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July 28, 2015

Oregon Technology Journalist Receives UK Royal Institute of Navigation Award for Publishing

Glen Gibbons, an Oregon journalist who has covered GPS and similar space-based positioning and navigation systems since 1989, received a high honor this month from the United Kingdom's Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN).

"Glen Gibbons has probably done more than anyone to raise general awareness and understanding of the emergent satellite navigation technology, including its capabilities and limitations," reads the citation accompanying the award.

During the RIN's annual meeting on July 15 at the Royal Geographical Society in London, England, Prince Philip — the Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth II — presented Gibbons with the Harold Spencer-Jones Gold Medal for his "outstanding contribution to navigation" as a journalist and publisher. The duke is the royal patron of the institute.

As probably the world's first full-time GPS/GNSS journalist, Gibbons is the editor and publisher of *Inside GNSS*, an international trade magazine that he and his wife Eliza Schmidkunz started 10 years ago in Eugene, Oregon. The print edition of the bimonthly publication reaches more than 30,000 readers around the world and thousands more in a digital format. In addition, their company produces e-newsletters and web seminars on GNSS and related technologies.

He began his career covering GNSS applications and policies in 1989 as the start-up editor of *GPS World*, the first magazine on the subject. In 26 years, he has often been the first to cover news and issues of the space-based systems that give the world accurate position, location, navigation, and timing capabilities — essential for everything from finding friends to landing airplanes to operating ATMs.

The United States' Global Positioning System is the first and most complete space-based navigation system. Russia also has a complete system called GLONASS. China's GNSS system, BeiDou, is advancing rapidly and the European Union expects to complete its Galileo GNSS system within a few years.

The annual award, the Harold Spencer-Jones Gold Medal, is named for the UK's astronomer-royal in the 1930s and 1940s, who determined the accurate median distance from Earth to the Sun. Sir Harold Spencer-Jones was also the first president of the RIN.

Resources

For a jpg image of Gibbons and the Duke of Edinburgh, go to www.insidegnss.com/node/4598

Inside GNSS website: www.insidegnss.com

Inside GNSS Wikipedia entry: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inside_GNSS>

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