

BAAMA President's Message
May 2000

Serving Our Community

BAAMA's purpose is to serve the GIS Community with relevant educational information and with opportunities for meeting together to maintain our connections with each other. The record-breaking attendance at our last two educational meetings would suggest that we are achieving objectives!

But, we are not resting on our laurels and sucking donuts, so we ask you, our members, to keep letting us know how BAAMA can help you ... and how you can help BAAMA.

We are experimenting with new meeting venues that are conveniently located and provide good lecture and shmoozing (not snoozing!) facilities. So, the next meeting will be held at the Oakland Aerospace Museum. After the BAAMA meeting on May 18, plan to wander through the museum. Treat yourself! There is a lot of kool stuff to see.

Then, to justify being away from the office for more than half a day, plan to attend a semi-educational/semi-marketing Training Seminar being offered by one of our Corporate Sponsors, UCLID Software. This is the first of many independent seminars to be produced by BAAMA Sponsors in coordination with the BAAMA meeting schedule. Perhaps your organization wants to host a similar Training Seminar in the future. Let our Board Members know if you do.

Another ongoing opportunity available for helping BAAMA serve our GIS Community is hosting a Technical Tour during an "off" month between BAAMA meetings. Contact Mike Stevens, Corporate Punisher, if you want to offer a tour of your facilities.

And, as you read this, our annual GIS Poster Contest is being planned for November. What a fine opportunity for you to showcase your GIS accomplishments! Better still, sign up to teach a short mapping class in your kid's school; then display their best projects in the contest. Talk to our Mapster of Disaster, Scott McAfee, and tell him you want to volunteer.

Have you wished that BAAMA would present a certain subject that you are interested in during one of our Educational Meetings? Have you wanted to present a topic yourself? By all means, let me know soon. There still are a few slots left in our annual Speaking Calendar.

The BAAMA webpage is being improved, so take a look, use the message boards for jobs, employment, and issues of professional interest. Send your comments and encouragement to our new webmaster, Dennis Klein. Let him know how high your expectations are, due to the fine work of our previous wwWeb'ster, Kristina Smith.

Finally, do let us know if you would like to participate in the Conference Organizing Committee for CalGIS 2001 (a spatial odyssey), to be held in Sacramento next February.

Your participation helps BAAMA transform a group of people with GIS interests into a Community.

Here listening to you,
Bruce Joffe
BAAMA President and Left Wing Commander