



HYPACK
a xylem brand

Sounding Better!

Letter from the General Manager

By Harold Orlinsky

The other day while shopping at Costco I saw a Christmas tree for sale. I was wearing a t-shirt and getting the last of the watermelons. It just didn't seem right. Thanksgiving Day first, followed by early season snowfall, and then the trees. At least that's what we always learned the way things are supposed to happen. After the New Year, we have the HYPACK training event, the next release, and then start our survey season. But throw in a bit of chaos, mix it up, and we get our tree and watermelon at the same time. We get used to it, and when it happens again, we are ready for these changes.

So what does this have to do with HYPACK®? It's called HYPACK® 2018. It's full of changes, but we're ready for them.

HYPACK® 2018: We started off this year with the 2017 release in January. There were new programs, new sonar interfaces, updates to many program and the inevitable moving of icons and menus along the way. I'll share the sentiment of "why do that" with everyone else, but a few weeks later we forgot how the old one worked and used the newer version, and even with all these changes, we realized the new one far exceeded the previous version.

In a few months, we will have our HYPACK® 2018 release out. We'll show it off at the HYPACK training event in January, and get it to everyone a few weeks later. Until then, we will continue to work on the program, testing and then a bit more testing. We want to make sure there are no oops or misses along the way. You'll read about some of these updates in this newsletter.

My Visit to USACE Annudal Meeting: In October, I was invited to the annual USACE meeting in Portland OR. It was nice to see folks, show off a bit of the HYPACK® software, and answer questions along the way. At the meeting, two things stood out to me:

First, it was a bit of the changing of the guard; there were a lot of new folks working alongside veterans at the districts. (I've been doing this more than 25 years, so I'll consider myself an old timer.) Now it's our turn to teach the next group of surveyors what we did to make a survey work and avoid the mistakes we made along the way.

The other thing I noticed was that the group is using way more complex equipment than we used 25 years ago. Multibeam is a standard for everyone. Now I see more groups using the topographic lasers for their survey work, using autonomous boats for areas that were too difficult to survey, and the group together is coming up with more complex survey plans. The old adage that sometimes changes come slowly is not happening. These changes are being made all the time.

We can't stop changes. (And that is good!)

See you in Savannah in January!

- Harold