From the Editors
The following is a compilation of the official minutes from the 1995-1997 SERA Winter Business meetings. Please take into consideration that the information contained herein may be dated. Attached at the end is SERA Award Nomination Forms. Please use them or copy the format to another sheet and use that.

Message From The Chair
What is SERA?

When one thinks of SERA, the first thing that comes to mind is the Summer Cave Carnival. My first knowledge of SERA was when I first moved down from Syracuse, NY to Atlanta in 1992 and attended my first Cave Carnival at Buck's Pocket State Park. I had no idea of SERA's other functions until I attended the SERA Winter Business Meeting at Oak Ridge, TN in 1994. I realize that other cavers may also not be fully aware of what SERA is and does. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to familiarize everyone.

SERA is the Southeastern Regional Association of Grottos of the National Speleological Society. SERA is made up of grottos and state cave surveys in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

SERA holds one meeting a year - the SERA Winter Business Meeting, hosted by a different grotto or cave survey every year as determined on an alphabetical name basis. This meeting allows grottos and state cave surveys to tell one another what they have been up to in the past year and voice their concerns about issues in the SERA region. Typically, around 35 people attend. Proposals for grants relating to the SERA region are voted upon. Grants typically range from $50 to $200. SERA has a limited budget from revenue generated by a tax on attendees of the Summer Cave Carnival, currently at one dollar per person.

Elections are held at the meeting. There are two open positions every year, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair automatically becomes the Chair the following year.

Four awards are determined by committees at the meeting and are awarded at the banquet later on in the day. Nominations can be submitted by anyone and are accepted at any time including at the meeting. Nominees who do not receive an award in a given year are automatically included in following years as long as they still qualify. The four awards are the Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award, the SERA Conservation Award, the Francis McKinney Award, and the Richard Schreiber Award. Each of these awards is quite prestigious and is not awarded if there is no appropriate nominee. All awards include a framed certificate and a $50 award.

Starting three years ago, there has been a map salon at the meetings. This year there was a photo salon. Both events promote caving activities in the SERA region and make the meeting more entertaining.

In the evening of the meeting, there is a banquet with a speaker, and awards are announced and given out to people present.

And lastly, there is the SERA Summer Cave Carnival which is hosted by a grotto or cave survey on a rotating alphabetical basis. The cave carnival is held in a different part of the SERA region every year, giving attendees the opportunity to visit caves around the region. There are usually between 400 and 700 attendees each year. In addition to providing a fun event for cavers, it gives an opportunity for grottos and cave surveys to make some money for their caving activities.

I would like to thank everyone who helped contribute to making both SERA events this year a success! The Georgia Speleological Society for hosting the Winter Business Meeting in Rome, GA, on a very short notice; Kurt Buhlmann for giving a great talk on the biological survey of the caves on Pigeon Mountain; Carl Anderson for running the map salon; Marion Ziemons for running the photo salon; the Central Alabama Grotto for hosting a very fun Summer Cave Carnival at Raccoon Mountain, TN; John Hoffelt for his great job as SERA Chair; and last but not least, Bill Bussey for his hard work as SERA Secretary/Treasurer.

The Huntsville Grotto will be hosting the SERA Winter Business Meeting next year. The Chattanooga Grotto is next in the rotation to host the SERA Cave Carnival, but plan to trade their turn with another grotto (tentatively The Nashville Grotto) due to their commitment to the Sewanee Convention. I hope to see everyone at both events.

Brent Aulenbach, SERA Chair

1997 SERA Officers
Chairman Brent Aulenbach flittermice@worldnet.att.net
Vice-Chair Don Hunter
Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey billbuss@gte.net

1997 SERA Newsletter Editors
Carl Anderson, Shirley Sotona
Submissions for the 1998 SERA Newsletter should be sent to Don Hunter, 1998 SERA Newsletter editor atcaver@negia.net
1995 SERA Winter Business Meeting
March 11, 1995

The 1995 Southeastern Regional Association Winter Business Meeting was held on March 11, 1995, at the Comfort Inn in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Around fifty cavers attended the meeting which was hosted by the East Tennessee Grotto.

