

# TNMCorps News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

THE NATIONAL MAP CORPS

MAY 2020

## Welcome to The National Map Corps!

We've seen a huge jump in new TNMCorps volunteers over the past couple of months, so we wanted to extend a warm and hearty welcome to all of our new users! We hope you're enjoying participating; and if you signed up looking for something to do during these stay-at-home days, we hope you'll continue to volunteer with us even after things get back to normal.

We would also like to thank all of our ongoing participants for their continued and increased support during these tough times. In addition to a big spike in new volunteers, we've also seen an overall increase in contributions, especially from Advanced Editors.

As TNMCorps volunteers, you are helping to support and improve important national mapping products and services. The data that you work on, which includes important public buildings and health services, is now more important than ever. As a public domain dataset, anyone and everyone is free to download the data and use it for any purpose, but you may have wondered specifically how the structures data you contribute gets used. Ohio, for example, is currently using [fire station data collected by TNMCorps volunteers](#) in their [COVID-19 response efforts](#).

We couldn't do this important work without you, so thank you for being a part of TNMCorps!

***Thanks again and  
stay safe everyone!***



*As an ideal stay-at-home/social distancing volunteer opportunity, The National Map Corps was recently featured in [Geospatial Solutions](#) and [The Beacon](#). And if you haven't seen it yet, check out our fun new [marketing video](#)!*

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## Mapping Challenges Updates

TNMCORPS has seen an increase in new volunteers since our [last newsletter](#) was published, so here's a huge shout-out and WELCOME to our new volunteers! For those who are new to our mapping challenges, these are small, strategic mapathon-like projects that TNMCORPS uses to guide volunteers toward areas needing attention while also preparing the data for [US Topo](#) production. By participating in mapping challenges, you not only get a special shout-out in each challenge's recap, but you're also contributing to the greater cause by ensuring the data is up to date!

### What's a "Recap"?

*A recap is a set of summary results that TNMCORPS posts at the end of each challenge. These results include statistics such as the number of edits that volunteers contributed between the start and end dates along with the number of volunteers who participated. For volunteers who've [consented](#), we also list the usernames of those who participated as way of saying thanks. And just for fun, we also generate an animated map showing a time-lapse of edits between the start and end dates.*

Here's an example of one of our most [recent recaps](#):



Date published: APRIL 29, 2020

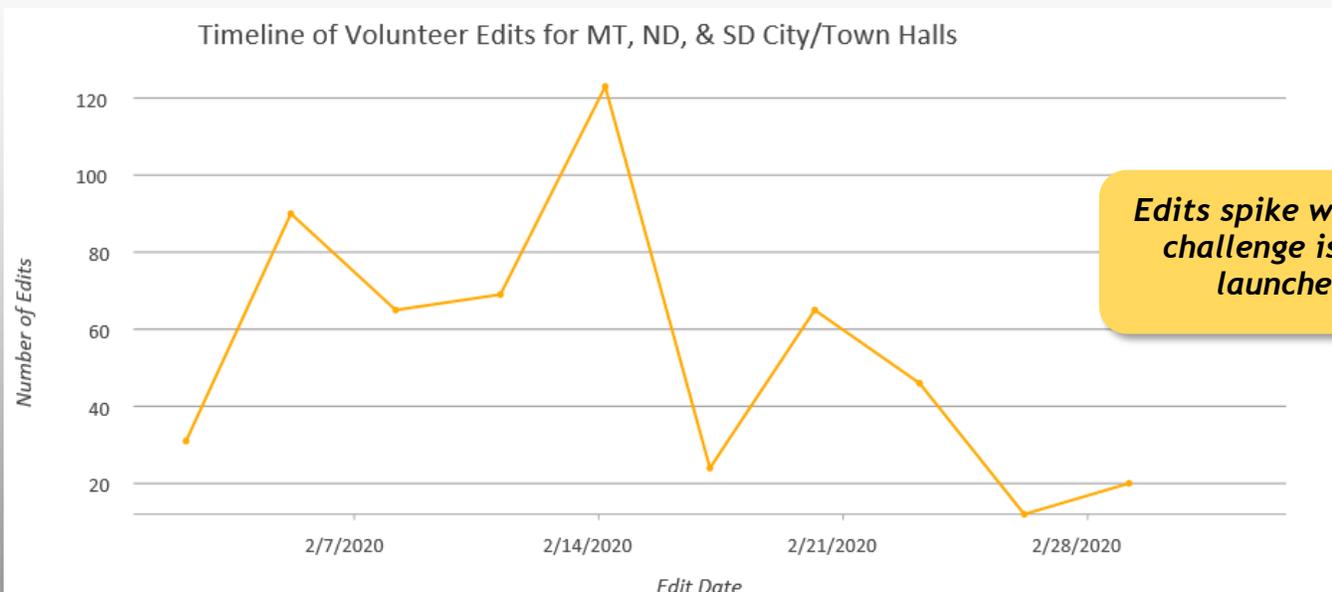
#### TNMCORPS Mapping Challenge Summary Results for Schools in GA & SC

