



RANDY NOLAND

## Our Industry's DNA

**A**lthough the adoption of machine control technology is progressing rapidly through its infancy, its beginnings date back 30+ years. The reason for my reflection and nostalgia is due to the loss of one of positioning and machine control's pioneers. Rick Davidson passed away in late March, 2011 but his contributions to our industry have forever forged his name in its DNA. Read more in one of our feature articles, "[Rick Davidson, Positioning Pioneer](#)."

It wasn't that long ago when we were paying tribute to [Gerhardt Lengeman](#), another industry icon. I believe it is important to document our history as we look ahead toward our exciting future.

Earlier this month, I attended the ACSM Survey Summit and ESRI User Conference. My colleague Marco Cecala and I spoke on Civil Integrated Management. The focus was the changes in the new workflow the digital age offers and the opportunities that accompany it. Machine Control is a component of this new workflow and I find it exciting how the different disciplines such as GIS, civil engineering, land surveying, grading, and utilities can share from and contribute to a central database. Imagine if you will a road improvement project with utilities where the contractor can acquire the data that illustrates—in real time and with accuracy—all existing underground utilities. And as the project is built including the utilities, all items are as-built and contributed back to the central database for the next design-build phase. The technology is here and moving in that direction. ([please click here for videos on roundtable discussion with Marco Cecala, Joe Sass and myself](#))

We have three feature articles and six new columns in this issue. I hope you enjoy the magazine, and please support our advertisers by clicking on their ads.

And as always, if you have a project you would like to submit or discuss, do not hesitate to drop me an email.

Regards,

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Managing Editor/Cofounder



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