Chairman Ned Littell called the meeting to order at 1:45 PM. The roll was called with sixteen member organizations represented. Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey reported $519.95 Total Income and $1463.54 Expenses, including a $500 loan to the 1995 SERA Cave Carnival, for an Ending Balance of $539.02.

SERA Newsletter editor Shari Lydy will be leaving the southeast this year. Shirley Sotona, 2466 Drew Valley Rd., Atlanta, GA, 30319, (404) 315-1872, has volunteered to become the new editor. Shirley asks that clubs send her their newsletters.

The East Tennessee Grotto was thanked by the group for hosting a fine Winter Business meeting in a very nice facility.

The Birmingham Grotto will host the 1996 SERA Summer Cave Carnival on July 19-21, 1996 at Camp Jackson, Scottsboro, AL. The Chairman is Dave Howell, (205) 591-5127. Contact Scott Fee (205) 854-7487 for registration info.

The Flittermouse Grotto will host the 1996 SERA Winter Business Meeting April 13, 1996 at the Community Building in Marion, NC. Special trips to world famous Bat Cave will be available. Contact Susan Holler at (704) 724-9651 for registration info.

Cato Holler sadly announced that Russ Gurnee, former President of the National Speleological Society, passed away in February. Russ was a friend to many SERA cavers. He is missed...

In grants reports, Ned Littell reported that the Chattanooga Grotto received $200 to go toward the gating of Mystery Hole in Chattanooga, TN. The gate had already been built when they received the grant, so the money went to defray expenses.

The NSS Contemporary Cave Use Study (CCUS) received a $200 grant from SERA. John Wilson, who was running the Study at the time, passed along thanks to SERA. Since the CCUS is now a budgeted item with the NSS, dedicated donations are now handled through the Society. SERA is a longtime contributor to the CCUS. Please keep signing those registers.

Kenneth Huffines, on behalf of Allen Padgett, asked for a SERA grant for a Biological Inventory on the caves in and around Pigeon Mtn. They need $4000 total to hire two graduate Biology students for three months this summer. The Department of Natural Resources would provide them with housing, a vehicle, and caving equipment. The grant money would pay for lab fees and salary for two students. The last Biological survey was done in a few hours in the late 1960s. They found a new salamander and an isopod found only on the mountain. Asking for $500; however, would be happy with anything SERA would give.

Birmingham moved $50 for the Biological inventory. Nashville amended $250. With a vote of 16 in favor and one opposed, the motion to grant $250 to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for a Biological Inventory of the caves of Pigeon Mtn. was approved.

Carl Anderson reported the following winners of the first SERA Map Salon:

**Winners of the 1995 SERA Map Salon**

- **Electronically Drafted**
  - Small Cave: Jack Thomison
  - Horizontal & Multidrop: Brent Aulenbach

- **Hand Drafted**
  - Bud’s Valentine Cave, TN: Alan Cressler
  - Westwing Caverns, TN: Hunter’s Well
  - Redemption Pit, TX: Mike Doughty

Carl Anderson moved that SERA form a committee to hold a Map Salon at each year’s SERA Winter Business meeting. Dogwood City seconded. The committee would make sure salon facilities are in place, do the needed paperwork, find judges, etc. The motion passed unanimously. Carl Anderson will serve as committee Chair. Brent Aulenbach, Shirley Sotona, and Bill Bussey agreed to serve on the Map Salon committee. Note that only maps of TAG caves will be judged in future salons. For more information about the 1996 SERA Map Salon contact Carl Anderson at (404) 315-1872 or E-Mail dsadmcv@gatech.edu (no longer correct Ed.)

Shirley Sotona asked for interest in a SERA Photo Salon. There seemed to be some interest. Ned Littell pointed out that many clubs do this already, and perhaps the grotto winners could be forwarded to SERA for judging and display at the Winter Business meeting. For further information on how to enter, contact Shirley Sotona.

