

Survey Slang

A Picket	The width of a rod as in "half a picket to your left"
A Warm Body	A green rodman hired to fill out a crew.
Angle Tightener	Party Chief to a new, unsuspecting instrument person "We have a bad angular closure, what you need is a angle tightener I think it's in the glove box next to the tape calibrator!"
Arkansas Ninety	Standing on a line and slapping your hands together to approximate 90°.
Banana Knife	Machete
Beater	Sledgehammer
Beer 30	Quitting time
Beer Leg	When the instrument operator sets a tripod leg on the line so that the chainman can't chain properly. The first one to recognize it and holler out gets a free beer from the instrument man. "This doesn't happen as much since we got those new-fangled EDM things."
Beer Thirty	Quitting time
Beer Truck	Park a truck over a control point and you buy the beer (full case)
Big Yellow	Metal detector
Bill Dukey	Shovel
Bleed All Over It	Lots of red edits to the draftsman's maps
Blowing The Office Stink Off	Going out into the field.
BOB	Old HP total station for big orange box.
Bob Up	Raise the gammon reel
Bonker	Metal detector
Boomer	Long shot
Box It	To pack up the instrument
Break Chain	Shortening the chain going up or down hills.
Brush	Any timbered area
Buck In	Trial and error instrument setup online between two points.
Bug	Eleven
Bump	Small amount followed by right or left
Bust	When the traverse/level loop has a bad closure due to a mistake.
Button Monkey	Surveyor who only pays attention to the data collector and not the real world.
Candy Cane	Range pole
Can't See It From My House	Good enough - let's get out of here.
Cap Crusher	Aluminum cap driver
Carl	Nickname for a Zeiss theodolite
Cartoon	Construction plan
Chain	Anything to measure with that winds up (cloth tape, nylon, metal, etc)
Clap a Ninety	A right angle off a baseline.
Concrete Dry	End of GPS static session (as in about as exciting as watching dry)
Cooked Up	GPS session done
Cornstalk	(25 footer).
Cows Face	Steep ground
Crick	Creek in Pittsburgh
Crummy	Crews vehicle
Dark 30	When do we quit?
Desk jockey	Office worker

Survey Slang

Dingwop	A 1.5 inch diameter by 6 inch long steel weight with an eye-bolt and spring-latch (like the hardware at the end of a dog leash) screwed into the weight such that the distance from the bottom of the weight to the inside of the spring latch is one foot. It is used primarily as a weight at the end of a fiberglass tape to use when sounding water depths or measuring water surface elevation below a reference point on a bridge. It makes it simple to adjust your sounding or tape-down distance by exactly one foot. It is also handy to use simply as a weight to hold one end of the tape when doing rough horizontal distance measurements by yourself. It is a common term within the water resources community in Indiana (USGS and DNR at least).
Dinky	Eleven
Dirt Bag	Someone that is unlicensed going to the field
Dog Hair or Whips	Small pieces of timber
Donneker	A big, unmovable rock just sticking out above subgrade.
Doodlebug	Magnetic Locater
Drive It	Set the pin (or stake)
Duane Thomas Rod	One that you are not sure whether it was adjusted, or hit by a Road Grader or maybe some sort of farming machine.
Every time you think about it, hurry	What the surveyor tells a crewman that may be dragging.
Eye Box	I send the green chainman to find one
Eye-oh	I/O or instrument operator
Field Apes	Field worker
Flop	Double centering
Flying Saucer Surveyors	Those who believe blindly in GPS.
Flying Saucers	For GPS receivers
Following Rabbit Tracks	Running an erratic traverse
Frost Pin	Big steel spike
Funny Papers	Construction papers.
Fuzz	Small amount followed by right or left
George	Nickname for Geodimeter.
Get down there and wolf that out	Clear the brush with a chain saw.
Give Me a Boot	When doing a topographic survey, placing the rod on your boot top to get that extra foot of rod to read.
Glass	Prism
Goat Meter	Nickname for the Geodimeter.
Good for Wood	Instrument man telling chainman, when putting a hub on line prior to pounding it in to set a tack.
Grunt	Term used by office persons to identify field persons
Gum Tree	A tree the field crew has no idea what it is, so they identify it as a "gum tree"
Gun	Theodolite/Total station
Hair	Small amount followed by right or left
Have a pencil? Then get his phone number and you can call him tonight	Ya'll are talking too much out there.
Head for The Shed	We have completed our assigned duties for the day and it is now time to return to the office.
Hemlock Stump	Surveyors IQ
He's crazier than a run over dog.	When someone does or says something foolish or funny
He's stump broke	Experienced field hand
Highway Ham Sandwich	A bologna sandwich. The Georgia State Highway Dept. lunch, couldn't afford real ham sandwiches for lunch.
Hockey Puck	Tribrach adaptor