This challenge is now complete!! Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Attribution: Core Science Systems, Science Support, National Geospatial Program

### Stepping Up to the Challenge

Our volunteers are always eager to jump in when we launch a new challenge. It's fun to see the number of edits significantly rise in the first couple of days and then fluctuate throughout the remainder of the challenge.



**Edits spike when the challenge is first launched.**

## Mapping Challenges Updates (Continued)

Another testimony to volunteers stepping up is the number of challenges they complete. For instance, volunteers have completed **5 additional challenges** since our [March 2020 newsletter](#).

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	LENGTH (DAYS)	# OF UNIQUE POINTS	# OF VOLUNTEERS
<b>2020</b>					
Schools	<a href="#">GA, SC</a>	3/12/20 - 4/23/20	42	2,762	17
City / Town Halls	<a href="#">GA, SC</a>	3/12/20 - 4/23/20	42	329	8
Schools	<a href="#">AR</a>	2/12/20 - 4/2/20	50	1,066	4
City / Town Halls	<a href="#">AR</a>	2/12/20 - 4/2/20	50	160	4
City / Town Halls	<a href="#">MT, ND, SD</a>	1/30/20 - 3/5/20	35	405	8
City / Town Halls	<a href="#">ID</a>	1/30/20 - 2/12/20	13	142	3
City / Town Halls	<a href="#">WA / OR</a>	1/9/20 - 2/12/20	34	388	9

AMAZING!

Check out which challenges we currently have open. Challenges are posted on our website (<https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/tnm-corps>) under Resources > Mapping Challenges. This is also where you'll find challenge recaps.

## (P)awesome Volunteer Update: Stella!



Back in our [September 2019 newsletter](#) we featured the newest four-legged member of the TNMCORPS team: Stella! At the time she was only 9 months old and a little too full of “puppy energy” to assist the [Rhode Island historic cemetery mapping contingent](#) with their cemetery mapping missions. But she’s grown up, and over a month ago joined the contingent for her first mapping excursion!

By Cgibson:

“[Stella] is a bit over 1 year old now, and although she’s still a crazy puppy, she is old enough to walk (actually, run...this dog never strolls) a relatively straight line on a trail. [This] was her first day out, at cemetery ‘NK021.’ This was on an old rail trail near my house, so not as remote as some, but still out in the woods. Unfortunately, many of the headstones are damaged, but the couple I could read are very old – from the 1700s. So, it was still interesting. Here’s Stella, celebrating her first mapping point for TNMCORPS!”

Be sure to check out the articles linked above to learn more about the work volunteers Cgibson and RISailor are doing to verify all the historical cemeteries in Rhode Island!

# (P)awesome Coworkers!

Since the TNMCorps team has been working from home for the last couple of months, our fuzzy companions have become our new coworkers. Whether bombing video calls, stealing snacks, spilling coffee, or marching across the keyboard, they aren't always the most helpful addition to our work lives, but we love them anyway!