Under SERA Bylaws, the Vice Chair becomes Chair after each meeting. Thus, John Hoffelt of Nashville and Don Hunter of Athens were nominated for Vice Chair. In the election, John Hoffelt was elected SERA Vice Chair. He will become SERA Chair in 1997. Bill Bussey was re-elected SERA Secretary/Treasurer.

**SERA Award Committee members for 1996 include:**

- **Francis McKinney Award** - Bill Putnam, Gerald Waddle, Jim Whidby.
- **Richard Schriever Award** - Mike Doughty, Shari Lydy, Don Hunter.
- **Larry Adams Landowner Appreciation Award** - Mike Bose, Fred Callicott, Alan Cressler.
- **Conservation Award** - Bill Bussey, John Hoffelt, Mike Bose.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

At the banquet that evening Jack Thomison was presented the Francis McKinney award. Mike Rogers was awarded the Richard Schriever award. The SERA Conservation Award was presented to John Hoffelt. And Dr. Ralph M. Sheppard, owner of the Scottsboro Mtn. caver camping area and several caves was honored with the SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award. All awards committees are requesting nominations for future awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bussey, Secretary/Treasurer
1996 SERA Winter Business Meeting

April 13, 1996

The 1996 Southeastern Regional Association Winter Business Meeting was held on April 13, 1996 at the Marion Community Center in Marion, North Carolina. Around forty cavers attended the meeting which was hosted by the Flittermouse Grotto.

Chairman Jack Thomison called the meeting to order at 1:28 PM. The roll was called with sixteen member organizations represented. The 1995 Meeting Minutes were summarized. Kenneth Huffines reported that the Pigeon Mtn. biological inventory which SERA had contributed $250 to had been completed. The final report is still in preparation. Ellison’s, Pettijohns, Case, Sitton’s and other caves on the mountain were inventoried. Several new species came out of it. Also, a number of assisting cavers learned a lot about biology.

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey reported $1319.66 Total Income and $478.03 in Expenses. The Ending Balance was $1380.65.

So far no host for the 1997 SERA Winter Business Meeting. Later in the year, the Georgia Speleological Survey agreed to host the 1997 WBM.

Bill Bussey asked for discussion about whether SERA should encourage groups not chartered by the NSS to join SERA as voting organizations. He noted these groups are largely composed of NSS members, and they could bring a lot of good to SERA. They should have a voice in SERA. John Hoffelt read Article IV of the SERA Constitution which states that:

IV. The government of SERA shall be by a Governing Committee composed of one representative from each Internal Organization of the NSS within the Region and one representative from members not belonging to an Internal Organization, but in no time shall the Committee consist of less than three active members of the NSS. The Governing Committee shall hold at least one meeting per year.

Bussey noted that he read one representative from members not belonging to an Internal Organization... as one representative representing all the organizations not affiliated with the NSS. He would like to see one representative to SERA from each individual group. This would allow groups not affiliated with the NSS to have a part in decisions of SERA.

Discussion focused on whether groups would want to become members of SERA, as they chose not to become affiliated with the NSS. Also, the groups would receive representation by their members being members of NSS affiliated groups. It was determined that groups would decide for themselves whether to join SERA.

As an aside, Jack Thomison said he sees SERA’s mission as to encourage interaction between the grottos and to get them to work together.

There was discussion about a recent major fuel oil spill on Lookout Mountain. Due to the karst topography of the mountain, most of the oil had disappeared. Mystery Hole was closed because of it, and a fuel smell had been detected in several other caves on the mountain. John Hoffelt thought, since we had lost a cave area, that caving groups might consider filing a class action to replace this lost area with another cave area. After discussion, it was determined that local grottos and the NSS were keeping updated on the situation. At this time, SERA doesn’t have the information, funds, or the will to pursue this matter further. However, SERA needs to do something.

Triangle Troglodytes moves and Nashville seconded:

Brent Aulenbach reported that the Map Salon was happening. The judges are Gerald Moni, Richard Blackburn, and Laurie Adams. Winners will be announced at the banquet. Chairman Thomison encouraged people to enter maps in the future.

The proposed SERA Photo Salon was discussed. Nothing had really happened on it.