Survey Slang

Holler	Not to yell, but a "hollow", as in a stream depression.
Hollywood	The number 69.
Hop	Height of the backsight.
Hotfoot	Rodman on a two man crew
I-man	Instrument person
Importing Daylight	Very deep into the woods!
It is what it is	Used in the field and now the office, when a measurement doesn't match record.
I've had more fun than any one person should have	We have completed our assigned duties for the day and it is now time to return to the office.
Jaggerz	What the southerners call "briars" or "sticker bushes" - the field crew hates these
Jakeleg Surveyor	An unlicensed surveyor that will work cheaply.
Jigger	For any survey instrument on a tripod except GPS which seems to have no nickname. Origin of "Jigger" thought to be from a question asked by a native New Zealander in the 1800s "What's that thingamajig?"
Jumper	Chisel used to make a hole in the rock roof to set the station underground
Just installing a perforated overhead sanitary line through your property, sir.	To a inquiring property owner
Knife	Machete
Knock	Small amount followed by right or left
Legs	Tripod
Lens	Prism
'Lil	Small amount followed by right or left
Lucy	Prism pole
Magic Carpet Ride	Helicopter transport
Maul	Wisconsin slang for sledge hammer
Meat	New folks referred to as "meat"; as in fresh!
Mirror	Prism
Motion Lotion	Gasoline
Mount	Tripod
Moving a "Rod" or "Half a Rod"	Moving by a prism pole width
Mr. Green Jeans	Nickname for a Wild T-1
Muck Muck	Use your hands
Mudbug (a Louisiana crawfish)	Field hand
Must be part of an old Mule plow	You have no idea what you just dug up when looking for the corner.
Nancy	Nikon NTD3
Nolan (short for Swollen Nolan)	Wooden Tripods
Nose bag	Lunch box
Number Banger	Person that calculates
Ok, another day in the life of Rod Transit.	The chief signals quitting time.
Ought, Double Ought, Triple Ought	0, 00, 000 - stationing (1+00 is "one plus double ought") or size of drafting pens
Pack It Up	We have completed our assigned duties for the day and it is now time to return to the office.
Pee cup	Wisconsin slang for pickup truck
Pegged out my fun meter	After working all day in 60 mph winds and 20 degrees.
P-gun	Hand level
Ph.D	Really handy for setting monuments-that's a post hole digger

Survey Slang

Pin Finder	Magnetic Locater
Pincushion Corner	More than one monument marking one point.
Pipe Farm	Area with lots of pincushion corners.
Pistol Butt	Crooked tree trunk
Planting Iron	Setting monuments
Plumb Ball	Plumb bob
Pogie	Term used by field persons to identify office persons
Pogo	Prism pole
Pogo Stick	Prism pole
Pogues	Office types
Pogy	Prism pole
Point of "Beer"ing	Rod person sets point near large obstacle blocking field of vision for subsequent shots. Previous setup needs to be repeated to set new point. More common than beer leg in these EDM days. Rod person buys round for crew.
Pointer	Theodolite/Total station
Pounder	Sledgehammer
Powder Monkey	Blasting person
Powerful Saw	Chain saw
Pretty maids in a row	Good points on line
Pull your head out of your box	Telling a "Button Monkey" to pay attention to what's on the ground and not in the data collector
Pulp Wood Crew	Survey crew that spends a lot of time cutting line
Punk	11 (so as not to mix up with 7)
Punkin	The number 7 (7 and 11 sound alike when shouted from a long distance)
Railroad	The number 11
Raise for Red	Rod to close to level
Ralph	Metal detector
RBS	Really Big Scale - usually a big old' 2 foot long architectural scale.
RBT	Really Big Triangle - "Looks like we'll need the RBT to draw this line"
Red Dawg	Red clay road in Pittsburgh
Red Head	Nail with flagging on it set for temporary point
Reflector	Prism
Rigging	Surveyors tools
Rigging Slippers or Sticky Shoes	Caulk boots
Robbie Gunn	Two man robotic crew. RG is used in field notes for the "other" crew member
Rock Detector	That mysterious device that the new guy always gets sent to the truck to find
Rod	Prism pole
RSO	Radial stake out sheet given to crew in pre-data collector days.
School Marm	Two trees growing together
Scope	Theodolite/Total station
Screamer	Metal detector
Sharp Shooter	Shovel or drain spade
Shooter	Theodolite/Total station
Shooting Stick	Prism Pole
Side Rod	The boss
Skootch	Move it a little bit - "Skootch it left a hair Bubba!"

Survey Slang

Skosh	Small amount followed by right or left.
Slack Off	Quitting time
Smeller	Magnetic Locator
Snag	Old dead tree
Sniffer	Metal detector
Some days chicken, some days feathers.	When things aren't going well for someone.
Spad	Flat nail with an eyehole (to hang the plumb-bob) pounded into the roof underground for a survey station
Spinner	Theodolite/Total station
Sprinkling Holy Water	Land Surveyor signing plat
Staff	Prism pole
Stake Farm	Open construction site where you've just set a couple of hundred survey stakes.
Stinger	Prism pole
Stob Driver	Surveyor
Stone Township	Survey monumented with stone corners
SWAG	Scientific Wild A** Guess
The Rock	T- 2000
Tad	Small amount followed by right or left
Tear Down	Pack up the instrument
The Eagle Flies	Pay day
Ties	Measurements to objects from a corner
Tinhorn	Corrugated metal pipe
Training Wheels	Two lath held to a prism pole to hold it steady for stakeout of "close" points.
Transit	Theodolite/Total station
Wand	Metal detector
Wave it	I can't see you, pick up the rod and wave it around
Well, leave it to Beaver	Commenting on the actions of a consistent bonehead.
Well, sometime you 'da windshield, sometime you 'da bug or	When things aren't going well for someone.
Whirling Disease	Trying to stake a point with RTK after 5 tries and all being in a circular pattern.
Whiskey Leg	Rather than beer leg, (illustrative of early mentors)
Wiggle In	The process of setting up the transit on line between two points - a trial & error sort of thing that gets you kind of close to being on line - sometimes called "bucking in"
Wing Ding	The 90 degree arms measure
Ying Yang	Confused person
Your other left	Right.
Your other right	Left.

Yoyo	Gammon reel
-------------	-------------