and current events topics. Its purpose is to create and distribute a free international encyclopedia in as many languages as possible. *Wikipedia* is one of the most popular reference sites on the web,^[1] receiving around 60 million hits per day.

WEB SITE LOCATIONS

For those of you who have internet access, here are a few handy links to various web sites:

Chapter 78's member site: <http://members.cox.net/irwachapter78/Main.html>

Region 3 web site located at: <http://www.irwaregion3.org>

International Headquarters can be reached at <http://www.irwaonline.org>

Should you have any questions, contact me at greod@midwestrow.com or phone at: (402) 955-2900.



Technology Corner

What is that?

This Month : Sony PSP

Next month: Submit your article on your favorite technological innovation for entertainment, Business, or infotainment!



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PSP is a trademark of Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.

The PlayStation Portable is Sony's third installment in its successful PlayStation line of video game consoles and their first entry into handheld systems. The PSP was first announced during E³ 2003 and was unveiled on May 11, 2004 at a Sony press conference during E³ 2004. First released in Japan, its official retail release date was December 12, 2004. It was released in North America on March 24, 2005. The PSP launched in South Korea on May 2, 2005 and was followed by a joint launch in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan on May 12, 2005. It will be released in Europe and Australia on September 1, 2005 [1]. Sony had delayed the European launch (originally set for March) to meet demand from other regions.

The PSP can play video games, video content, and digital audio, as well as display digital photos. Instead of being distributed on traditional ROM cartridges with battery-backed RAM for saves, games and other content are sold on Sony's new 1.8 GB Universal Media Discs (UMDs). The Memory Stick Duo (regular or Pro, but the high-speed mode of high-speed Sticks isn't supported) is used for storing saved games and moving multimedia to the PSP from other devices. Other notable features of the PSP include WiFi wireless networking support (including a web browser in version 2.0 of the firmware), a rechargeable and removable battery, 4.3 inch (109 mm) TFT LCD 480x272 pixel flat screen, and a sliding flat panel analog stick.

The PSP is able to connect to the PlayStation 3 for transfer of game saves and media to and from the PS3's hard drive and using its WiFi connection can be used as a "video enabled game controller," similar to the connectivity feature of the Game Boy Advance and GameCube.

Variations and Accesories

In all territories but Japan, the PSP is only sold as part of a "Value Pack." This package contains the console, battery, AC adaptor, a 32MB Memory Stick Duo, earbud headphones with remote, a slip-case, and a wrist strap, for USD \$249.99 or ¥26,040.

In Japan, another, 'basic' package is available. It contains the console, battery, and AC adaptor for ¥20,790.

On July 21, 2005, Sony announced in an event in Tokyo, Japan there would be a white version of the PSP released on September 15 in Japan. The new PSP will be the same as the black one, with the strap, box, system and case now in white. Sony currently has no plans to release the white PSP outside of Japan.

Games

The PSP's inputs are geared for gaming rather than multimedia, with two shoulder buttons (triggers), the iconic PlayStation face buttons, (□○X □: triangle, circle, cross and square buttons), start and select buttons, a digital 4-directional pad, and an analog input. There is also a row of secondary controls along the underside of the screen,

for controlling volume, music settings (either switching the audio off and on in games or selecting different equalizer settings in the OS), screen brightness, accessing the system's main menu, as well as the standard Start and Select buttons. The UMD disks are small enough to fit comfortably in a pocket, and superficially similar to Sony's earlier product, the MiniDisc, but for the lack of a protective shutter and slightly different cartridge shape.

The PSP's analog input, sometimes called the "*analog nub*," is not a traditional stick, but a sliding flat panel; its odd placement initially led to speculation that it was a speaker. Concerns existed regarding the practicality of the input (its position requires a slightly asymmetrical grip on the unit to adequately use, with the left hand being lower than the right). While it is used in the same way as the analog thumbstick of a modern console, the resistance springs are calibrated differently: they are softer, making quick, coarse adjustments a bit easier, but fine-grained ones a bit more difficult.

UMD

Because of the UMD's relatively large storage space, and the PSP's large display screen, some film studios have released feature films in the UMD format with pricing comparable to DVD videos. Companies releasing UMD movies include Disney, Twentieth Century Fox, Lions Gate Entertainment, Sony Pictures, New Line Cinema and Paramount Pictures.

Most releases provide alternate audio languages and content, subtitles, and special features. (Japanese releases have been somewhat more eclectic, and include UMD/DVD combination packs [2] and pornography.) On June 22nd, 2005, Sony confirmed that both *House of Flying Daggers* and *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* have both sold more than 100,000 copies each[3].