Michael Gilbert reported the Birmingham Grotto will host the 1996 SERA Summer Cave Carnival on July 19-21, 1996, at Camp Jackson, Scottsboro, AL. Cavers can’t camp there until Thursday afternoon. The Central Alabama Grotto will run the munchie stand.

New Business

Bill Bussey asked for cavers to serve on the four SERA awards committees. After prodding, he managed to fill the committees.

The 1997 SERA Summer Cave Carnival will be hosted by the Central Alabama Grotto in May 1997.
SERA is concerned about the Colonial Pipeline spill on Lookout Mountain. We support the efforts of the Chattanooga Grotto and other caving organizations in determining the best approach for remediation of damages to cave resources. The motion passed unanimously.

Gerald Moni spoke on the Tennessee Cave Survey’s need for a new computer to improve service to the region.

Tennessee Cave Survey moved and Triangle Troglodytes seconded: SERA grant the Tennessee Cave Survey $200 toward a computer. The motion passed unanimously.

Chattanooga moved and Nashville seconded: SERA donate $250 to the Southeastern Cave Conservancy toward the purchase of a piece of Neversink Pit. The motion passed unanimously.

Carol Jackson on behalf of the Spa Association requested a grant from SERA for Speleo spa facilities at regional events. There are a lot of expendables such as fuel, sheet plastic, filters and other items which need to be replaced before each event. They are also trying to build a permanent cache of gear so they don’t have to borrow other people’s equipment.

Triangle Troglodytes moved and Augusta seconded:

SERA grant $100 to the Spa Association for Speleo Spa functions at SERA and NSS events. The motion passed with 12 in favor, with 3 opposed.

In elections, Brent Aulenbach and Richard Blackburn, both of Atlanta, were nominated for Vice Chair to serve through the 1997 Business meeting. In the election, Brent Aulenbach was elected SERA Vice Chair. He will become SERA Chair in 1997. Bill Bussey was re-elected SERA Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 PM.

At the banquet that evening, Brent Aulenbach reported the following winners of the SERA Map Salon.

**Winners of the 1996 SERA Map Salon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small Cave</td>
<td>Carl Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Cave</td>
<td>Mike Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cave &amp; New Cartographer</td>
<td>Andy Porter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish Cave</td>
<td>Fairview Cave, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking Fern Pit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The motion passed unanimously.

At the banquet that evening, Laurie Adams was presented the **Francis McKinney Award**.

Brent Aulenbach was awarded the **Richard Schreiber Award**.

Chattanooga Grotto was awarded the **SERA Conservation Award**.

Martha Eblen Brashears, owner of Eblen Cave, was honored with the **Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award**.

All awards committees are requesting nominations for future awards.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bussey, Secretary/Treasurer

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**1997 SERA Winter Business Meeting**

April 5, 1997

The 1997 Southeastern Regional Association Winter Business Meeting was held on April 5, 1997 at the Winshape Center at Berry College, in Rome, Georgia. Around forty cavers attended the meeting which was hosted by the Georgia Speleological Survey.

Chairman John Hoffelt called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. Michael Gilbert of the Central Alabama Grotto reported on preparations for the 1997 Summer Cave Carnival. He noted that the Raccoon Mtn. Campground was chosen because it was a working campground in the heart of the region. It was not the first choice. There will be a 52 page guidebook and a live band. Also they will have 31 full hookup sites at $16 and 46 water and electric sites available for $10 for the weekend. The web site for the 1997 SERA Cave Carnival is www.eng.auburn.edu/~freyada/cag_index.html.

The roll was called with twenty-four member organizations represented. There are no placards this year. The 1996 Meeting Minutes were approved with a correction noted in the listing of the winners of the Cartographic Salon.

Chairman Hoffelt asked for further discussion about last year’s item of recognizing other non-NSS affiliated groups. Don Hunter spoke up and asked if his group, the Champaign Area Caving Association (CACA), might choose to be recognized, but they had not really thought about it.