We thought it would be fun to share our (p)awesome coworkers with you, and we'd love it if you shared yours with us! Whether they hang out with you on the job (at home or in the field, like Stella), or assist you with editing TNMCorps data, [send us](#) pics of your pets "at work" and we'll feature them in our July newsletter.

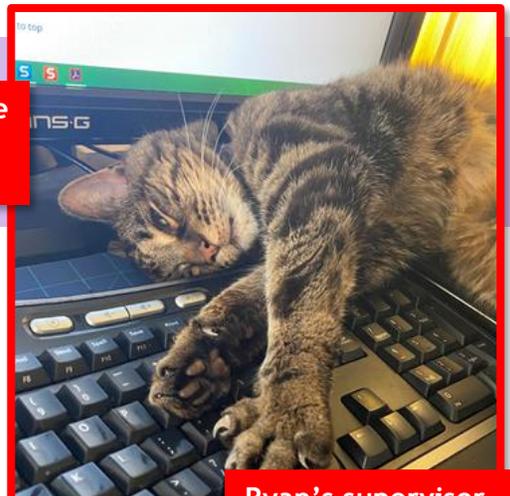
Emily

My cats either really love me, or they're secretly trying to sabotage my work. Maybe both?!? Could just be the heat from my laptop. At least they keep my hands warm!



Erin

Ryan was employee of the month until this hostile keyboard takeover:



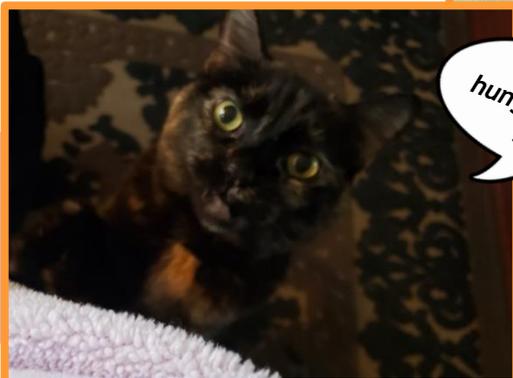
Ryan's supervisor, Beulah, got caught sleeping on the job.

Sam

I have a cat who is always seeking a warm lap to lay on. However, come time for feeding, she's eager to remind me of what time it is by pawing at my arm.



"I'm hungry...feed me!"



## Volunteer Bio: SaltyHiker

*After editing more than 2,000 unique points, SaltyHiker is the newest member of the [Theodolite Assemblage!](#)*

“Hello all! I’ve been intrigued with maps and their representation of the world ever since my older brother brought a USGS Topo map home in the mid-1960s. I still enjoy taking the historical USGS Topo maps and locating features in the world, even wagon trails from the late 1800s!

“I had a 35-year career as an aerospace engineer, during which time I also took many backpacking trips, with USGS Topos always on hand. That way I always knew exactly where I was when in unfamiliar territory. Please don’t believe friends who tell stories about the times I got lost...



“I’m now retired and spend my days as a volunteer and amateur naturalist; and trying to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. Among my volunteer activities are helping with paddling events and trail maintenance at a local nature center; hiking or kayaking each day during which time I photograph and upload anything interesting in nature that I might see; collecting, mounting, and transcribing herbarium specimens; helping out at a homeless shelter; helping out at a local botanical garden; and working any short-term projects of interest that might crop up through the naturalist network.