Movies on UMD were first made available in April 2005. The initial North American releases included *House of Flying Daggers*, *xXx*, *Hellboy*, *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, and *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* from Sony Pictures, along with *Kill Bill: Volume 1* and *Pirates of the Caribbean* from the Miramax wing of Disney Pictures.

Multimedia & codecs

The PSP is capable of displaying still image, movie, and audio files stored on the UMD disk format or a memory stick. The system supports MP3 and Sony's ATRAC3plus formats for audio, AVC (MPEG-4 Part 10 encoding) for video on UMD discs, and JPEG images. The PSP also has the capability to decode MPEG-4 Part 2 and MPEG-4 Part 3 from the *.mp4T container, if located on the Memory Stick. The file(s) must be placed in the **/MP_ROOT/100MNV01** directory on the Memory Stick, and be named in the following format: **M4V#####.MP4** (where "#" is any digit). A corresponding thumbnail image file (160x120 pixel JPEG files renamed with the .THM extension) with the same file name (besides the extension) of the movie file can optionally be placed in the same directory.

Sony has announced that *Image Converter 2*, a piece of PC software for converting video files to AVC for playback on CLIE PDAs, will be available before the end of the year, and may be used with the PSP. A preview version was made available shortly after the PSP launch. It can convert *.avi, MPEG1/2/4, QuickTime and *.wmv movie files to AVC, as well as the "Giga Pocket" and "Do VAIO" files used by VAIO PCs to record television. It will also convert most common still image files into JPEG format. Sony's SonicStage software can be used to copy *.mp3 and ATRAC files to the PSP as well.

Sony's software is not the only toolset for getting music or movies onto a PSP, and a cottage industry has grown around offering useful tools for converting and copying files for use on the PSP. Some popular alternatives include PSPWare, iPSP, Mobile Media Maker, PSP Video 9 and PSP Multimedia Extender all simplify the task of converting and transferring files to and from the PSP's Memory Stick. Using these tools, nearly any digital video file (including movie files ripped from DVDs or digital video recorders like the TiVo) can be played on a PSP,

after conversion to AVC.

Video file sizes largely depend on the audio sampling rates and video resolution. With reasonable settings (a resolution of 320x240, a video bitrate of 500 Kilobits per second, and an audio sampling rate of 22050 kHz) a 22 minute movie file is roughly 55 megabytes. (This is enough for a 30 minute television episode with the commercials removed) This means that a 512 MB Memory Stick can hold approximately nine of these files. A hundred minutes feature film would fit a 256 MB Memory Stick.

Many movie files, both free-to-distribute and pirated, have been encoded for the PSP and are available on the internet. Game and movie trailers, in particular, are increasingly available even from the studio's official site.

Wireless networking

Wi-Fi support allows the PSP to connect to wireless networks, other PSP units for multiplayer gaming, the Internet, and Sony's upcoming PlayStation 3. As the PS3 has only recently been unveiled, details on link-up features are slim, however Hideo Kojima has discussed the possibility of a link-up between *Metal Gear Solid 4* and *Metal Gear Ac!d 2*. Use of wireless network features increases the power consumption and lowers the battery life of the system.

A version 2.0 firmware update was released on July 27, 2005 for Japanese PSPs, and August 24, 2005 for North American PSPs. The update included a web browser and Wi-Fi Protected Access encryption.

Ad-hoc networks

Ad-hoc wireless networking allows for (in theory) up to 16 PSPs within range of each other to communicate directly, typically for multiplayer gaming. The launch titles *Ridge Racer* and *Lumines*, for example, support this. One unit can act as the host for a game, which is available to other PSP units within that systems range, and appears in a list when the client PSP searches for available hosts. Hosting a game in this manner increases power consumption and reduces battery life.

Infrastructure networks

The PSP's main menu allows the user to configure the system for use across the Internet via a wireless connection, known as infrastructure mode. The PSP's menu can recognize protected and non-protected wireless networks within its range, and attempt to request a firmware update from Sony's servers.

A handful of titles, including three U.S. launch games and an as-of-yet untitled MMORPG, have been announced which use this wireless network functionality. Packet tunneling systems are in development by third-parties which allow any Wi-fi game to operate across the Internet (see external links, below).

Use of infrastructure networks in PSP software began with a small number of titles at the US launch, supporting online play. South Korean PSPs will ship with software providing web browsing and multimedia streaming features, but only through company-owned WiFi hotspots, and with a monthly fee[4].

This is a cool System with a lot of features. Look for it on upcoming Christmas lists!!

Article information from www.wikipedia.com

Article submitted by: Dan Greco