The other item of business left over from last year, was the Colonial Pipeline fuel spill on Lookout Mtn. Allen Padgett had given a report on this in the earlier “Reports Session” He added here that cleanup had cost Colonial over one million dollars and 250,000 gallons of oil was still missing. The caves immediately affected by the spill are all back to their original access status. John also reported on another Colonial Pipeline spill in Central Tennessee which occurred close to the Snailshell Cave drainage basin. Most of the fuel was not recovered from this spill either; however, thus far no fuel has been detected in Snailshell Cave.

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Bussey reported a Beginning Balance of $1380.65. Total Income was $646.82 with $761.52 in Expenses. The Ending Balance was $1265.95.

John Hoffelt stated that we had not published a newsletter this year. He asked if we wanted to still publish a newsletter. Bill Bussey noted that it only costs only around $70 to publish a newsletter. It is sent to the individual grottos so many members might not get to see it. He admitted that she probably didn’t publish because she didn’t get the minutes on a timely basis. He will strive to get them to her quickly.

Brent Aulenbach said that the newsletter is needed primarily for archiving. Carl Anderson, “Mr. Sotona,” said that Shirley viewed the publication as a means of disseminating the minutes from the SERA Winter Business Meetings. He also mentioned that Shirley would probably like to turn over the editing responsibility to someone else. Don Hunter said he would take over the editorship of the SERA Newsletter after Shirley got out the next newsletter with her quickly.

In opening up grant proposals, John Hoffelt reminded everyone that SERA had a negative cash flow of $115. He felt negative cash flows were bad business. He thought we could expect to earn approximately $600 from SERA Cave Carnivals. With $300 spent on Awards and the newsletter, we have around $300 to spend on grants.
In an overview of grant requests, April Oberding, after coaching, asked for $200 for the Scotts Gulf Conservation Committee. The Vertical Section wants $100 for gear for Vertical training gear. Also, Bill Bussey requested $100 for a new NSS 20 page booklet titled: Guide to Responsible Caving. Brent Aulenbach noted that we need to keep funds around to help smaller grottos host SERA functions as we have in the past.

Upper Cumberland moved and Chattanooga seconded: SERA grants up to $100 to the Scotts Gulf Committee for an organizational membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Pigeon Mtn. moved and South Carolina Interstate Grotto seconded that: SERA buy a 100 foot section of Kennemer Cave for $100 from the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. The motion passed unanimously.

Triangle Troglodytes moved and Athens seconded that: SERA loan the NSS Vertical Section $200 to purchase equipment for their Vertical Techniques Workshop. This loan will be payable within one year. In discussion, Bill Bussey explained the Vertical Section was looking for funds to help cover capital equipment for this years’ workshop due to a strained cash flow situation. The motion passed unanimously.

John Hoffelt opened discussion on a grant for the book: A Guide to Responsible Caving, written by Ed Sira and published by the NSS. The book would be sold for four or five dollars (Secretary note: the booklet will be given away to grottos for use as a giveaway) and serve to fill the spot between a safe caving brochure and Caving Basics. With other publishing projects, the NSS does not have enough cash flow to publish this book this year. They are looking for approximately $4000 to publish this book which will cover landowner relations, caving ethics, conservation, safe techniques and similar topics. The book is already written and is being laid out. The book would be offered by the bookstore and not to the general public. The motion failed with seven votes for and ten against.

In elections, Don Hunter was elected SERA Vice Chair to serve through the 1998 SERA Winter Business meeting. He will become SERA Chair in 1998. Bill Bussey was re-elected SERA Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

At the banquet that evening, Marion Ziemons reported the following winners of the SERA Photo and Map Salons:

**Winners of the 1997 SERA Print Salon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best of Show</th>
<th>Dan Barnick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Place: Quick Action Snapshot</td>
<td>Leslie Weldon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place: Quick Action Snapshot</td>
<td>Joe Abbott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Place: Print</td>
<td>Carol Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Place: Print</td>
<td>Larry Blair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Winners of the 1997 SERA Slide Salon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slides</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Slide</td>
<td>Leslie Weldon</td>
<td>Dan Barnick</td>
<td>Alan Cressler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Slide</td>
<td>Dan Barnick</td>
<td>Dan Barnick</td>
<td>Marion Ziemons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Flash</td>
<td>Alan Cressler</td>
<td>Alan Cressler</td>
<td>Marion Ziemons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macro</td>
<td>Alan Cressler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humor</td>
<td>Alan Cressler</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Winners of the 1997 SERA Map Salon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best of Show</th>
<th>Hickey Pot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Cave</td>
<td>Twisted Oak Cave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium Cave</td>
<td>Piddling Pit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cave</td>
<td>Hickey Pot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Kambesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the banquet that evening, Bill Walter was announced as the recipient of the Francis McKinney Award. Paul Aughey was declared the winner of the Richard Schreiber Award. April Oberding was awarded the Conservation Award for being the driving force in disseminating information to cavers on the Scotts Gulf situation. Charlie Smith, owner of Solution Rift, Sawmill Well, Hermit Cave, and several other caves in Fiery Gizzard Cove, TN, was honored with the SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award. All awards committees are requesting nominations for future awards.

The banquet speaker was Kirk Buhlman of the Savannah River Ecology Lab. He spoke on the results of the biological inventory of caves on Pigeon Mtn.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Bussey, Secretary/Treasurer
SERA Member Organizations

Organizational membership in SERA is limited to NSS Internal Organizations (IO’s) that are located in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Currently (1997), those organizations are:

**State Cave Surveys:**
Alabama Cave Survey, Georgia Speleological Survey, Tennessee Cave Survey

**Alabama Grottos:**
Birmingham Grotto, Central Alabam Grotto, Cullman Grotto, Huntsville Grotto, Montgomery Grotto

**Florida Grottos:**
Central Florida Cavers, Flint River Grotto, Florida Speleological Society, Tampa Bay Area Grotto

**Georgia Grottos:**
Athens Speleological Society, Augusta Cave Masters, Clayton County Cavers, Dogwood City Grotto, Lost Mountain Cavers, Middle Georgia Cavers, Pigeon Mountain Grotto

**North Carolina Grottos:**
Flittermouse Grotto, Triangle Troglodytes

**South Carolina Grottos:**
South Carolina Interstate Grotto

**Tennessee Grottos:**
Appalachian Grotto, Bon Aqua Cave Rats, Chattanooga Grotto, Cumberland Valley Grotto, East Tennesse Grotto, Mountain Empire Grotto, Nashville Grotto, Sewanee Mountain Grotto, Smoky Mountain Grotto, Southport Chronic cavers, Spencer Mountain Grotto, Tennessee Central Basin Grotto, Upper Cumberland Grotto, West Tennessee Grotto

HOSTING THE SERA CAVE CARNIVAL OR WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

The opportunity to host the SERA Cave Carnival or SERA Winter Business Meeting (WBM) is rotated among the active member organizations of SERA, proceeding in alphabetical order. A member organization may, upon arrival of its turn to host an event, deline to host the event, at which point the offer will automatically be extended to the next member organization on the alphabetical list. If a new NSS IO is created in the SERA region, it will be added to this list at the next occurring WBM.

**Order of First Refusal for 1999 SERA Winter Business Meeting:**
Lost Mountain Cavers, Middle Georgia Grotto, Mountain Empire.

**Order of First Refusal for 1999 SERA Cave Carnival:**
Clayton County Cavers, Cullman Grotto, Cumberland Valley Grotto.

1998 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
Hosted by Huntsville Grotto

**March 20, Friday**
Happy hour / social event for the NSS Board of Governors (BOG) at the NSS office. This is an open event that any caver can attend. We will call out and have pizza delivered.

**March 21, Saturday**
BOG open meeting in the morning.
BOG closed meeting in the afternoon.

SERA Winter Business Meeting: Begins at midday, followed later that night by the banquet. Both the BOG and SERA meetings will be at the same facility, and the banquet will be shared by the BOG and SERA. The banquet’s guest speaker is tentatively scheduled to be the Chair of the Southeastern Cave Conservancy (SCC).

**Sunday, March 22**
Follow-up meeting at the NSS office for the BOG if needed.

Natural Well will be rigged on Sunday.