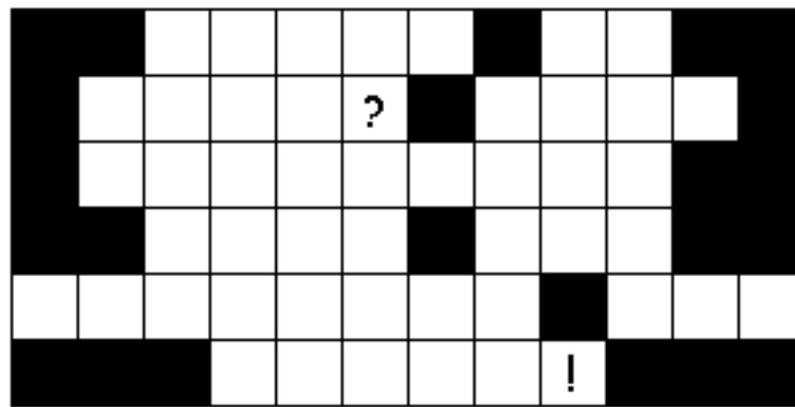
“I’m staying active in many ways, but not like working an actual job... and to me it isn’t the subject matter that’s important; rather it’s the fulfillment of curiosity, continual learning, and time with other volunteers that are important.

“With regards to TNMCorps, I enjoy researching and entering data for cemeteries, ensuring these hallowed grounds remain accurately portrayed on The National Map.

“I send my best wishes to all my fellow volunteers, and to the entire TNMCorps team!”

## TNMCORPS Puzzle: Fallen Phrases

All of the letters fell out of their columns! Reposition the letters back into their places to discover the phrase. Letters can only move up and down vertically.



L T  
 W M U R C T  
 T I O N T E H R  
 V O T U H K L A M  
 A O I E C A T O E A  
 N H S C O N P S E M E P



## Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing.

Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the “[public domain](#),” and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

Please email them to [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov)



## New Recognition Category Members



**Squadron of Biplane Spectators (6000-6999)**



**Family of Floating Photogrammetrists (3000-3999)**

- Vy Phan Tuong Le



**Theodolite Assemblage (2000-2999)**

- SaltyHiker



**Stadia Board Society (500-999)**

- Carat17
- JS126
- doug\_lane
- ktomansager
- jkl789
- StephanieG
- fritschal



**Ring of Reconnaissance Rocketeers (5000-5999)**



**Flock of Winged Witnesses (4000-4999)**

- LB2019gis



**Alidade Alliance (1000-1999)**

- Carat17
- JoanMCCameron



**Circle of the Surveyor's Compass (200-499)**

- Anton Guo
- Carat17
- CRSGamer
- LabradorSky
- billbrasky82
- StephanieG
- Ktomansager
- Tread
- Jretallack
- fritschal
- patricknava
- NorthwoodsGal
- claraapt246



**Pedometer Posse (100-199)**

- Carat17
- stevieba
- StephanieG
- hercula24
- Ron.E.Schultz
- AnneG
- JRetallack
- LabradorSky
- NorthwoodsGal
- SGlasshoff
- fritschal
- ktomansager
- patricknava
- tolover
- Tread
- claraapt246
- dominicalhambra
- claraapt246
- steinede
- flowermoon11
- m.tralka
- strabo1767



**Society of the Steel Tape (50-99)**

- Carat17
- Ronney Phillips
- hercula24
- Ron.E.Schultz
- StephanieG
- NorthwoodsGal
- m.tralka
- JRetallack
- LabradorSky
- SGlasshoff
- Tread
- claraapt246
- dominicalhambra
- lfurry8
- patricknava
- tolover
- Beth\_Ortiz
- steinede
- MelF7
- MapEditor
- cdav8
- fritschal
- strabo1767
- ktomansager
- PETorske
- flowermoon11
- korybentley



**Order of the Surveyor's Chain (25-49)**

- Ron.E.Schultz
- StephanieG
- hercula24
- Ronney Phillips
- PETorske
- Morganbrion
- patricknava
- AFarrar
- Beth\_Ortiz
- Caleos
- Elise.M.A.
- JRetallack
- LabradorSky
- SGlasshoff
- Tread
- lfurry8
- MapEditor
- steinede
- susabell10
- tolover
- MelF7
- caitlynsb
- Juan
- j\_winx
- korybentley
- flowermoon11
- NorthwoodsGal
- cdav8
- ktomansager
- strabo1767
- zoomer
- dominicalhambra
- fritschal
- m.tralka
- mtjewel

CONTACT US AT: [nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov](mailto:nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov) for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

